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The PLAYWICKIAN

Issue 1

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



KOB showcases marching band

By Carol Mannix
News Editor

Neshaminy High School's 14th annual "Kaleidoscope of Bands" competition will be held in the Harry E. Franks stadium on Saturday Oct. 28 at 7:30 p.m. Along with Neshaminy's marching band, six other area high school bands will be performing at the show. They will include Central Bucks East, Council Rock North, Council Rock South, Pennridge, Pennsbury and William Tennant.

At this event, each band is judged and given a rating of "excellent," "outstanding" or "superior." The bands are critiqued on their musical quality, marching ability and overall visual effect. Coveted superlative awards are also distributed to recognize outstanding sections such as woodwinds, brass, percussion and color guard.

Because Neshaminy is the host school, they will not receive official awards, but they will perform as an exhibition group. They will be closing the show by performing their entire set and will receive a private score along with comments from the judges.

Neshaminy's theme this year is entitled "Scenes From Oz." The show will feature songs from "The Wizard of Oz," "The Wiz" and "Wicked." Their repertoire will include medleys from "The Wizard of Oz" and "Wicked" along with "Ease On Down the Road" and "Over the Rainbow."

Throughout the season, the Neshaminy marching band performs at all Redskin football games and competes in four other shows including prestigious events such as the Boyertown Cavalcade of Bands where they received a rating of outstanding and other awards such as outstanding marching and maneuvering and outstanding drum major.

Tickets for the Kaleidoscope of Bands competition will be available at the door and will cost \$7 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens.

Today's Weather

Rain and overnight shower:
high 53, low 42
Chance of precipitation:
70 percent



Renovations continue at Neshaminy



Neshaminy students walk to the Fred Gerst Gymnasium using newly paved walkways to avoid construction due to the ongoing renovations which will continue until the 2009-2010 school year.
Photo/ Michele Lestochi

By Stephanie Takach
Editor in Chief

Neshaminy High School underwent major renovations beginning last summer that will continue until the 2009-2010 school year. Although the renovations are in the beginning stages, they are on schedule and have been moving along exceptionally. As

principal of Neshaminy High School, Alex Menio recognizes that his position requires good listening skills and the time to take in both comments and concerns from the students and faculty in their adjustment to life in our high school.

One of the major concerns regarding the renovations was how it would affect education in the classroom and extra-

curricular activities. A prominent goal of the administration is to maintain all of the programs, clubs and organizations here at Neshaminy. They have successfully preserved all programs and to answer all of the rumors: Gym Night is definitely happening

see **RENOVATIONS** on page 2

Yellow Ribbon Week promotes optimism

By Meghan Brown
Staff Writer

Neshaminy High School's S.A.D.D. / S.A.V.E. Club held its own Suicide Prevention Week from Oct. 12 to Oct. 20. One of the most impacting events of the week was a visit from the Emmes', the founders of the Yellow Ribbon Program. Dar and Dale Emme, from Westminster, Col. talked to the students of Neshaminy on Oct. 12-13 about suicide and shared their personal experience concerning the suicide of a loved one.

The Emmes' told the story of their son Mike, a 17-year-old high school student who committed suicide one night when the pain in his life was too much for him to handle.

"Suicide is not about death," Dar said in her compelling presentation. "That's just the end result. Suicide is about pain." The Emmes' preached that suicide affects "good" kids, like the students of Neshaminy. They desperately urged over and over again that "it's okay to ask for help." This powerful statement became the

see **RIBBON** on page 3



Dar and Dale Emme (L to R) join adviser Tara Ring and her SADD/SAVE officers to promote Suicide Prevention Week.
Photo/Courtesy of Justin Fortmeier

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Kadri assumes role of Neshaminy superintendent

Paul Kadri was named Neshaminy School District superintendent in June after P. Howard Wilson retired.

By Ari Lipsky
Managing Editor

Paul J. Kadri, former superintendent of the Moorestown Township School District in New Jersey, was named Superintendent of the Neshaminy School District in June of 2006 in a unanimous vote from the school board. Kadri replaced P. Howard Wilson upon Wilson's retirement at the completion of the 2005-2006 school year. Kadri received a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from John Hopkins University and an MBA in finance from the University of Pennsylvania. While studying at Penn, he enrolled in multiple classes at the Graduate School of Education because he knew that he wanted to have some future in the field. He also completed some doctoral credits at Penn but had to gain experience in the work force before he could finish. He is currently finishing his Ph.D. at the University of Delaware.

After deciding to leave Moorestown Township after four years of work, Kadri applied to Neshaminy as well as other districts. "Applying to a school district is like applying to college," Kadri said. He wrote essays, attended meetings, talked to community members and, before long, the Neshaminy School Board members realized that he was the right man for the job. Kadri also felt that Neshaminy was a good match for him. He likes to focus on the students before anything else, said that everyone he spoke to really cares about the students. He spoke at all three of Neshaminy High School's Yellow Ribbon assemblies and often attends co-curricular events such as Neshaminy Summer Stock's presentation of "The Wizard of Oz," as well as various sporting events. Kadri believes that to be successful, "you have to have the heart to succeed." He likes the phrase, "the more I practice, the luckier I get." In his eyes, luck plays a small role in success. He believes that it takes a tremendous amount of work to position oneself for success. One of the successes of Kadri's career as Superintendent of Moorestown Township was finishing a high school build-

ing project on time and on budget. This may prove very helpful with the ongoing NHS reconstruction project, as many community members are growing worried about completing it on schedule. Kadri is an advocate for community and school district interaction. He sees his role of superintendent as the "principal of the community," so it is only fitting that the two join together. "I think it is a two way street," Kadri said. He believes that if the school district gets involved with its surrounding community, the community will dedicate more time and effort to the school district. Kadri also influenced a huge percentage of student participation in co-curricular activities at Moorestown Township. He hopes to do the same for Neshaminy. "It is very important for every student to feel engaged in some activity in school," Kadri said. He plans on focusing on the

students who are currently not involved in any co-curricular activities and figuring out their interests so that he can implement new programs which are appealing to them. As far as academics go, Kadri has clear-cut goals for boosting the district's PSSA scores. "As one goes through life, he is linked to institutions, strong or weak." Weak PSSA scores reflect poorly upon Neshaminy alumni who are looking to apply for jobs, to college, etc. Kadri wants to implement scientific research tools to target the areas of the district's strengths and weaknesses so that the weaknesses can be better addressed. He also wishes to talk to students and faculty members one-on-one to see how they feel personally about the test and how to better prepare for it. Kadri spends as much time as he can with his wife of nine years, his 3 year-old daughter Corrine and his dog Bunker.



Paul Kadri became Neshaminy's new superintendent with a unanimous vote from the school board in June. Photo/ Courtesy of neshaminy.org

addition, contractors will begin working on the new two-story physical education complex to the West side of Gym 3. Many new implementations have resulted due to the new schedules and hallway space as changes unfold. Outside of the modular classrooms, new walkways have been paved and as the administration continues to observe hall traffic patterns, new walkways will arise. Although it is obvious that the current renovations are affecting our school, they are also effecting our environment. The various air pumps that are placed throughout the school measure the air quality which must be maintained above a certain base line which was calculated before the beginning of the renovations. A water control system has been built underneath the senior student parking lot and more will be built in the future. Regarding Idlewood, there will be no more removal of trees and the Environmental Action Club has taken the initiative to provide a beautiful flower garden outside of the modular classrooms. Menio has taken all of the necessary steps to assure that the environment will not be harmed in any way due to the renovations.

The month of September also acted as an experimental month regarding fire alarms and the intercom and bell systems. In our first fire drill, students became quickly aware of the less than fully functioning alarm system, but should be reassured that all has been repaired. This misfortune was caused by bad connections due to the eliminations of C Hall and J Hall. In the future, students in the rear of the school will be lined up in the senior parking lot that will be labeled to avoid any confusion.

Menio and the administration also acknowledge the ramifications that may result due to the ongoing construction, but amiably request that the students and faculty be as patient as possible.

RENOVATIONS from page 1
this year. The key to the success of the renovations is cooperation. With the cooperation of the students as a whole, the full faculty and the different contractors working together, the Neshaminy renovations will be a smooth procedure. "It is a balancing act between what is best for the students and what is in the best interest of the overall project," Menio stated. To assist Menio, Richard Moratto was brought back to the Neshaminy administration to act as the liaison between the student body, the faculty and the contractors. "The transition will be tough, but the students and staff have been great and it is clear that a lot of learning is taking place throughout the building," Moratto stated. Last year, Neshaminy accomplished its major goal of obtaining the modular classrooms. They are a temporary environment containing both air conditioning and heating systems and will continue to be used next year as the project continues.

The students have been through the worst of the renovations this year. "There will be no more demolition this year," Menio said. "The main focus is on the new building components." In the big courtyard (formally C hall and A11-A24), the concentration will be directed towards building what will be 'Main Street' or the main hallway in the new high school. In



A new Neshaminy paradise is in the making for the 2009-2010 school year. Photo/Courtesy of neshaminy.org

Sanctuary Room provides safe haven for students

In light of events over the past few years, a Sanctuary Room has been developed to help students cope with difficult situations at anytime during the school year.

By Nicole Croyden
News Editor

This year, Neshaminy High School has created the Sanctuary Room, an official place for students to go when they need a safe place or someone to turn to when suffering from an emotional crisis. This idea of a "drop in" center for students was formulated by district social workers Joe Kelly and Jaime Troxell, along with the school's consulting psychiatrist Mark Langman. The Sanctuary Room, located in Guidance, is an outgrowth of the Teen Suicide Prevention Task Force because both students and staff saw a need to create something the students could benefit from. "What we hope to do is create a network of connections between kids and staff for communication and honest disclosure," Kelly said. He also believes that a good relationship between staff members and students is important not only for the students themselves, but also for the entire school. Usually, students need to make an appointment with their guidance counselors to talk about difficult situations, but if a student is in need of immediate attention and his or her guidance counselor is not available, the Sanctuary Room is. "Quite a few students have been able to find the help they've been looking for," Troxell said. She sees approximately two students every period and 15 students per day.

Kelly and Troxell have collaborated with each other to form relationships with the students that visit them. "It takes more than one period to get over difficult times," Troxell stated. "These things take time." Students that have visited the Sanctuary Room on previous instances, occasionally pop in to let the counselors know how they are doing. When students come visit the Sanctuary Room, they can expect a caring environment where it is safe to talk about personal issues. All sessions are completely confidential. Troxell is also planning on making the room feel more like home to make the students feel more comfortable about being there, and Kelly wants to install a white noise machine to help with privacy.

Along with the Sanctuary Room, a video was developed to spread the word throughout the Neshaminy community about the steps being taken to prevent suicide. The idea came from students who were in need of a place to go when dealing with rough times. "We hope to work to help students with celebrating life," Troxell said. They are also planning to permanently memorialize the students Neshaminy has lost, either from suicide or other tragedies. Most of these ideas were started by the graduating class of 2006, but many students in the school are still connected to these people and want to help. Both Kelly and Troxell want students to know that the best thing they can do is to take a risk and trust someone. "Tell somebody who you think can get you to the right kind of help," Kelly said. Students need to ask for an appointment with their guidance counselor, and if the counselor is not available, the student can tell the secretary that they need to talk to someone immediately. The video can also be seen on Neshaminy Network Television (channel 27) at 10 a.m. and 9 p.m. every day.

"What we hope to do is create a network of connections between kids and staff for communication and honest disclosure." - Joe Kelly

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Neshaminy students adapt to six day schedule

Neshaminy instituted a six day rotation schedule to accomodate a PSSA remediation for students.

By Alex Kline
Staff Writer

This year, Neshaminy High School changed from a Monday through Friday schedule to a six-day rotation schedule to allow time for students who need help for the PSSA's in the form of the PSSA prep class.

Three people were instrumental in the decision making process for changing to the six-day schedule: Neshaminy High School Principal Alexander Menio, along with the Director of Secondary Education Bruce Wyatt and the Director for Curriculum and Instruction Sandra Costanzo.

Although the full-year courses remain unchanged, half-credit courses are affected by the change of schedule. "The system is problematic with the semester courses, especially drama because students switch their partner every day if they elected to take drama as a full year course instead of a half year," drama instructor Gina Chiolan said.

The PSSA prep classes are half-credit courses, which meet three times per cycle for the entire year. The course focuses on math and reading. If a student needs remediation in one of the areas, they do not give up an elective class spot because the elective course is half credit and therefore eligible to be scheduled with the PSSA prep class. They are eligible to take a half credit course that fits in the other three days that they don't have the PSSA prep course. If a student has a need for both courses, they only lose one of their elective time slots.

"We wanted the students to have the prep class up until the time of the PSSA," Menio said. "If the class was in the format of the old semester course, the class would end well before the test time." The schedule was changed to six-day to accommodate not only the student but the test date as well. The test is in mid-March.

The course is for students who scored basic or below basic on the PSSA test at the 8th grade level. Students are able to be removed from the program if they and their parent or guardian believe that the course is not the right place for them. "The single most important factor is student performance on the PSSA's," Menio said. "The school wants kids to do well on this test and has put a lot of time and careful planning into the schedule to accomplish that goal."

News Acrossthe Nation

School shootings raise awareness

A series of nationwide shootings in one week threaten school security and student safety.

By Steve Jiwanmall
Features Editor

Three deadly school shootings across the nation took place over a span of six days, influencing President Bush to hold a conference addressing the issue of school security on Oct. 10.

"In many ways, I'm sorry we're having this meeting," Bush said, according to the Washington Post. "In other ways, we know how important it is that we're having this meeting."

The first attack occurred Wednesday, Sept. 27, when a gunman entered Platte Canyon High School in Bailey, Col., and took six female students hostage in a classroom, as reported by CNN. The school was quickly surrounded by a bomb squad and SWAT team.

The gunman eventually released four of the females, one at a time, holding the other two hostages with him in the classroom. After three grueling hours, the man fatally shot and killed 16-year-old Emily Keyes and then himself, while the other hostage was able to run out of the building safely.

Two days later, on Sept. 29, Eric Hainstock, a freshman at Weston High School in Cazenovia, Wisc., brought two weapons to school and shot his principal John Klang three times, eventually killing him.

The Associated Press reported that the shooting came the day after Klang gave Hainstock a "disciplinary warning" for bringing tobacco to school. Many students and parents believe that the shooting was an act of revenge.

The final school shooting happened on Monday, Oct. 2, in the generally peaceful Amish community in Lancaster County, Pa. Charles Carl Roberts IV, a 32-year-old father of three, left several notes for his family with strong implications of suicide, before he made his way to the one-room Nickel Mines Schoolhouse.

Carrying a collection of weapons and firearms, Roberts barricaded himself in the schoolhouse with the students ranging in age from six to 13 years old.

After allowing the 15 boys and four adult females to leave the schoolhouse safely, Roberts apparently ordered the other 11 schoolgirls to line up in front of the blackboard, where he began to bind their feet together.

He then proceeded to shoot the girls execution-style, which is in the back of the head, killing five and wounding the other six. Afterwards, he turned the gun on himself and committed suicide.

According to CNN, Roberts' wife Marie released a statement that explained that the man she married was "loving, supportive, thoughtful," and "an exceptional father."

"Our hearts are broken, our lives are shattered, and we grieve for the innocents and lives that were lost today," the statement said. "Above all, please pray...for the families who lost children today, and please pray, too, for our family and children."

At the school safety summit, Bush said, "Hopefully, out of these tragedies will come the sense of communal obligation all throughout our country, for people to take an extra effort to comfort the lonely."

Although Bush did not announce new funding or policy plans to counter the threat of school violence, he believed that the conference would develop "concrete actions to help people understand what's possible and what's working."

"Hopefully, out of all these tragedies will come the sense of communal obligation throughout our country, for people to take an extra effort to comfort the lonely."
-President Bush

This schedule is in the developmental stages. Though too early to form a comment, Menio said that he thought the schedule was working well so far.

"This rotation allows us to give more instructional time to the students," Menio said with a smile. The new schedule at Neshaminy is now synchronized with the rest of the district on the six-day rotation.

"My lab class doesn't meet as often as it would with the old schedule, but I still get the same information but at a faster pace," senior Sarah Nelson commented.

Although some lab and health classes miss a few class periods due to the new schedule, the benefits greatly outweigh the consequences.

With this schedule it doesn't matter what day the students have off from school, the schedule picks up where it left off the next day back in school. For example, a student might have a lab period on a Monday during the old system, and every Monday the school would have off, that student would miss lab. With the six-day rotation that same student might have lab on Day 2. With this system it does not matter what day of the week it is, just what number.

The main reason for the institution of this class and subsequent schedule change is the students. The administration wants the students to have a better understanding of the concepts tested by the PSSAs. According to the No Child Left Behind Act, by 2014 the goal is to have 100 percent of students at the proficient level of testing. Neshaminy's scores were approximately 67 percent at proficient or above for reading, 49 percent at proficient or above for math, and the 88 percent at proficient or above for the new writing section.

The PSSA prep classes in conjunction with other initiatives are focused on helping the scores of the PSSA test.

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slogan of the Yellow Ribbon Program.

The program was founded in 1994 after Mike's death. Surprisingly, the Emmes' didn't have much to do with the start of the program. In fact, they barely knew there was a program until several weeks after it started.

The program began with one simple question: "What can we do to help?" The question, asked by Mike's friends, was answered by Dar. "I wasn't sure what they were asking, or how I was supposed to answer. I just spoke from my heart and said 'please don't do this. Don't let this happen again.'"

The Emmes' repeatedly insisted during the days following Mike's death that it's okay to ask for help. Mike's friends got the message and decided to take suicide prevention into their own hands.

Hundreds of bright yellow slips of paper, in honor of Mike's bright yellow Ford Mustang, with the words "It's okay to ask for help," were printed and handed out in the days following Mike's death.

In amazement to the Emmes', the teens continued to distribute the papers, mailing them to places much farther than Colorado.

"The card can be used as a tool to help those who don't know what to say but need help. You can simply hand the card to somebody and they'll know," Dale said.

The Yellow Ribbon Program has grown tremendously since 1994. It has chapters in over 47 countries, with over 100 chapters in the United States. Thou-

sands of Yellow Ribbon Clubs are in U.S. schools and over 10 million known Yellow Ribbon Cards have been distributed-including a few thousand given to the students of Neshaminy High School.

Every hour and 40 minutes, a teen is lost to suicide. The Emmes' have made a career out of decreasing this statistic. They want adults to be able to talk to their children about suicide and they work day to day trying desperately to break the silence.

The students and staff of Neshaminy High School have proved that they also want to break the silence. Tara Ring, adviser of the S.A.D.D. / S.A.V.E. Club, preaches the same message as the Emmes'. "It's the same as having a cold," Ring said. "When you are sick, you go to the doctor. When you feel pain, you need to get help."

Inspired by the pain of losing a few of her own students to suicide, Ring is an active participant and leader of Suicide Prevention Week. Although the members of Student Council also hold their own Suicide Prevention Week, Ring and the S.A.D.D. / S.A.V.E. officers felt that suicide is a destructive decision that needs to be addressed more than once.

"We want to promote asking for help and hopefully get kids to realize that someone does love them and that there are people who care," she explained.

The students of Neshaminy can get involved with Suicide Prevention and the Yellow Ribbon Program by attending the next S.A.D.D. / S.A.V.E. meeting or logging onto yellowribbon.org.



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Renovations impede students' education

Students didn't know what to expect of the construction when they stepped off the school bus on the first day of school. We had only a vague idea as to what may have become of our beloved High School.

A white wall to an artist must seem insulting. The purpose is there; they make sure students are minimally exposed to the construction. However before everyone decides to tag the wall, and what was once white becomes not-so-white, why not give some of the fine artists that attend Neshaminy High School the chance to express themselves? The beautiful murals that were once found around the library and the connection to A hall that used to make our learning environment so much homier, are gone forever. Neshaminy needs a little color.

Teachers and students alike live in fear of traveling through the school in the seven minute intervals between classes. Because of the stand-stills and traffic jams that are going to happen with construction, there are always those people who, most likely out of their concern for being late to class, will throw elbows to get through the crowd.

Students aren't the only people getting pushed around, teachers are too. In an unfortunate reversal of roles, teachers are now being pushed around by students. Anyone who dares to venture into the halls during rush hour (anytime between periods) is fair game.

It helps that teachers are more forgiving about students being late to class, but now we are coming down to those little things that make or break this school year. Being late to class is cutting off minutes of our valuable learning time, and unless the entire student population is mistaken, only a certain amount of lateness is allowed until a student loses privileges. Not only do classes then lose time, but they are also interrupted. The interruption of a student coming in late causes chaos. There's the original disruption of the door, and then the teacher must know exactly why the person was late which always follows by a story. By the time everyone is ready to get back to class, no one remembers where they left off.

Students would be more than happy to lose class time every once in a while, but our misgivings do accumulate. Constantly missing class time because of things like this is ultimately for the worst.

The reasoning behind not having teachers in certain classrooms is also unclear. Study halls located in B hall are known to have a teacher on day one but not on the proceeding days three and five.

The infamous B hall is also known for the massages one might receive while having a class there. Frequently, while sitting in a class, the room will shake resulting in the stimulus of one's backside. Some find this to be quite pleasant while others find it annoying. The fact of the matter is if one has time to think about how they feel about these vibrations, they are not thinking about class.

Of course, everyone knows this is all for a good cause. Future students will now have better classrooms, proper ventilation, more organized schedules; because of this we're happy to do it. But exceptions must be made if they don't always have a smile on their face when they lose focus while taking a test and suffer a multitude of other grievances, all for the next generation.

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

Living, learning in mods

The moduls are Neshaminy's solution to the construction problem. Although placed at the far end of the school, the mods may not be as bad as some students believe.

By Lauren Keller
Special Features Editor

What does Neshaminy High School have that other high schools in the area do not? Fifteen big, luxurious, clean, heated and air-conditioned modules, that's what. But how have they been affecting the daily endeavors of Neshaminy students? Some believe that because they're distanced on an opposite side of the school, they are a hassle for people to get from places like Gym 1 and the Art Center, to places like F-hall, the cafeteria and the "mods." However, most teachers and students seem to appreciate the considerably larger rooms, new desks (in some rooms), and the air system.

Instead of the grass covered vacant lot of land behind G-hall that previous Neshaminy students overlooked, stands an oversized trailer that some students spend more of their time in than the actual school. Honestly, I can't begin to imagine the chaotic state Neshaminy would be in if the moduls weren't around to replace A-Hall.

The only down side to the "mods" is the immense distance they are from the other side of the school. While the school is undergoing these temporary renovations where certain rooms must be torn down, it is only natural that a new place must be built to make up for the loss. However, this place did not have to be all the way on one corner of the school where it is next to impossible to get there within seven, eight or hey, even nine minutes from other classrooms like the Art Center and B-hall.

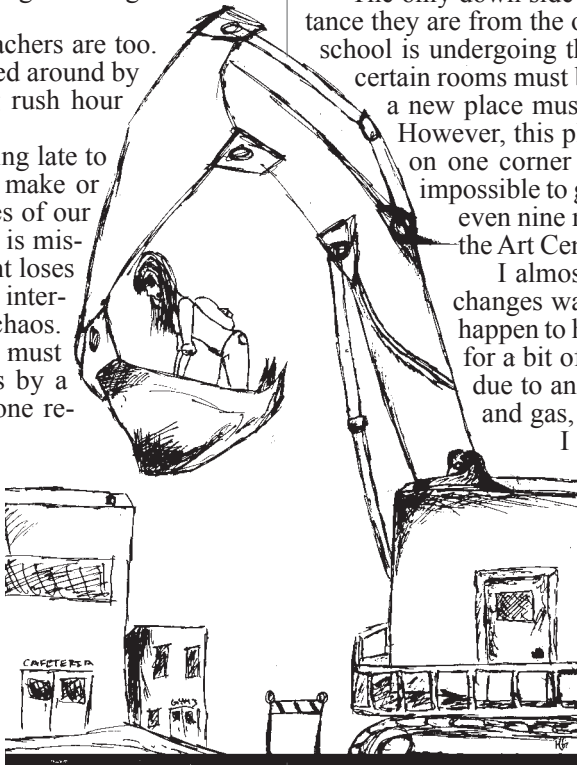
I almost thought that wandering outside in the courtyards during class changes was no longer an option, but found that I was terribly wrong. If I happen to have some dawdling time after a class in a modular, I'll go outside for a bit of construction air. Sure, I don't get the same tranquility I used to due to an insanely loud machine named Bencardino and the smells of tar and gas, but nonetheless, the escape is beneficial more than it is not.

I found it amusing how two hall-aids would guard the doors on each side of the modular building at the very beginning of the year, and write up students who were "walking the wrong way." If I'm not mistaken, a student can only walk in and out of the mods two ways. Who is to say which one? If a student's next class is near F-hall, the student makes the decision to exit at the back entrance of the modular and if a student's next class in near G-hall or the library, they make the decision to exit at the front entrance. End of story. There's no use overanalyzing it. I believe that issue was cleared when someone's mother called the school and complained, and now it is only a memory.

It is nice to see that the school considers the students when they decide to ask construction workers to pave little paths from the "mods" to the cafeteria. Not only is it nice to be able to walk away from the modules on a rainy day and not have my shoes covered in mud, but nothing beats being free to move my arms, as opposed to being slapped in the face in the mosh-pit hallways (not that I would mind if I was at a good show). The mini boardwalks outside of G and F-halls are the passageways to something so new, so non-rat infested and so comfortable that one might call it paradise. But definitely not Neshaminy Paradise.

"Nothing beats being free to move my arms, as opposed to being slapped in the face in the mosh-pit hallways."

-Lauren Keller



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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.

Yardley Yeti roams wild

The illusive Yardley Yeti continues to grow as a myth throughout Bucks County. Many eyewitness accounts have been filed, yet it seems as if the Yeti may not be a myth after all.

By Evan Hennessy
Editorials Editor

What is a yeti, anyway? Many would believe yeti to be synonymous with abominable snowman. Yet, it seems that there is a creature, dubbed the “Yardley Yeti” lurking around Bucks County. Thanks to J.D. Mullane of the Bucks County Courier Times, we are identifying the thing by a name so corny that one feels like an idiot every time it crosses the lips. From the descriptions, the beast seems to be a red fox with a bad case of mange. It is, in fact, not a yeti at all.

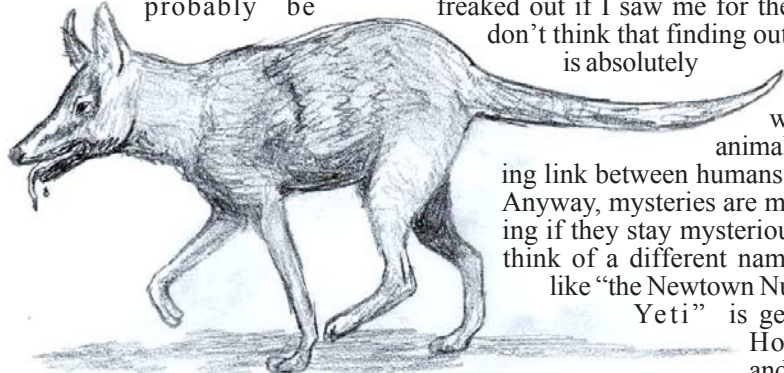
The Yardley Yeti is the size of a fox with many fox like features, yet it seems so badly deformed that one is led to believe that it must have fallen out of the ugly tree and hit every branch on the way down. Some have even described it as a cross between a dog, a fox, a chipmunk, and a kangaroo. Now, that’s a mouthful. As far as the relatedness to a kangaroo is concerned, all I have to say is, wrong continent. If the pictures found on the internet are plausible, then I hope that this poor guy is not alone; I don’t see any lady yetis possibly showing interest in this bachelor any time soon. Let’s just hope he’s in his awkward stage.

Several sightings of the yeti were reported in the Bucks County Courier Times. I did a little research and discovered that each sighting had a close proximity to Core Creek Park. Such a habitat would provide excellent resources for almost any creature. A small carnivorous animal such as a fox, which are abundant in Bucks County, would find Core Creek as a superb place to live.

Now, what makes me so well informed on this subject? Well, last November, I was on my way home from the NAC when I saw, in front of the corn fields across from the George School, a doglike creature standing in the brush. I had my dad slow down so we could get a better look. It seemed like a small dog, yet it could not possibly have been tame. The pictures I have seen are an accurate representation of the creature I saw.

Of course, with any mystery, facts tend to stretch and stories get tall. Once the story started to make headlines, all of the Bigfoot hunters began to get excited and activity began to stir. A sudden frenzy erupted as online forums filled with questions for the self proclaimed “experts.” Flaunting their vast knowledge of paranormal occurrences, these people immediately jumped on the bandwagon and milked the sightings for all they were worth. Keep in mind, these are the same mid life men that live at home with their mothers, certain that they have been abducted by aliens and play Warcraft all day (not that there is anything wrong with that). Now, I am not saying that they don’t know what they are talking about; I am simply stating that some people are more interested in falsities than others. Everyone is different.

Frankly I don’t see what the big deal is. So maybe there is a crazy looking fox thing running around Bucks County. Just think of how weird we look to it. I would probably be freaked out if I saw me for the first time. I just don’t think that finding out what it is for sure is absolutely necessary. I’m pretty sure that whatever kind of animal it is isn’t the missing link between humans and chimpanzees. Anyway, mysteries are much more interesting if they stay mysterious. Maybe we can think of a different name for the creature like “the Newtown Nuisance.” “Yardley Yeti” is getting kind of old. Hopefully, humans and yeti/demented fox things can peacefully coexist in the same habitat.



Illustration/Allison Flescher



Crossing the Line
With Evan
and Drew

Drew: Picked last for phys. ed. class

Over the summer, Pluto was reclassified as a “dwarf planet” according to the scientific community. Much like the Catholic church, which recently decided to remove limbo from their religion, the scientific community seems to make changes to long established beliefs all willy-nilly. How the Catholics can suddenly decide that a divine and God-created place no longer exists, I cannot say; but what’s worse is how the scientific community can suddenly decide that Pluto just isn’t good enough any longer.

Unfortunately Pluto got the boot and third graders all over the world are in an uproar. How will they explain the tiny blue orb in the back of their candy solar system models to their future children if Pluto isn’t recognized any longer? Assignment books will have to be reprinted, and Disney’s loveable dog named after the planet will no longer make sense. Fortunately, Uranus jokes will still go on.

Pluto is the child who got picked last for physical education class. We all know the one. He picks his nose and can’t run to save his own pudgy hide. During kickball games, the outfielders yell out, “Move in!” when he’s up to bat. He has an imaginary friend named Mr. Winkles. He smells vaguely of urine. And we certainly don’t want him on our team.

That’s how the scientific community felt about Pluto. After years of embarrassment every time it came up to bat, they finally decided to be the proverbial playground bully and kick him off the team.

Don’t feel too bad for Pluto. For the most part, those kids who couldn’t kick a ball emerged as business leaders and computer programming millionaires. Hopefully Pluto will crash into Neptune one day and create a media stir likened to that of the discovery of velcro, just so it can feel important once again.

Evan: The little planet that could

Growing up, we were all taught the pneumatic device My Very Excellent Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizzas. These words provided us with a way to remember the planets and their order. Now that Pluto is gone, there is no way to know what my excellent mother is serving. Nine what? Without Pluto, my world has been turned upside down.

Recently, Pluto, the little planet that could, was stripped of its planetary status. It is now affectionately known as a “dwarf planet.” Apparently, there are several dwarf planets in our solar system. Ceres, Xena, and 2003 UB 313 all fall under this category. Personally, I was not aware of such structures. And if I was, I probably wouldn’t call one of them 2003 UB whatever.

It’s a good thing that the best and brightest have time in their busy schedule to argue over what is and what isn’t a planet. I can now rest easy at night knowing that rocket scientists have put avoiding impact with an asteroid the size of Texas and saving us from Armageddon on the backburner, and made sure that only big rocks in space that deserve to be dubbed “planet” are referred to as such.

In lieu of the debate over Pluto’s status, planets, as defined, must: orbit the Sun, be big enough so that gravity makes them round, and have its own orbital path. So that’s what they teach you in rocket scientist school? I’ve drawn more intelligent conclusions while brushing my teeth. But leave it to the Einsteins of the world to state the obvious.

There are two basic principles of life that I stand firm by. One, duct tape is man’s second best friend, and two, if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it. If the scientific community would just listen to the latter then maybe the world would be a better place. Until then, we should leave Pluto alone.

Superdome rebuilt, residents’ lives still left in pieces

Priorities are being criticized as New Orleans officials pour money into the rebuilding of the Superdome while thousands of people still have not received aid.

By Bryan Kolbes
Staff Writer

As the black cloud rolled over the horizon of New Orleans, a city that flourished with life for so long was swept in a moment into a fitful hurricane of biblical proportions.

Now that Katrina has come, but not yet past, and Michal Brown and FEMA mishandling is behind us, the residents are trying to return some normality to their lives. But, what normality can they enjoy?

Few of the streets have been cleaned, with debris and bodies still canvassed through the city, a living morgue of sorts. Normality for these people has changed, and as CNN.com reports an estimated 645,000 to over 1.1 million have been displaced from the Greater New Orleans Area. The city is a ruin of its prior self.

What the government sectors have decided is that they will forgo rebuilding the hardest hit areas, incidentally the poorest areas, and put the initial funding into rebuilding the Superdome. Yes, the Superdome, the place that housed tens of thousands of residents during Katrina, a living remembrance to the idiotic way in which the disaster was handled.

But one must listen to the argument that the social critics profess is the reason a huge dome was constructed before housing, or any sort of utilities: inspiration. This is what you are made to believe, this T.V. fluff. People without power and food do not care about the score of the Saints game; they care about whether they will survive. The affluent buy the tickets, the poor are left to rot in this city, because the republicans realized early on that little money will come from this so, one of the worst disasters in US history was pushed to the bottom of their agenda.

The real reason though was football. Football, as we all know is exactly the thing that will give everyone in New Orleans hope, because pampered millionaires preening around a field are what inspire us all. A team with an all time 238-357-5 record, and last place in

attendance last year, is what will instill hope in these citizens who have lost nearly everything.

These players have done little to help the residents, when Warrick Dunn of the Atlanta Falcons challenged every player in the league to donated \$5,000 each, in a league where the average salary is 1.4 million a year, 76 out of a possible 1800 donated as SI.com stated. A .04 percent, these are the men we celebrate, our supposed role models who we admire for their commitment to their craft and excellence on the field, prove they could do very little here.

While, I am not criticizing what players do in other areas of charity, which many have, this tragedy was something they all could contribute to. Many claim to be “po southern boyz” but when push comes to shove, too many came up short when their audience needed them most.

Taking in to account that I’m only blaming the private sector and I do realize this, but are we supposed to believe that our incompetent government is supposed to handle anything; President Bush was obviously too tied up in spreading democracy around the world, to prove he actually had any idea how a democratic country takes care of its people. Ray Nagin, the city’s mayor, had run away to Baton Rouge before the hurricane landed on shore. It’s truly the old adage that the government just does not care about its people but solely its cash and obviously Iraq could get Halliburton a better bottom line than a few million dead impoverished blacks.

New Orleans has been mishandled and mismanaged. A city that holds a festival each year to unite people in happiness, has been sunk and left to rot. As our own displaced New Orleans, Andrew Liskey says of his experience “Sitting in a hotel room, knowing that my house and parish were under at least 10 feet of water, it’s a feeling that I just can’t really explain, I was feeling too much emotion to even be sad.”

New Orleans will not go away, contrary to popular belief; it’s not Atlantis and will be swallowed into the sea, America needs to help out, people with opportunity need to give it to citizens of the city. A football stadium won’t help the poor get power, or food, or even a house, nor will the players even help the rebuilding process, for this city has such a soul that it can’t be silenced.



The Superdome underwent renovations in lieu of the devastation caused by hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.
Photo/Courtesy of www.superdome.com



Recently, the Amish community was shaken by a horrific school shooting. The Amish, in accordance with their religious beliefs, have decided to forgive the shooter, and wish the rest of the world would as well.

Some crimes people just can’t forgive...

By Alison Kriesher
Copy Editor

Forgiveness is an essential virtue in the Amish community, but in a situation such as the murder of five innocent girls, it is something that shouldn’t be expected. Charles Carl Roberts IV entered an Amish school on Oct. 2, 2006 with intentions of molesting and murdering young children, yet the Amish community wishes for him to be forgiven. It’s almost unthinkable that someone from the outside world would even think to forgive a crime of this magnitude, let alone members of the Amish community.

The Amish are separated from the rest of world and live a simple life with a great devotion to God. How can people so innocent be threatened with something so horrific, and be expected to forgive? It would be more than unreasonable to say anyone in the world deserved a tragedy such as this, but the Amish seem to be the most unlikely victims. Roberts purposely targeted the Amish due to obvious lack of security in their school’s system. Yet the Amish are willing to forgive despite such a blatant attack. The murders were a mockery to their way of life and an insult to the Amish community. It’s almost ironic that a group that’s so focused around forgiveness would be faced with such an extreme betrayal from the outside society.

People of the Amish community feel as if Roberts should be forgiven because it wasn’t a personal vengeance, but rather a “battle between good and evil.” “If you are living in Jesus, as these Amish families are, you must forgive the shooter because Jesus forgave us our sins.” Rita Rhoads, a mother of two of the girls who died, said. Just because they feel they are obligated to forgive, it doesn’t change the damage the

shooter has done. It’s morally wrong to commit murder, and most non-Amish people have a hard time comprehending such a crime, despite the idea of mercy for the crime.

It’s understood that the Amish live their lives by God, and forgiveness is what they stand for, but despite morals, it’s also against the law. Murder is a crime, and if someone can’t be excused by the law, it’s hard to say individuals should truly be able to forgive. It’s much different when you bring emotion and personal sentiment into the idea of whether or not Roberts should be forgiven. Even if someone claims forgiveness has been given, individuals of the Amish community most likely have various thoughts and feelings.

Despite religious beliefs and decree, there is always going to be a difference of personal opinion. It doesn’t matter how religious someone is, what they’re way of life may declare may not always be how they feel. It has nothing to do with whether or not a person is good or bad, feelings cannot be controlled. To say that the Amish will forgive Roberts as a whole is one thing, but individually it’s hard to come to terms with what has been done, and honestly say that such an offense has been truly forgiven.

Amish acceptance must be the only way to live

By Jillian MacMath
Special Features Editor

Over the past few years, violence has become a huge concern in the media. Many Americans have been affected by the trend of school shootings since the Columbine massacre in 1999 and other traumas, and are searching for ways to grieve and move

on without feeling haunted by tragedy. The Amish, however, after the school house shooting on Oct. 2, have already shown that forgiveness is the only way to move on, and not just in the Amish Community.

Since the shooting, which took the lives of five students ages seven through 13, the Amish have focused more on grieving their losses rather than being angry over what actually happened. This is because the Amish interpret the bible literally and believe that forgiveness is the only way to heal.

Dorothy King, a 17-year-old Amish girl from the surrounding area, as stated by ABCnews.com, explained, “[The Amish] think it’s all in God’s hand. If this wouldn’t have happened, something still would have happened... because their time was up.



This homeless man believes in the message of the Amish.
Graphic/Drew Kalbach and Evan Hennessy

God’s hand was in control.”

Members of the Amish community have since welcomed the shooter’s family to stay in the community and even invited them to the funeral of those whose lives were taken by this event. Though many of those forgiving are taught by their religion that it is essential to do so, those of other faiths have also realized the benefits of forgiving and the weight that is lifted in doing so, such as those who were affected by the Columbine massacre seven years ago.

According to Christina M. Puchalski, founder and director of the George Washington Institute for Spirituality and Health, as stated by <http://info.med.yale.edu>, “Unforgiving persons have increased anxiety symptoms, increased paranoia, increased narcissism, increased frequency of psychosomatic complications, increased incidence of heart disease and less resistance to physical illness.”

By forgiving the shooter and accepting his family the Amish have taken a step forward in healing and have learned to accept what has happened without anger and vengeance. Even though most Americans don’t practice the Amish faith, if the Amish are willing to forgive, the rest of America should as well.

After all, the shooter came into their school and killed five girls of their community. Why is it the rest of America who still holds a grudge against Roberts? Not only should we respect the Amish for their forgiveness, we should learn from them.

Though many Americans may not be ready to disown their TV’s, electronics, and motor vehicles to follow the Amish way of life, taking another look at the Amish belief on wrongdoing and forgiveness is something, we, as Americans, could all benefit from.

School shootings: becoming reality close to home

School shootings have become more common in recent years. Can the students at Neshaminy feel safe from this horrible threat?

By Danielle Krusch
Staff Writer

Imagine sitting in English class doing the usual monotonous class work. Time is dragging on here at Neshaminy High School. Boom! The loud noise makes everyone shudder in their seats. Suddenly screams are becoming louder and time seems to stand still. Questions trace the airwaves. “What happened?” and “Is everybody alright?” On the floor in the hallway is a fellow student crying out for help. More shots are fired. Frantically everyone is running to try to find a safe place to hide.

Could this happen at Neshaminy High School? What can anyone do to prevent such a horrible monstrosity known as a “high school shooting?” Schools have been dealing with school shootings for a long time, but the death toll continues to grow.

After Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold tore through Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo. in 1999, schools were eager to heighten their safety standards in order to eliminate the possibility of more school shootings.

For a while some schools were taking severe action by not allowing students to carry book bags through the halls. Some even went as far as not allowing winter coats to be worn. Many inner city schools stepped up, too. They purchased metal detectors and had frequent locker checks.

But have schools suddenly become less worried about violence lately? Are schools starting to slack off again thinking it just can not or will not happen around here? Within one week, there were three schools shootings spread across the country.

On Sept. 27, Duane Morrison, 53, took six girls hostage at Platte Canyon High School in Bailey, Co. Morrison sexually assaulted them before fatally shooting one girl and then himself. On Sept. 29, 15-year-old Eric Hainstock brought two guns to school in Cazenovia, Wis. He fatally shot his principal, a day after he gave the student a warning for having tobacco on school grounds. On Oct. 2, a gunman took a dozen girls hostage, killing at least five of them, in a one room Amish schoolhouse in Lancaster County, Pa. The gunman not only harmed the girls, but a number of police officers were hurt before he shot himself to death.

Michelle Kraus, a senior at Neshaminy, had much to say about the issue. “After, Columbine schools were on every student’s back about safety. In the past couple years, they’ve seemed to let it slip under the radar.”

Senior Erica Moore had a strong opinion as well. “Schools have become less worried about school shootings or any types of violence because they find other reasons

to worry instead,” she explained. “Schools are more focused on how their football team is going to do then whether it’s safe to be there. Evacuation drills don’t do us any good. If there is an act of violence or a shooting, no one is going to remember to form a straight line to the stadium. We’re all going to be running for our lives.”

As horrible as the school shootings have been, many believe it won’t stop. There have been many school shootings that happened before Columbine, but that one stood out. It was strategically planned, taking place on Hitler’s birthday. Many different people were targeted with weapons consisting of not only guns, but home made bombs. As a result, many were found dead that day.

The three shootings that recently happened were certainly wake up calls. Shootings can happen anytime anywhere, and unless schools go to more trouble to keep their territory safe, it can and will happen again.



Over the past 14 years, there have been 18 school shootings. Despite these startling figures, security in schools seems to have relaxed.

Photo/Courtesy of www.cnn.com. Graphic/ Evan Hennessy

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Teachers welcomed with open arms to paradise

Robert Boffa

Robert Boffa is a first-year English teacher at Neshaminy High School. He comes to the high school with experience from Neshaminy Middle School. He teaches 11th and 12th grade English. Prior to coming to the Neshaminy School District, he spent four years in the Palisades School District in New Jersey.



Dave Calderbank

Dave Calderbank is a PSSA Prep class's teacher, a new class at Neshaminy making this his first year teaching at Neshaminy. He graduated from Neshaminy before moving on to Delaware Valley College. Calderbank's inspiration to teach stemmed from his daughter.



"When she came along I realized it was time to become a teacher," he said. To keep the students interested he tries to make math an enjoyable experience.

-Joe Fida

Rakhi Chowdhury

Rakhi Chowdhury's interest in Special Education began with her cousin in India who is mentally retarded. Due to an underdeveloped special education program in India. She earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in English while in India, then moved to Connecticut where she earned a master's in special education from the University of Hartford.



This is Chowdhury's first year teaching special education classes at Neshaminy High School, but she previously taught in Connecticut, Maryland and the Philadelphia, Bensalem and Pennridge school districts.

Teaching is her life passion. "I enjoy the interaction with the students," she stated.

-Nicole Croyden

Myrna DeAngelis

Myrna DeAngelis is a Child Development and Independent Living teacher at Neshaminy High School. She has a bachelor's and master's degree in home economics from Bradley University and Indiana University, respectively.



DeAngelis has been in the district since 2002, her first year at the high school was in 2006.

"Education is not about filling the bucket," DeAngelis expressed. "It's about igniting the fire."

DeAngelis enjoys seeing her high school students put into action what they've learned in the classroom when they get hands on experience in the Nursery school. "Our nursery school provides for opportunities for kids to interact with young ones," DeAngelis explained.

-Shannon Simcox

Sara Ann Hetrick

Sara Ann Hetrick is a new member to the Neshaminy faculty as of 2006. Previously, she taught at Wordsworth Academy in Fort Washington, Pa, since the year 2002.



"Mathematics is such an integral and important part of our world," she said. "I just wanted to be able to inspire a love of math to students." Hetrick is not only passionate about teaching, but she is also an avid figure skater and skier. She enjoys a wide range of activities including tennis, kayaking, visits to the beach on sunny days, traveling, and cooking.

Jennifer Howie

Jennifer Howie began teaching 11 and 12 grade English at Neshaminy High School in 2001. She then taught 9th grade English at Sandburg.



Howie earned a bachelor's degree in communications and a master's degree in English from the University of Pittsburgh and Widener University, respectively.

She most recently received an English as a Second Language certification from Immaculata University.

This year, Howie is back at the high school teaching a PSSA Prep course in the library. It is a one year placement that involves helping students identify reading issues and develop strategies to become better readers and writers.

-Nicole Croyden

Jessica Krenzel

Jessica Krenzel began teaching English at Neshaminy for the 2006-2007 school year. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland for English with a concentration of British Literature and her masters' degree from Arcadia University in Secondary Education for English.



According to Krenzel, five words that best describe her are enthusiastic, genuine, intelligent, patient and witty. Krenzel is extremely family oriented.

"Stay focused, ask for help when you need it, remember that there is a great big world outside of these halls and the best is yet to come."

-Lauren Keller

Joan McGinley

Joan McGinley has been a Spanish teacher at Neshaminy since the fall of 2005. "I enjoy sharing the love of the Spanish culture and language," McGinley said. This she says is her reason for wanting to be a teacher.

She received her bachelor's degree in Spanish at De Sales University, and Master of Education at Holy Family University. Prior to her position at Neshaminy Joan McGinley taught Spanish at the Bristol Township School District for eight years.



McGinley feels that the most rewarding aspect of her job as a teacher is when her students teach her something, and she says that one of the things her students have taught her is to keep an open mind.

-Alison Kriesher

Loree Mormello

Loree Mormello is a Special Education English teacher at Neshaminy High School and began her Neshaminy career just

this year. Before attending college, Mormello graduated from Neshaminy.

After high school she went to Bloomsburg University and eventually graduated from St. Joseph's University.

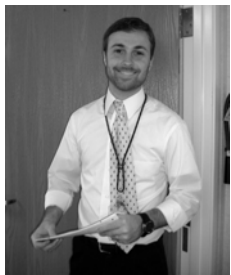
She chose secondary education because working with older students tends to fit her better. "It's a more mature atmosphere here," Mormello said. "I came from a middle school in Bristol." She seemed very enthusiastic to get started here at Neshaminy. "The kids seem fantastic so far," she said.



-Joe Fida

Timothy Patterson

Timothy James Patterson was born in Howell, N.J. and went to high school at Freehold Township High School. He received his bachelor's degree from Temple University and went on to complete his Master in History from the University of Pennsylvania. This is his first year at Neshaminy in which he teaches American Studies and Western Civilization.



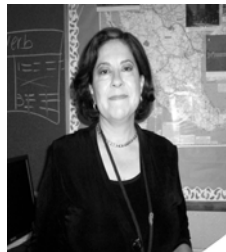
"I would like to be remembered as a teacher who taught his students how to ask the right questions about history," he said. "That way they can teach themselves in the future."

-Drew Kalbach

Maria Perez

Maria Perez was born in Mexico City and received her B.A. in Architecture at the Instituto Politecnico Nacional in Mexico City.

Perez first started in education by volunteering at the Council Rock School District, and later became a teacher's assistant in Special Education for Math and Spanish. After completing her Master in Education at Holy Family University, she worked for two years teaching Spanish at Council Rock while also contributing to their swim team and band as a staff supporter.



Currently she teaches Spanish for Neshaminy. "I became a teacher because I wanted to make a positive contribution in our children's education," Perez said. She enjoys biking, walking, and traveling.

-Drew Kalbach

Christine Wimmersberger


This is Christine Wimmersberger's first year of teaching and has no complaints about settling at Neshaminy.

Wimmersberger is a graduate from Holy Family University with a Master of Education Certification in Special Education. She teaches Transition, Work Experience and Western Civilization. Wimmersberger aspires to help students become all they can be.



"To some degree I always wanted to teach because I enjoy working with adolescents," Wimmersberger said. "I like to help and challenge students to be the best they can be and become productive members of society."

-Kelsey Ruffing




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Sword-wielding students explore ancient Japanese art

Several students at NHS are participating in Kendo, a type of Japanese martial arts, descending from the ancient art of Japanese Samurai swordsmanship.

By Brittani Ross
Staff Writer

Several students at Neshaminy High School are actively participating in Japanese swordsmanship classes called Kendo, held every Thursday night at Tamenend Park.

Kendo is a type of Japanese martial arts, descending from the ancient art of Japanese Samurai swordsmanship. It takes a lot of endurance and concentration to learn just the basics of Kendo, which you have to practice over and over and may never truly master.

There are two different practice weapons used when training: the shinai and the bokken.

The shinai is made of four long shaves of bamboo with its hilt wrapped in leather. It's used when striking each other in practice, full-contact hits, and in tournaments.

The bokken is a polished wooden sword that is usually made of oak, or another kind of hard wood. The bokken are used for katas and in demonstrations.

"I prefer the bokken," junior, Corey Ross said. "It's more realistic. The shape and hilt are more realistic, and it swings easier, too."

The uniform worn in Kendo classes is made of two parts; the shirt and the trousers. The shirt, called a keigoki, is made of cotton. The trousers are a sort of long and pleated pair of pants called the hakuma.

Ross commented on the uniform, "It can get hot at times, but it's pretty loose and comfortable; easy to move around in."

There's a lot of fun to be had in Kendo, too.

"My favorite part of Kendo class," junior, Kristen Noell said, "was the fans! A balloon got stuck in a fan on the ceiling and it was beating like music. People started dancing."

Noell also expresses her shock about the absurdity of the fact that four new people (the Neshaminy students) were asked to sweep the floors and they still couldn't manage to do it by themselves.

"Hey, guys!" Noell said with a laugh. "How many newbs does it take to sweep a dojo?"

Kendo also tests your endurance and skills, along with your patience.

Marisa Rigby, a junior, remembers a sensei, Japanese for instructor, saying, "Kendo involves practicing the same basics over and over and over again. And after that? You're going to do them over and over."

The basics of Kendo include proper foot stance, which is the right foot in front of the left with the left's heel raised slightly off of the floor.

"My favorite thing about Kendo class," Ross said, "was when I hit my sister with a shinai."

There are several main

points on the body to which one mainly aims, including these three: men, kote, and do.

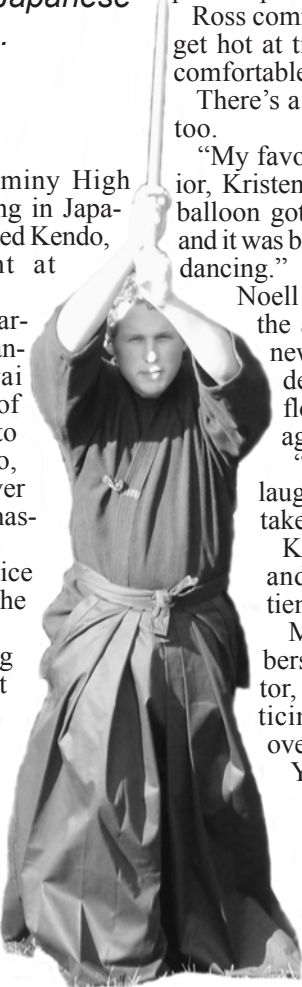
The men is a strike to the head and is a straight hit form above your head and down. Kote is a blow to the wrists. Do is a strike to the side that is performed by swinging the bokken or shinai from above your head, curving it sideways, and then hitting your opponent's side.

A combination of footwork and strikes

are used in katas, which are set sequences of moves used for practice and to demonstrate the art of it.

There are ten different kata in Kendo, all ranging from easiest to hardest, one through ten respectively.

To these four students, kendo is a challenging experience that they can look forward to in the week, and well worth the hours spent in practice.



Ross demonstrates the men by striking from above the head, straight down.

Photo/ Brittani Ross

'06 Halloween must-haves

Need last mintue costume ideas or want to make sure that your costume makes the cut? Find out in Michele Lestochi's and Steph Takach's top guy and girl costumes for 2006. (I hope you realize that you're too old to trick-or-treat once in high school.)



For all of you boys who spent your summer at LA Fitness, show off your curves with this manly, hiphugging, socially unacceptable ensemble sported by fashion icon Will Ferrell in the movie Elf.



For those girls not looking to fit into a size 1 anytime soon, and are more worried about hiding that ba-donka-donk, this Chewbacca costume is the figure flattering costume that you need.



Gentlemen, need a costume to grab the attention in the room, or just looking for a few laughs, then the giant banana costume is perfect for you.



Ladies, looking to prove your innocence and spread your wings? If so, this short but oh so sweet angel costume is just right for you.



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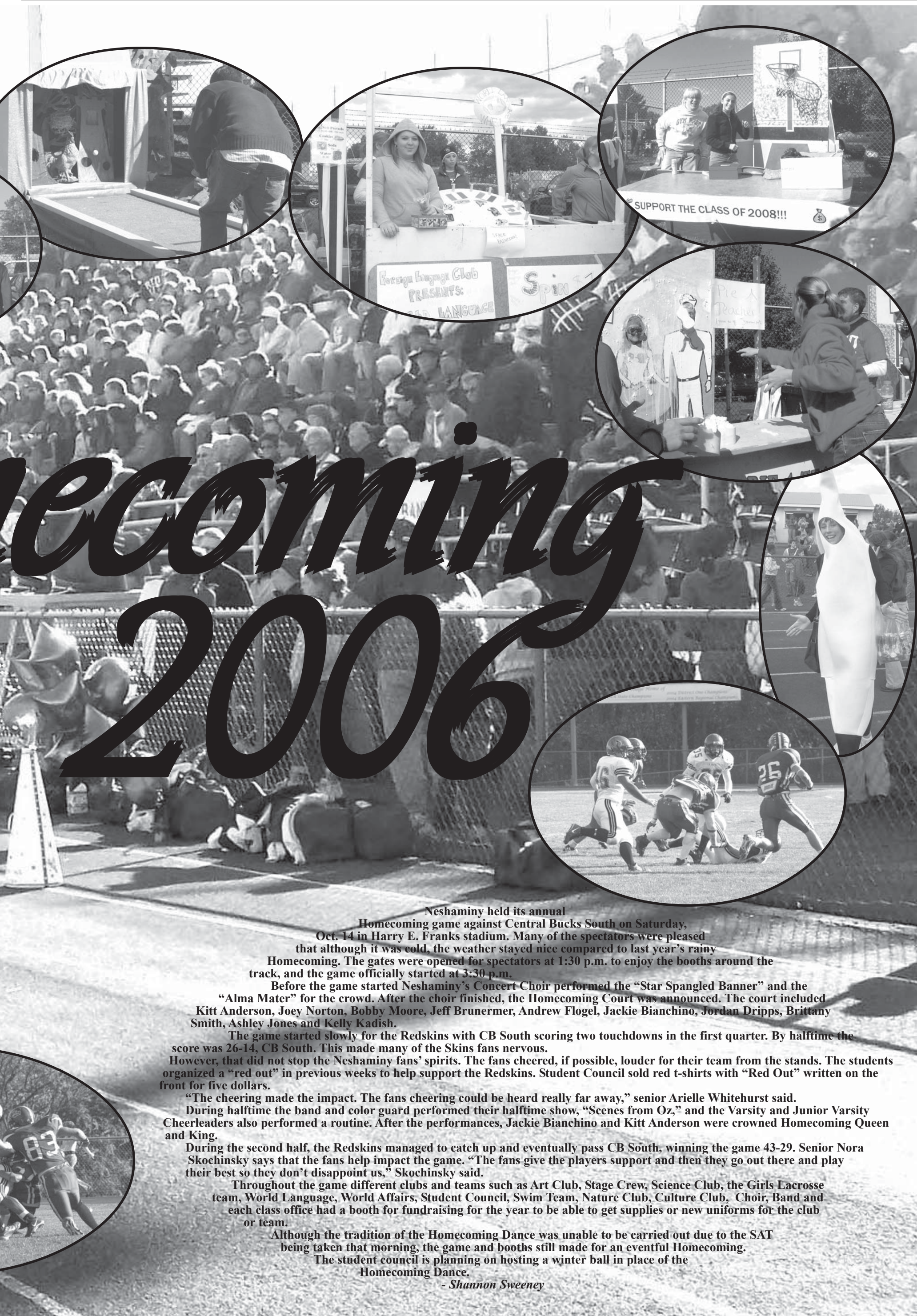
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Homecoming Queen and King, Jackie Bianchino and Kitt Anderson



Homecoming 2006

Neshaminy held its annual Homecoming game against Central Bucks South on Saturday, Oct. 14 in Harry E. Franks stadium. Many of the spectators were pleased that although it was cold, the weather stayed nice compared to last year's rainy Homecoming. The gates were opened for spectators at 1:30 p.m. to enjoy the booths around the track, and the game officially started at 3:30 p.m.

Before the game started Neshaminy's Concert Choir performed the "Star Spangled Banner" and the "Alma Mater" for the crowd. After the choir finished, the Homecoming Court was announced. The court included Kitt Anderson, Joey Norton, Bobby Moore, Jeff Brunermer, Andrew Flogel, Jackie Bianchino, Jordan Dripps, Brittany Smith, Ashley Jones and Kelly Kadish.

The game started slowly for the Redskins with CB South scoring two touchdowns in the first quarter. By halftime the score was 26-14, CB South. This made many of the Skins fans nervous.

However, that did not stop the Neshaminy fans' spirits. The fans cheered, if possible, louder for their team from the stands. The students organized a "red out" in previous weeks to help support the Redskins. Student Council sold red t-shirts with "Red Out" written on the front for five dollars.

"The cheering made the impact. The fans cheering could be heard really far away," senior Arielle Whitehurst said.

During halftime the band and color guard performed their halftime show, "Scenes from Oz," and the Varsity and Junior Varsity Cheerleaders also performed a routine. After the performances, Jackie Bianchino and Kitt Anderson were crowned Homecoming Queen and King.

During the second half, the Redskins managed to catch up and eventually pass CB South, winning the game 43-29. Senior Nora Skochinsky says that the fans help impact the game. "The fans give the players support and then they go out there and play their best so they don't disappoint us," Skochinsky said.

Throughout the game different clubs and teams such as Art Club, Stage Crew, Science Club, the Girls Lacrosse team, World Language, World Affairs, Student Council, Swim Team, Nature Club, Culture Club, Choir, Band and each class office had a booth for fundraising for the year to be able to get supplies or new uniforms for the club or team.

Although the tradition of the Homecoming Dance was unable to be carried out due to the SAT being taken that morning, the game and booths still made for an eventful Homecoming.

The student council is planning on hosting a winter ball in place of the Homecoming Dance.

- Shannon Sweeney

Shaffer’s fight with cancer impacts community

Senior Jenna Shaffer makes the most of her fight with cancer.

By Bridget Fowler
Staff Writer

“Cancer is a scary word for anybody to hear, especially when you are 17. In August Jenna Shaffer was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma cancer sending her family’s world to pieces. Adult Hodgkin’s lymphoma is a disease in which malignant (cancer) cells form in the lymph system. There are 5 different types of Hodgkin’s lymphoma.

“At first when I found out I did the whole ‘why me’? But then I kind of just realized what I had to do to get better, and throwing myself a pity party wasn’t the trick,” Shaffer said. And she has done just that, she never sits and feels sorry for herself, instead she makes the best of it.

Jenna is undergoing chemotherapy that requires her to go to Children’s Hospital every Wednesday and receive the treatment. “Chemo is basically a routine now. I go into CHOP every Wednesday. Then I go into triage where they take my temp and blood pressure. Then I wait again to get blood taken and then I see the doctor and then chemo time. I could seriously do it in my sleep,” Shaffer said. The chemo is used to shrink the grapefruit sized mass in her chest.

The two to three days after Chemo is usually the worst for her, causing her to be tired and achy. But Shaffer feels the hardest thing is not being able to do the things she used to do. “Not being able to go out and do normal teenage things,

like the mall and movies is really tough,” Jenna said. “Not being able to cheer my senior year has been really tough I also miss all my cheering ladies.”

The cheerleaders have been a huge help, each signing up for a night to make dinner for the Shaffer family and organizing a fundraiser selling “Jump for Jenna” bracelets, sold at homecoming. Proceeds from the bracelets are going to the Shaffer family to aid in the chemotherapy costs.

“All the Chemo and pain Shaffer goes through everyday hasn’t changed her in the least. She is still the exact same person, laughing and smiling all the time. I don’t want people to pity me or feel sorry for me because I’m not the only person going through it, a lot

of people deal with this stuff everyday too if not worse, so I make the best of it.” She said

Shaffer and her mom constantly joke about her having cancer, which is kind of scary for people to hear at first. “We do it to make everybody more comfortable with the situation, because at first people have no idea what to say or how to act, so we make it a little more comfortable for them.” Pattijo Shaffer, Jenna’s mother, said. “It also helps everybody realize that it is going to be ok.”

Everybody in the community has made a huge impact on Shaffer and her family and has made them stronger. People are constantly in and out of her house, always popping in to say hi and seeing how everything is. Family, friends and even teachers come by to see her. “I feel that everyone around me has made me stronger, not necessarily the cancer but the crazy amount of people helping out and giving me support.”

I don’t want people to pity me or feel sorry for me because I’m not the only person going through it, a lot of people deal with this stuff everyday too if not worse. So I make the best of it.

- Jenna Shaffer

Pageant judges weigh grades more than appearance

Two Neshamniy juniors participated in a Pennsylvania scholastic pageant, where they learned that brains are more important than beauty.

By Derek Donnelly
Features Editor

On July 21-23 two Neshaminy juniors, Jess Jarelsburg and Susan Lee competed in a scholastic competition Miss Teen of Pennsylvania Scholarship and Recognition Pageant,” held at Bloomsburg University. The competition wasn’t based on looks.

The students were chosen for academic reasons which included several categories: recommendations from teachers and coaches and public announcements of achievements.

The pageant was about learning leadership and making new friends who are determined to “make a difference” in their school communities. Trained staff gave pointers on how to handle the interview, and the stage.

Lee was happy with her accomplishment in getting to the competition. “It was definitely a humbling experience, meeting people who were each beautiful in their own way,” Lee said. “I learned you need to get to know someone before you judge them,” she said recalling the competition.

The competition was comprised of their interview, grades, hobbies, and accomplishments in and out of school. The interview included questions about what they want to pursue as a career, what color they would be, their resumes, and achievements they have made.

Judging criteria was broken into sections. Service and achievement was 15

percent, along with their scholastic record, personal development, general awareness or knowledge of the world, personality projection and poise in formal wear. The judges interview was 25 percent of the points, and weighed the most.

“It wasn’t all concentrated on the present competition. The real work was done already; the judges based a lot of the scoring on what the competitors previously had done.

The judging allowed the girls to be “human”; the organization wanted it to be fair to those who might not have had a major strength in a category.

“A lot of girls had community service, which I didn’t have much of, they were involved more than I was, but I scored very well on the interview and the speech. The other girls didn’t seem as prepared in presenting themselves and talking on stage,” Jarelsburg said.

Jarelsburg advanced to the top ten out of the 55 participants who were there. Once she reached the top ten, the girls were judged on a whole new level.

“Everything that was judged before was erased, and they started on a new slate. The girls were asked impromptu questions on stage, and were judged all over again.

“It was a great accomplishment to come in the top ten, but once I got in the group, I wanted to go further, but I tried my best,” Jarelsburg said.

All top ten finishers received recognition, the top five got medals, and the winner of the competition earned a sash instead of a crown. She received the title of Miss Teen of Pennsylvania, and was awarded money for college, savings bonds, and her school. She would then advance to compete for the national title of Miss Teen of America.

In the end, Jarelsburg and Lee came home, learning from a weekend of judgments not just based on who had the best smile or hair, but on the real things that matter, what they do with their lives.



Jarelsburg (center) and Lee (right) smile at the conclusion of the competition with accomplishment.
Photo/Courtesy of Jarelsburg’s parents

EAC strives to beautify

The Environmental Action Club plants flowers around NHS.

By Maria Kelmansky
Staff Writer

“Learning about the environment, trying to conserve it, and making a difference is what the Environmental Action Club (EAC) does all in one meeting.

The EAC recently planted flowers around Neshaminy High School in order to liven up the campus. “The students said that they wanted to see some color around here. They were sick of just seeing the construction and grey walls,” three year club advisor, Michael Hoy said.

Two club members also moved bulbs from Physical Education teacher, Sheila Hoffman’s memorial garden, which had to be removed because of construction, and

planted them around the school. “It’s really nice walking by flowers on my way to the gym. They look really good,” sophomore Alexa Doyle, said.

The EAC participates in many events, including the yearly fire clean up at Styer’s Orchards. They have removed about five to six thousand tires in the past.

The club hopes to improve Neshaminy High School’s recycling program by releasing a public service announcement that will teach students the appropriate way to recycle. It is also possible that the EAC will take part in the Adopt-A-Highway Program; they will clean Old Lincoln Highway.

“It is a great club to be a part of. I am really looking forward to learning and accomplishing a lot this year,” member Amanda Gavin said. Members of the EAC hope to raise awareness about environmental issues, and are looking forward to traveling to Longwood Gardens, and hiking the Delaware Water Gap.

New members and ideas are always welcome. “If the students have an idea I’ll try my hardest to make it happen,” Hoy said.

The EAC is not the only club that tries to make a difference and help out. Greater Philadelphia and the Nature Club participate in many walks and clean ups. Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) educates students on the consequences of their decisions, while Stop Aids Via Education (SAVE) tries to minimize the spread of AIDS.



The flowers give a pleasant visual relief from the otherwise dismal appearance of the high school reconstruction.
Photo/Kelsey Ruffing

Evening of twisted Shakespeare

Two plays will be performed in one night as “MmmBeth” and “Drop Dead, Juliet” take to the stage for an evening of laughter.

Everything seems to be going wrong in “MmmBeth” when the witches take over the storytelling and Queen Duncan would rather open a donut franchise than die.

Juliet has had enough with poison, stabbing, and dying. She wants a new story with more romance. Not everyone is up for a change though, and why is Romeo sneaking off with Rosaline?

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Senior Tedesco hates catfish

By Kelsey Ruffing
Features Editor

Jenn Tedesco, an 18-year-old senior, may not seem so random because of her efforts with student forum, but there are mysterious little quirks that most don't know about this ambitious 'mean girl.'

Q: If your friends could describe you using three words, what would they be?
A: Determined, reliable, and trustworthy.

Q: What are some of your favorite hobbies?
A: Hanging out with friends.

Q: Do you do anything to help out the community?
A: I do some helping with student forum.

Q: If you could be anything in the world what would you be?
A: Probably an event planner.

Q: Where would you like to attend college?
A: I'm interested in West Chester University.

Q: If you could play any role in a movie what role would you choose? Why?
A: Lindsay Lohan in Mean Girls to show mean girls how mean they actually are and change the clique.



Q: What is one song that you can relate to? Why?
A: John Mayer "Waiting on the World to Change." It is pretty self explanatory.

Q: If you could pick any celebrity to be your teacher, who would it be and why?
A: I would have to go with Jessica Simpson. She has been through a lot and people sometimes don't think highly of her in ways, her self esteem would be good to try to learn from.

Q: What is your favorite saying?
A: "Celebrate we will, for life is short but sweet for certain."

Q: What is your biggest fear?
A: Drowning.

Q: What are three things you absolutely could never live without?
A: My cell phone, the internet, and definitely my friends.

Q: If you had to choose one thing to eat for the rest of your life, what would it be?

A: Pasta.

Q: What is your favorite movie?
A: Mean Girls.

Q: Glass half full or half empty?
A: Half full.

Q: Do you have any nicknames?
A: Jenn, Jenny, Bugg and Trude.

Q: What's the grossest thing you ever ate?
A: Catfish...EW.

Q: Real World or Road Rules?
A: Real World.

Q: Real icing or the whip cream stuff?
A: Real icing.

Q: What do you think is the most annoying thing ever?
A: When people chew with their mouth open.

Q: What is your fondest memory of NHS?
A: Gym Night. I had the best time.



Jenn Tedesco lives her dream role of being Lindsay Lohan in "Mean Girls."
Graphic/Michelle Lestochi

Q: What is a piece of advice you would give to the new sophomore class?
A: Do your graduation project now and get it over with.

Q: What is one thing you actually like about Neshaminy High School?
A: The spirit from the students.

Unique, international experience out of this world

The 2006 World Scholar-Athlete Games proved to be a life-changing experience for one participant from Neshaminy.

By Steve Jiwanmall
Features Editor

When a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity comes along, it's hard to say no. For me, that opportunity was life-changing. I received an invitation to attend the 2006 World Scholar-Athlete Games (WSAG), which ran from June 24 to July 2. That didn't mean I was an automatic participant; I had to apply to get in. Out of approximately 20,000 applicants, I found out that I was one of just about 2,000 selected to participate. I didn't realize how much that meant until I walked into the doors of the University of Rhode Island, where the Games were held. The title World Scholar-Athlete Games is misleading, because participants were either scholar-athlete or scholar-artists, and the artists didn't have competitions. As a Playwickian editor, I was a scholar-artist and chose to participate in the Writing and Poetry program. But writing wasn't the only thing I was looking forward to. This was the WORLD Scholar-Athlete Games, which boasted over 2,000 scholars from all 50 U.S. states and over 150 countries around the world. I wasn't the only one who was awestruck by such diversity. This was the first time that many of the delegates had to leave their native nations.

Shane Gerbert, a fellow writer from Las Vegas, remarked, "The WSAG is an experience that is unparalleled by any other event in the world. To interact with so many diverse people in such a small amount of space and time is unequivocally amazing." Jasmin Hansohm, a writer from the African country of Namibia, agreed. "At first, it [WSAG] was a little intimidating, coming all the way from a practically unknown country, but everyone was really great." The sports and arts weren't the only exciting activities at the Games. There was an amazing schedule full of prominent men and women from across the globe to discuss many important issues facing our world, such as world peace, global hunger,

and the environment. The Games began with a brilliant speech from Claes Nobel, a senior member of the Nobel Prize family and founder of The National Society of High School Scholars. Fox News analyst Bill O'Reilly followed with a controversial lecture on immigration. But the favorite speaker at the Games was U.S. President William Jefferson Clinton, who gave a powerful presentation on world peace. Valentina Jean-Claude of Haiti commented, "My all-time favorite part [of the Games was] when we got to hear Bill Clinton speak." Other renowned speakers included Senator George Mitchell from Maine, former Connecticut Governor John Rowland, Chinese poet Xue Di, and Olympic skier Bode Miller, as well as many representatives from the United Nations. Some delegates had the opportunity to address the other participants in the assemblies at the Games. Having that kind

of chance is very rare, and I wanted to make myself known to all of the delegates from around the world, representing over 150 nations. At first, I was hesitant to get that chance, because I'm a pretty shy guy, but after much encouragement, I talked to both the commissioner and the founder of the Games, and they gave me my chance to speak to the delegates. On the final day, I spoke to all of those delegates. Since writing is my passion, I read two of my own poems, which nicely tied into the mood of the Games. "My favorite

aspect of the Games [was] the wonderful relationships that [were] created with people of different cultures and ethnicities. It was such a great opportunity for me to learn and create long-lasting friendships."



Over 2,000 scholars from over 150 countries participated in the World Scholar-Athlete Games this summer.
Photo/www.wsag.com

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Soul grasping “Crank” has readers addicted



New read “Crank” spotlights Kristina, a Crystal Methamphetamine addict who would stop at nothing to indulge in her need for “The Monster.”

By Melissa Marshall
Staff Writer

Though the 537 page novel may look intimidating to the naked eye, it is one that will take hold of great interest and forever grasp the feeding soul. It is the story of a young woman’s fall from grace and into the world of unbearable addiction. While “Crank” is merely a work of fiction, it is loosely based upon a

true story, the one of author Ellen Hopkins’ daughter herself. It is the story of Kristina Georgia Snow, perfect daughter and straight “A” student who barely got into any sort of trouble. Then, on her way to Albuquerque, NM to visit her absentee and wayward father, she met what she refers to as “The Monster,” otherwise known as Crystal Methamphetamine. Kristina soon disappears, and confident, sexy, alter-ego, Bree, takes her place and strolls her through the wild, ecstatic ride of her life. Bree will do just about anything that good girl Kristina would never even imagine pursuing, such as grabbing the attention of dangerous boys and establishing a steady flow relationship with “The Monster.” While the relationship with Crank grows stronger everyday, Kristina seems to lose interest in the things and the people

“This powerful, exhilarating, four-turkey read is one that will transfix your mind forever.”
- Melissa Marshall

she used to hold so dearly in her heart. Her blissful journey turns into an indisputable nightmare when Kristina is raped by one of her crushes. She strives to break free from the struggle that holds so firmly her mind, her soul and her life when the result of her rape is one that could turn things around forever. To keep the baby or not, Kristina now must decide. If she keeps it, she must put to halt all her new, nasty habits but will that last for only a short while? Readers are left on the edge of their seats, as they wait and wonder what will become of Kristina’s young life. “Crank” has been called the “Go Ask Alice” of the 21st Century, and in the history of such novels, Hopkins warns that “nothing in these stories is impossible.” This powerful, exhilarating, four-turkey read is one that will transfix your mind forever. Once you pick it up, you won’t be able to put it back down.

It is written in a poetic, almost epic, form which, Hopkins says, allows her to be a greater voice for the people and is a great way to get into her character’s state of mind and surroundings. Hopkins, who also wrote the books “Burned” and “Impulse,” is scheduled to release her fourth novel, “Glass,” in the Summer/Fall of 2007. “Glass” will pick up where “Crank” leaves off, only getting more compelling. The book “Crank” is one that reaches out to readers on many levels but according to Hopkins on her web page, she has received a main comment of honesty. She felt that was the only way to get her main point across: *that Crank is indeed a monster- one that is tough to leave behind once you invite it into your life.* Hopkins tells us to think twice, then, think again.

Turkey Rating:



New season of Survivor stirs racial controversy

The 13th season of the ever popular “Survivor” has viewers questioning whether or not division by race is acceptable.

By Chase Grier
Staff Writer

As the new season of the hit show “Survivor” began this fall, held on the Cook Islands in the South Pacific, controversy surrounded the show’s newest way of dividing contestants into their four respective tribes - race. In past years, the show divided contestants ranging in age from 18 to 70 randomly, by sex, age, or no division at all. Never in past shows was there controversy or disbelief as to the methods of producers until “Survivor: Cook Islands” premiered. With a new cast of 20 survivors, producers have chosen to divide the contestants into four groups, or “tribes” as they are called in the show: Asian-American (Puka), Caucasian (Raro), Latino (Aitu) and African American (Hiki). Producers hope to dispel stereotypes of physical ability, intelligence and behavior by their ethnically charged divisions. “I feel the ‘experiment’ was not successful,” English teacher and avid watcher Gina Chiolan said. “They didn’t actually dispel any stereotypes. In the past, the divisions were just that: divisions, a way to divide the teams. The show’s [producers] are probably running out of ideas and



In its 13th season, “Survivor’s” producers have introduced a controversial racial division.
Photo/ Courtesy of CBS.com

dividing contestants by race is all they have left.” “Survivor” has proved its worth for the past seven years and 12 seasons, maintaining its status in television top ten ever since its premier in 2000. The battle to outwit, outlast and outplay the other contestants for \$1 million has held viewers attention as “Survivor: Cook Islands” is still strong in the top ten. “I love the show, and the fact that they are dividing people by race isn’t a big deal,” junior Ashley Karmels said of the show. “It’s all just for the ratings.” For the most part, the show has stayed the same and audiences have watched the show like it was any of the other past 12 seasons. “It’s all the same,” junior Patricia Conners stated. “The show has stayed the same, and the race issue only lasted like two episodes. Big deal.” Host Jeff Probst and the \$1 million dollar cash prize are still the same. Contestants are marooned on an island for 39 days, in which they must survive harsh outdoor conditions, lack of food and constant physical and mental challenges to win the top prize. With the fall television schedule in full swing, it becomes apparent that the newest season of “Survivor” is essentially the same. By dividing contestants by race, hopes to tackle tough stereotypical issues went nowhere. The only controversy seems to stem from critic’s reviews, and viewers have no concerns. The show looks, feels, and sounds like any other season, with only a slightly more obvious ‘melting pot’ of survivors.

Blues band Box rocks hard with unique style, experience



Blues-rock band Box utilizes traditional instrumental experience and an array of musical influences in the creation of its own catchy and diverse repertoire.


By Matt Huston
Entertainment Editor

Listening to the crunchy guitar riffs and tight rhythm arrangement opening “Anymore,” one might be fooled into thinking the local rock quartet Box has plenty of years’ experience under its belt. The truth is that this spirited blues-rock group is barely two-years-old, and making its best effort to take its unique repertoire to the local music scene. Three of the members are Neshaminy seniors: Sean Chen provides the omnipresent lead guitars and Paul Harrsch the rhythm guitars, backed by James Fialho on drums (and vocals, in some songs). Ben Cole, bassist, completes the formula as Box’s lone junior. While Box’s sound is most easily characterized as blues or classic-rock, its members strive to incorporate a variety of styles. Box is “not really just blues,” said

guitarist Chen. “We wrote a funk instrumental called ‘The Blimp’ and we incorporated some Spanish-type feel in the ‘Mr. Conductor’ song,” he explained. “It’s always good to draw from a wide range of influences.” Chen has, surprisingly, only been playing guitar for two years. But there’s a catch. “Most of my skill is derived from playing the violin, which I’ve been playing for 11 years,” Chen said, who occupies the first-chair violin position in Neshaminy’s orchestra. Several members of Box have utilized past, traditional instrumental experience in the creation of their own contemporary sound. Drummer Fialho practices regularly with the school’s drumline and symphonic band. Cole belongs to Neshaminy’s symphonic and marching bands as well. “School band has taught me the ‘ins and outs’ of music,” he said. In addition, the bassist belongs to a local youth orchestra, with which he plans to tour Italy in a couple of years. “I started in third grade on contrabass (upright bass), which is the exact same thing as bass in regards to hand position.” These four musicians are serious about what they do, but above all else, they’re in it for a good time.

“The goal of Box was always to have fun, not to become rich and famous.”
- James Fialho

“Once you’re in an ensemble group, you really get a chance to improve your musical abilities,” stated Chen. His motivation in Box is to “get together with friends and write some good music.” “I am the youngest in the band,” Cole said. “The others are in 12th grade. I would like to take it as far as possible within this year.” “The goal of Box was always to have fun, not to become rich and famous,” said Fialho. “What’s the point in being in a band if you aren’t having fun?” Rhythm guitarist Harrsch is particularly modest about his contribution to the band (“musically I don’t provide much”), yet the tunes Box has posted on their online site simply wouldn’t be complete without his well-placed progressions. Box’s live debut took place at Sacred Grounds in Fallsington on St. Patrick’s Day, 2006. “It was wild!” Cole exclaimed. “I was really energetic and spazzing.” Though the venue wasn’t his typical hangout, Harrsch admitted “the show was very good” in the company of friends. Since then, Box has been in the process of songwriting and honing their talents. A selection of their songs can be heard at www.myspace.com/boxmusic05. So what’s with the name? Chen clarified, “(It’s) from back when we were poor- very poor- and used boxes to construct our drum set.” These guys have come a long way

since then. Now Box is attracting new ears and interests, and deservedly; they’re showcasing a style of music that, among high school bands, isn’t easy to find these days. **Look for Box online at: www.myspace.com/boxmusic05** **Check out Sacred Grounds 1 Meetinghouse Square Fallsington, Pa. 19054**  *Two-year old Box is taking its hard-rock style to the local band scene.*
Photo/Courtesy of myspace.com

Housewives creator promises satisfying season

“Desperate Housewives” is back for an all new third season. Creator Marc Cherry expects just as great a season as the last.

By Samantha Urda
Business Manager

The anticipated third season premier of ABC’s Desperate Housewives aired at 9 p.m. on Sept. 24, hoping to appeal to fans that, after last year’s reportedly “ho-hum” season, were every bit as desperate as the featured housewives.

Despite the fact that the ratings were not as sky-high as those from the premiers of the two previous seasons, Desperate Housewives creator Marc Cherry has not lost faith in this comedic satire of life in suburbia.

“I feel like I really just started learning how to write,” Cherry informed, according to www.getdesperate.com. “I really know a lot about dramatic structure and how to paint characters . . . now I would love the time to really dig deep and do something great. And season three is where it begins.”

Actually, it all truly begun at the house of Mary Alice Young (Brenda Strong), the show’s narrator. Mary Alice was a woman who lived the seemingly perfect suburban life on Wisteria Lane, where the constantly shining sun and smiling faces mask the sheer desperation of its inhabitants. She differed from her neighbors, however, in that her desperation led to her suicide, as did the heavy burden of a family secret.

The character of Mary Alice Young, however, never completely disappeared; she continues to reveal from upon the grave the secrets of her neighbors, not as a way of life, but as a way of death.

Spoiled former model Gabrielle Solis (Eva Longoria), lovelorn single mom Susan Mayer (Teri Hatcher), perfectionist Bree Van de Camp (Marcia Cross), and savvy, but frustrated career woman Lynette Scavo (Felicity Huffman) encounter face-to-face experiences with infidelity, crime and heartbreaks, all to prove that the lives of housewives are not always what they seem.

This season kicked off with a dramatic change in the life of Bree Van de Camp. Bree had it tough during the last two seasons, separating from her husband Rex (Steven Culp), and then reconciling with him only days before he died of poisoning.

His death led to her brutal episode of alcoholism and her abandonment of her troubled son, but in the end, it led to her discovery of Orson Hodge (Kyle MacLachlan), a dentist who has a charming smile but a questionable past.

“Orson has a secret, but I am praying for Bree that he is not an evil man,” Cross said in a TV Guide interview. “He’s a dream man for her. And I want her to experience a rebirth of her femininity and youth. But right now, she’s being pushed to ask questions about whether she can trust him.”

It may be difficult for Bree to trust a man who put her neighbor in an intense coma by purposely running him over on the street. Plumber Mike Delphino (James Denton), Susan’s boyfriend, still remained in his ambiguous state in the season premier, and whether Susan will wait around for him on the chance that he will wake up or move on is unknown, as is Orson’s motive.

ABC Entertainment President Stephen MacPherson promises that these mysteries will keep Housewives fans on the edge of their seats all season and that the third time will truly be a charm.

“Everyone, including Marc, admitted that at the beginning of last year he stumbled a little bit,” MacPherson said. “He answered so many questions at the end of the first season that he spent too much time setting up the mystery, the new arcs. This year, we’re going to jump right in.”



The housewives of Wisteria Lane return for their third season.
Photo/Courtesy of ABC.go .com

Citizen Cope disappoints fans

Clarence Greenwood, a.k.a Citizen Cope, releases a new album full of poetic lyrics that just don’t flow to his music.

By Tracie Dossick
Entertainment Editor

On Sept. 12, 2006 Citizen Cope released his third album, “Every Waking Moment.” His other two albums came out in 2002, and then he released another one in 2004. Citizen’s real name is Clarence Greenwood and he is a guitarist, keyboardist, singer and DJ. He began his career as a DJ for the group Basehead. Greenwood’s music blends many different sounds of folk, blues, hip hop, rock and R & B.

Greenwood first started out as Cope Citizen, and then in September of 2002, he signed with Dream Works Records and became Citizen Cope. Then he tried to promote himself by opening for artists such as Nelly Furtado. In 2004, he released his second album “The Clarence Greenwood Recordings,” an

album that earned him a lot of success.

His latest album, “Every Waking Moment,” is not such a hit though. The tracks are too boring, and the songs seem as if they could ever reach the billboard top hits. Some of Greenwood’s lyrics actually flow very well together, but that is if one can stand to listen to any of the songs for that long.

The best song on the album is probably Greenwood’s single off of the album, “Every Waking Moment.” The ninth song on the album, “All Dressed Up,” is very mundane just like most of the other songs on the albums. Most of Greenwood’s lyrics would be good in a poem, but in his songs they just don’t flow together correctly.

Citizen Cope is coming to the Electric Factory in Nov. 18 and Nov. 20. Hopefully he will not be as boring live as his album was. Those who are into slow drug out songs may want to go out and support him, others should not even waste their time.

Turkey Rating:



First offense: spandex, skirts

After attending Neshaminy for three years, we have seen too many fashion mistakes. Personally, we’ve had enough. It’s time for someone to put their foot down and tell those fashion victims what is up.

This month’s crime of fashion is the infamous spandex under a skirt, especially the jean skirts. Roaming the halls of Neshaminy, it is likely to see the numerous girls erroneously sporting this 80s trend. Since it is 2006, it is our goal to try and help

these wayward souls back to the 21st century.

If you insist on keeping the spandex, how about trying to pair it with a dress? Try either wearing the spandex under a flowy colorful dress, or a solid colored dress with a clenched belt at your waist.

Salvation Army would be more than happy to accept your skirts. Please take this into consideration tomorrow morning when getting ready for school. Thanks for your time.



Before



After

New season brings more drama to LB

An all new season of Laguna Beach is back every Wednesday night at 10 p.m. With an all new cast, LB is sure to bring more drama to the TV set.

By Ashlyn Coyne
Entertainment Editor

Surf, sun and drama. All this and more is jam-packed into the third season of Laguna Beach. The addicting show on MTV is back for its third installment every Wednesday night at 10 p.m. With a new cast lineup, this season is bound to bring more drama to LB.

This season brings back some familiar faces on the screen. Jessica Smith is back, without the ever-popular Jason Wahler, but this time with junior Cameron Brinkman, who is a player just like Jason. Some other returning members of Laguna are Alex Murrel, Taylor Cole, Alex Hooser and Lauren Conrad, also known as “LC.” Alex M., Alex H., Taylor and Jessica have been seen around Laguna this season dissing their ex-best friend Kristin know and love.

The fresh esting twist into the tor this season is a named Tessa Keller. Racquel Donatelli guna Beach. Not type like their class-girls who stand out The bad likely the richest, gorgeous.

K y n d r a the LB Mean Girls, and Lexie follow-spot for being bet-these girls stop at Kyndra and Tessa now the two cliques will stop at nothing to win all of the boy’s hearts and make every girl jealous.

I’m not sure what is so addicting about this show, but for some reason I haven’t missed an episode of the past two seasons yet. Despite the ridicule I receive from many of my friends for being an avid watcher, Laguna is the highlight of my week. All the drama and the exciting episodes have kept me, and continue to keep me, a loyal LB fan.



New season, new cast, new drama. Laguna Beach airs every Wednesday night at 10 p.m. on MTV.

Photo/Courtesy of MTV.com

new faces throw an inter-third season. The narashy and gorgeous girl Tessa and her best friend are the “outcasts” of La-exactly the snobby rich mates; they are pretty for being fun and kind. girls this season are most the meanest and the most

Mayo leads the pack of with best friends Cami ing. With a not-so-soft ter than everyone else, nothing to sabotage. are ex-best friends and

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Devos works from inspiration

An aspiring tattoo artist and photographer, junior art student Tiffanie Devos hopes to make an impact in the competitive art world.

By Leanna Valenti
Staff Writer

Tiffanie Devos isn't just an average teenager who attends Neshaminy High School. Ever since she was little, she has been very interested in art.

"For some reason, I always used to like to draw lions. And I remember in second grade, I used to draw cartoon people with my pencil sharpener," Devos said. "Their heads were always so round and funny, but I used to think they were so good."

Devos is interested in many different types of art, but she is especially interested in tattoo art and photography. Although she's not sure what she would like to do with the rest of her life, she would like to pursue a career in art such as being a tattoo artist, or

maybe a fashion photographer. "If Disney was still making cartoon movies, I'd definitely go for that too."

"Tiffanie definitely has a good chance of making her way in the art world as long as she stays focused," said art teacher Terry O'Neill.

"I was her photography teacher last year and she made some exceptional prints," O'Neill added, revealing also that some of Devos' work was entered into the Drexel University photo contest. "Tiffanie is an inspiration to her fellow students and friends."

Devos' classmates have good things to say about her as well. "I like Tiff, I sit next to her in class," one classmate commented. "She always manages to get her work done."

Devos admitted that many times, she gets a lot of inspiration from her music. Her iPod and her art are hand-in-hand. "But my biggest inspiration when it comes to my art is my family, my best friend, and my boyfriend. They

never give up on me," Devos said. "Having people never give up on me makes me think 'why should I give up if they aren't willing to?'"

Although she has always been interested in art, Devos stated that she has never taken any art classes outside of school, and that she doesn't think she'd ever want to. "I want to be myself, and have my own way of creating art," she said. "I don't want to learn the molded, traditional version of art."

Some advice that Devos would give to any aspiring artists is to "take whatever you're feeling or what is going on around you and use it to your advantage, and create something to make people think, wonder, and use their minds."



Artist Tiffanie Devos strives to develop her own unique style in her photography and graphic art.
Photo/Michele Lestochi



The Man Within

By Steve Jiwanmall

My son, when life throws obstacles your way
And you must face the world alone
Remember that the man within
Has a power—all of his own.

Pay no attention to people
Who have nothing good to say.
Be strong, my son, for the man within
Will chase them all away.

Ignore the insults they will use
To break your humble spirit.
The man within will strengthen you
So you don't have to hear it.

Keep your faith and it will grow
Into a mighty force
That will be so unstoppable
That no one can change its course.

This is how to face adversity.
This is how to persevere.
When you shall find the man within,
You will boldly have no fear.

Skip Romantics

By Drew Kalbach

Skip romantics, be absolved, said the fake impressionist portrait hanging in the livingroom.
The piano harped on about chords, scales; something about the time being late.
Voices urged the tiny hammers forward, yearning for them to smash strings. Outside, the temperature dropped.

Its mixed up inside. Dolls, old and dirty, sit in blue metal baby carriages. The chess set is missing it's queen. The piano is out of key but played anyway, violently.
Fingers march across the ivory like soldiers.

Pedals are worked, glass shakes, and the cars remain silent.
We turn on lights for illumination's sake, but our eyes never quite adjust.

The painting seems to be missing a stroke, some tiny detail lacking a dot of black or green.
Confusion sets in. The queen is found but the king no longer wants her back.

You have a voice.

Late Easy Nights

By Amanda Boccuti

It was the scent of memories.
Bike rides around the block.
Sidewalk chalk games.
And swing set obstacle courses.

Of pink and green.
And all of those wonderful colors
That were still cheery, even after
The ice-cream truck had left
And dusk was creeping in.

Of catching fireflies
In grass-stained knees
And forgetting about our shoes
In a neighbor's yard.

Of late easy nights
Inkbed with pale stars
Admired from lazy breezes
Against bare ankles.

Of memories long ago
In a time long grown out of
And knowing that they would be lost
As quickly as they were remembered.

Expressions is Neshaminy High School's literary magazine. We accept submissions from students all throughout the year and publish the compiled magazine in June. Please give your poetry, prose, photography and artwork to either Mr. Howie in G5 or Ms. Gould in the Playwickian office, or send it in an email to expressionsmag@gmail.com.

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Golf wins SOL's, advances, comes up short in Districts

The Redskins had a phenomenal season this year, coming out on top in the SOL championship and performing well in Districts.

By Rachael Campbell
Staff Writer

Neshaminy High School's golf team ended their season on Oct. 5 against Pennsbury with a 12-1-1 record. Overall, the ten-member team had a very successful season.

The golf team's third match of the season proved to be difficult, as they tied North Penn. "A success would be tying to beat North Penn and not losing," head coach Bruce Immordino said. Unfortunately the same could not be said about their next

match, when they lost to Central Bucks South.

However, all ended well for the 'Skins as they won the SOL title for the fifth consecutive year.

"Winning SOL was one of the best parts of the season," said senior Ryan Winchester, who made it to the individual Districts as well.

The team's ability to cooperate and get along as a whole was a big part of their winning streak. "I had fun traveling to different courses and meeting the other teams. The whole team bonded together and that made it a good experience," senior Stephen Cilurso said.

The team, in addition to their 14-game regular season, participated in Districts. Districts were held over a two-day period, Oct. 11-12.

The first day of Districts was indi-

vidual competition. Four seniors from the Neshaminy golf team qualified: Ryan Winchester, Matt Pesci, Zach Wehrman, and Dan Charen. Winchester and Wehrman did not make the cut to continue to day two.

The second day, individuals who made the cut, like Matt Pesci and Dan Charen, continued in competition, while team Districts started as well.

Wehrman, during team Districts, shot a hole in one on a par three. "I didn't think anything of it. It still hasn't hit me," Wehrman commented a few days after Districts. "I didn't see it go in; I just bent down, picked up my tee, and walked away."

"We had a successful season, where we accomplished almost all of our goals."
-Ryan Winchester

It was a major accomplishment for the 'Skins golf team to make it to Districts, where the team placed fourth overall. Unfortunately, neither the team nor individuals advanced further in the competition.

Neshaminy's best score of the season, 184, nine strokes over par, was achieved in their match against Central Bucks South.

"We had a successful season, where we accomplished almost all of our goals," explained Winchester. "My favorite part was competing and becoming friends with players from other schools," Wehrman said, who has participated in golf since he was a sophomore.

Immordino would like to see more people, especially girls, participate in golf. He considers golf a great opportunity for competing and a possible opportunity for scholarship money.

Boys' cross country overcomes obstacles, prepares for States

The 'Skins, who completed the SOL's last week, will run again today in the District championship and hope to send runners to compete in the state championship.

By Mattison Curran
Staff Writer

The Neshaminy boys' cross country team wrapped up their regular season with a 4-3 record, and is preparing to compete in Districts that will take place today.

Several changes have come about this year. Given that six of their top scorers graduated last year, the 'Skins are a very young team compared to other league competitors. In addition, senior captain and number two runner Alex Irion has been slowed by a sports-related injury.

Coach Horrocks made one more adjustment. "Due to construction this year, I decided it was not in the team's best interest to run on our home course," he said.

Consequently, all of the meets have been away. Despite these major changes, the boys have worked hard and made great improvements during the season.

Monday through Saturday the team can be found practicing at either Neshaminy or Tyler State Park. Their practices range from one and a half to two hours. With SOL's and Districts around the corner, practices have been more challenging for the guys.

The team is led by Irion, senior Andrew Tully and juniors Ted MacDonald, Brett Schwartz, and Greg Gough. However, after Irion's injury, MacDonald, Schwartz, Gough, and Tully were driven to work harder to make up for this loss.

"I had a great start to the season, with a lot of great times, but recently I suffered a sports-related injury. As a result, everyone on the team has stepped up and made a difference," said Irion. Because of his injury, Irion has slipped from Neshaminy's number two runner to the team's number five runner.

"Everyone on the team has stepped up and made a difference."
-Senior captain Alex Irion

Neshaminy triumphed over Abington Senior High, Truman, Pennsbury, and Bensalem. Unfortunately, the 'Skins were beaten by Central Bucks South, Pennridge, and North Penn towards the end of their season.

Regardless of their losses, MacDonald is pumped for the championship. "I am definitely looking forward to it. I had a disappointing finish last year that I'd like to improve, and team-wise we'd like to upset some of the teams that defeated us this season," he commented.

The team's last meet of its regular season was an invitational held at William Tennent on Oct. 14. MacDonald came in eighth place with a time of 16:31.2 minutes. Schwartz took ninth place with a remarkably close time of 16:31.7 minutes. Both runners did exceptionally well.

There are high expectations for this year's performance at the District and State championships. The SOL's were held at Tennent on Oct. 20. Districts will take place tonight at Lehigh, and States are to be in Hershey, Pa. on Nov. 3 and 4.

"I'm hoping our captain [Irion] is healthy and back to his number two status," Horrocks said. He also plans to send three runners to States this year.

Boys' soccer begins playoff run

The team had a challenging rebuilding season but stepped it up just in time to qualify for playoffs. They brought home a strong record of 12-5-2 overall and 7-5-1 in the league.

By Julie Morcate
Sports Editor

The 'Skins soccer team has really come together this season and has an impressive record to show for it. The boys secured their place in the playoffs after coming home victorious against Pennsbury on Oct. 18 to make their record 12-5-2 overall and 7-5-1 in the league on Oct. 23.

"It's been a great year for such a young team," coach Rich Reice said. "We're looking forward to the state playoffs."

Key players this season include senior captains Tim Pfender, Matt Anderson and Rich Watson, senior newcomer Frebole Kamara, junior Cody Antonini, sophomore Kyle Soroka, and goalkeeper Dave Brous, who has played in six games where he did not let up a goal.

The guys overcame the obstacle of having a young team and rallied to qualify for the playoffs this year.

"We lost a lot of good seniors last year," Pfender commented. "There are a lot of new guys, but we have great chemistry. We just take it one game at a time."

The team traveled to Pennsbury to face off against their division rivals in the penultimate game of the regular season. Both teams were pumped and the game was extremely competitive; however, the 'Skins kept up the energy and secured the win with a goal in double overtime scored by Antonini and assisted by Dan Kennedy.

Another intense game for the 'Skins was the game against Bensalem on Oct. 13. The last time the two teams met, Neshaminy won convincingly, with a final score of 7-1. However, the game on Oct. 13 turned out to be more of a challenge, but the 'Skins managed to come out on top by just one goal, 2-1.

The Redskins picked up the pace recently in preparation for the playoffs, which just started this week. "We want to make sure Neshaminy brings it home," Kamara stated.

The new seniors, like Kamara, Joe Norton and John Donaldson added another unexpected but very valuable dynamic to the team. All the new players really stepped up this season to make it a successful one.

The 'Skins received the tenth seed in the playoffs at the seeding meeting this past weekend.

They began their post-season run on Wednesday Oct. 15 against Pennwood.

Senior captain Rich Watson demonstrates his superior ball handling ability.
Photo/Michele Lestochi

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Talented, versatile quarterback Flogel leads ‘Skins

Andrew Flogel, three year starting quaterback for the ‘Skins, shares his aspirations and thoughts.

By Joe Fida
Sports Editor

“It’s third and ten, Redskins on their own 30 yard line, he takes the snap, looks left, pump fake, he wants his wide receiver deep down the sideline, CAUGHT! The 20, 15, 10, 5, TOUCHDOWN Redskins!” This has been all too familiar for Redskins fans for the past three years, when senior starting quarterback Andrew Flogel began his Redskin career.

Flogel has been the starting quarterback for the Redskins since his sophomore year in 2003. This was the year that he led the team to the state championship in Hershey, Pa., and they went on to lose to Pittsburgh Central Catholic.

Last year, in Flogel’s junior year, he led the team deep into the playoffs and to an eventual loss to Downingtown East led by red-shirted, Penn State quarterback, Pat Devlin. After a rough first game against Saint Joe’s Prep, the ‘Skins and Flogel won ten straight games, including the playoffs, with three shutouts.

This year the team now sits at 5-3 and awaits their final two games at Bensalem and home against Pennsbury. Flogel feels good about the season so far. “We’re fighting hard and looking forward to the playoffs,” Flogel said. “Our main goal is to go as far as we can.”

This year is the first year that Flogel consistently has been playing not only offense and defense but also returning punts for special teams. He has been playing the quarterback position on offense and the strong safety position on defense. “It’s a lot of work, but it’s all worth it,” Flogel said. “It feels good to go out and play as much as possible.”

Flogel, known as a running quarterback until this year, silenced his critics this year. He has recently emerged as a very

strong passer rather than just running with the football when he can’t find the open receiver. He has changed into a more patient and rhythmic quarterback with a great offensive line backing up his abilities. He has run the ball more than the average quarterback this year, but continues to be a threat with his arm as well. “I love passing just as much as I love running,” Flogel said. “But it depends on the game situation.”

For his future, Flogel is currently undecided. “All I know is that I want to play football somewhere,” Flogel said. “I just don’t know where yet.”

Off the field Flogel is a very diligent student. He has recently been studying for the SATs. “When I’m not playing football I’m either doing homework or sleeping,” Flogel said.

Flogel is ready for the remainder of the season and looking forward to their goal of making the playoffs and carrying his team as far as possible.

They have worked hard all season and they will not stop now with the playoffs only three weeks away.

Should the Redskins make the playoffs they will fulfill their expectations and maintain their reputation as the mighty Neshaminy Redskins.



Name: Andrew Flogel
Sport: Football
Position: QB, SS, PR
Number: 8
Favorite College Team: Penn State Nittany Lions
Favorite Pro Team: Philadelphia Eagles
Birthday: August 16, 1988
Favorite T.V. Show: Friday Night Lights
Favorite Food: Crab Legs
Favorite Movie: Anything with Will Farrell
Favorite Color: Blue



Volleyball fights hard, concludes season with winning record

The girls, whose record is 6-7, had a difficult time this season but jumped to the challenge of every match and came away with plenty of experience for next year.

By Taylor Kreiling
Staff Writer

The Neshaminy girls’ volleyball team has had a very tough season. After senior night, Oct. 12, they were left with a record of 6-7. Since varsity lost five of their key players from last season, Cassie Ebert, Juli Mowatt, Joanna Miller, Jessica Belmont, and Catie Tukdarian, the team was left trying to fill the gap.

The team captains, seniors Holly Pfeifer and Catie Keller, played key roles on the court this year. Both outside hitters helped the team with their efforts to win a shot at playoffs this season.

The girls have faced many challenges this season, which made it harder for them to succeed in playoffs this year. Senior Kelsey Stoka stepped up to be setter after losing Jessica Belmont last year. Stoka stepping up eliminated one of the problems varsity head coach, Stephen Heckman, faced.

Senior Jen Diegel planned on playoffs this year along with the rest of the team.

Girls’ cross country excited to compete in Districts today at Lehigh

Girls’ cross country struggled this season but came away with invaluable experience to build upon. Their record for the regular season is 2-5.

By Brett Schwartz
Staff Writer

The girls’ cross country team has a 2-5 record as they head into the District championships today. The girls have shown nonstop energy throughout the season, especially from its younger runners.

Head coach Steve Harnish has been surprised by his younger runners’ early success. “We have a young team, and they are just starting to learn the pace and the tactical parts of running. I believe they have caught on fast and will provide depth in the near future,” Harnish said.

The first-year runners include freshman Jordan Bernhard and junior Allison Flesher. Both runners have had a significant impact and are both top five scorers on the varsity team.

The team is led by junior co-captain Brooke Airey. Airey has been running on varsity since her freshman year and after a slow start has picked up the pace this year. She qualified for the state championships last year and hopes to continue her success this October.

“Brooke is working her way back into the thick of things and I believe she can have a successful finish to the year,” Harnish added.

Although Airey is their standout runner, the team is also highlighted by senior co-captain Meredith Randall as well as junior Courtney Onisick. The runners are

number two and three on varsity and play a key role in scoring.

“It’s just amazing to see how both girls were running JV last year, and have

developed into the two and three spots on our team. With the amount of seniors lost last year, both Meredith and Courtney have helped add leadership,” Airey commented.

The trio has played an important role in several tough races this year. Key wins against Bensalem and Truman have proven to be the highlight of the girls’ year. The trio came across the finish line as the first three runners.

The top three girls also performed well at the Steel City Invitational on Oct. 7. Although the team placed 24 out of a possible 33 teams, the girls had a good race with the top runners finishing strong. Airey placed 70, Onisick came in 100, and Randall finished in 152 out of a strong field of 222 runners.

The team hopes to place high at Districts. Many members of the team believe that their improving times could play a factor at these races, especially Randall.

“Our times are consistently going down and we can still improve going into Districts. I’m really excited to see what our team can do. The girls should be psyched because of how big and meaningful this race is,” Randall stated.

The team will be up against the odds, but hopes to exceed expectations as they go for a strong finish at Districts.

“Our times are consistently going down and we can still improve going into Districts. I’m really excited to see what our team can do.”
- Meredith Randall

“In order to prepare for playoffs we made practices more intense, I just don’t think we did that soon enough. Playoffs would have been a great experience,” Diegel said.

The team started off their season strong on Sept. 5, against Pennridge, winning in five matches. They won their next two home games against Truman and Abington.

Their next home game against Pennsbury the girls wore black and orange with shirts that said “Pluck the Falcons” in efforts to pump each other up pre-game. Although the enthusiasm was undoubtedly high and the girls tried their best, they fell short and lost in three games.

“They will always be our rivals, they have teams available for their middle schools, unlike Neshaminy, so they’re much more experienced and it would be an accomplishment to beat them,” Stoka said about Pennsbury.

Junior Catie Tukdarian, a starting varsity player last year, is out due to a soccer injury from the previous year. “Tukdarian is a very strong key player, and we could have definitely used her this year. She would have been a good help,” Junior Kerri Gecht commented.

“As for the sophomores and juniors next year, the girls should be much more successful, and I really hope they have learned from everything that has happened in the last two seasons. I hope they don’t get too caught up in everything except for the game, and just have fun,” senior Lianne Stevens commented on what the outcome of next season might be.

On Oct. 17, the girls played Pennsbury once again at night on Pennsbury’s turf. The girls made it to the fifth match and lost in the last match. It was a very competitive and well-played game by both schools.

The girls’ last game on Oct. 19 was away against Tennent. The girls were hoping to at least pull together to finish the season out with a win.

“This season has been like a roller-coaster. We’ve been up and down having our good times and hard times, wins and losses, and our share of laughter and tears. Through all of it we’ve strengthened and made such great friendships,” Stoka concluded. Despite their record everyone can agree they learned a lot from this season, and that’s success.

Teams capture sixth consecutive District One Sportsmanship award

Neshaminy High School received the prestigious P.I.A.A. award for Sportsmanship at the P.I.A.A. District One annual awards meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 13. Athletic Director Sheila Murphy represented Neshaminy High School at the meeting where Brad Cashman, P.I.A.A. Executive Director, presented the award. At the completion of each sports season points are accumulated for each athletic team. Sportsmanship of coaches, athletes and spectators is evaluated. At the end of the school year all the points are totaled. Neshaminy High School accumulated the most points in the Suburban One League—National Conference. This is the sixth consecutive year that Neshaminy High School has received this prestigious award. Neshaminy is the only high school in District One to receive consecutive awards.

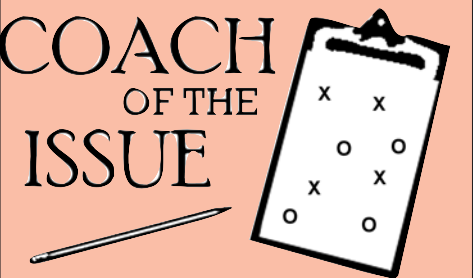
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Pennington heads Neshaminy dynasty

By Matt Share
Sports Editor

Lisa Pennington's love for field hockey started back when she was in middle school, stuck with her through high school and college, where she played for Temple University, and is still one of her passions.

Pennington got her coaching break at Carl Sandburg before she became the head coach of the 'Skins field hockey team in 1998. In 2000, she captured her first SOL title. Neshaminy has won the league title for four years running.

Last year, Pennington won the FedEx Coach of the Year for Pennsylvania as a result of her hard work and dedication to the team.

Coaches are given this award based on their number of years in the sport, their past season coaching records and their contribution to the community through the sport.

This honor brought with it a plaque and a cash prize, as well as the distinction of best coach in her sport.

Pennington's coaching inspirations are her two high school coaches; Sheila Murphy and Judy Cunningham. "They taught me a lot about coaching," she said. Pennington believes that coaching is about the players; she does whatever she has to in order to make her team successful.

The 2006 'Skins have made Pennington extremely proud. "We got off to a slow start when we lost three games," she said. "But we have worked hard to make the playoffs." Pennington is proud of the fact that so many players are willing to step up at key moments.

Their hardwork and dedication has earned them a spot in the playoffs.

Pennington is more like a big sister to her players than a coach. Practice involves a lot of joking around and having fun. The coaches and players even wear scrunchies on their wrists to show team unity before big games.

One of the most memorable moments of Pennington's coaching career occurred this season, when the 'Skins defeated rival Central Bucks South by a score of 2-1. That game stands out in Pennington's mind as the turning point of the season.

With Pennington at the helm, the future looks eternally bright for the 'Skins.

Field hockey anticipates tough SOL's

The girls took charge and secured the first place seed in the playoffs.

By Alicia Eissler
Staff Writer

The Neshaminy field hockey team has made a name for themselves this season as the team to beat, and the team's strength has earned them the fourth seed in this year's playoffs.

The team's record is 15-4, and they are the number one team in the SOL. For four consecutive years, Neshaminy's field hockey team has won the SOL championship, so this year's team has a lot to live up to. "It's a legacy really," assistant coach Marlea Partlon said. "This team has a lot to live up to."

The team's values are all about bonding and being a family. "We have a great group of girls this year on both teams," head coach Lisa Pennington stated. "They are always willing to work hard and be supportive of each other."

The captains this year are seniors Laura Quenzer, Jen Wrublesky and Steph McGinty.

Wrublesky has committed to play for St. Joseph's University next season, has been the team's leader throughout the season.

"I was a little surprised with the team this year," Wrublesky commented. "We are a very young team, but we work hard and are very bonded."

Even though all the members of the team work extremely hard, sophomore Chelsea Rota has been making a name for herself as one of the key players on the varsity team this year. "It's exciting," Rota commented. "It inspires me to do better each week."

Two games that were challenging for the team this year were the Central Bucks South and Pennsbury games. "Those two rival games were tough, but the girls gave 110 percent," assistant coach Amy Kochersperger reported.

The Pennsbury game was a very important SOL game to the season. Rota scored both goals in the second half to make it a 2-1 win. The win inspired the team for the remainder of the season.

All of the girls on the team are excited for the playoffs and the chance to possibly be declared the number one team in

the league. "We just need to keep our heads up, hustle, and be consistent, and then we'll have a good chance," McGinty said.

The 'Skins have began their play-off run against Plymouth Whitemarsh last

Wednesday, Oct. 25. The 'Skins enjoyed a bye in the first round while Plymouth Whitemarsh defeated Interborough to move on to play the fourth seeded Neshaminy Redskins.



Wrublesky, who will play for St. Joseph's University next season, has been one of the team's leaders throughout the season.
Photo/Joe Geddes

Girls' finger lengths may indicate athletic talent

A recent study showed that women with ring fingers longer than their index fingers are more likely to be athletically talented.

By Julie Morcate
Sports Editor

Researchers from King's College London found that women with ring fin-

gers longer than their index fingers are more likely to be successful in sports. The scientists conducted a study in which they examined x-rays of the hands of 607 female twins in Britain. The women's ages ranged from 25-79 and the average age was 53.

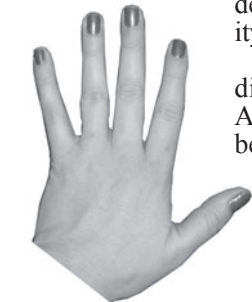
"The volunteers also ranked their highest level of achievement in a list of 12 sports on a questionnaire," an article from Sept. 27 on the website of BBC News stated. "The researchers found women with longer fourth fingers were significantly more likely

"In women the ring finger is commonly shorter or the same length as the index finger, while in men the ring finger is generally longer," a Reuters article on Yahoo News reported. Additionally, "It has been suggested this finger ratio is established while in the womb and that it is subject to the amount of exposure to sex hormones, say the researchers at King's College London," an article on Life Style Extra's website stated. "But the same group found that genetic factors, rather than womb environment, influenced finger ratio in a recent twin analysis."

The ratio between finger lengths is determined before birth and remains constant for the rest of one's life, according to the BBC News article. "The report said detection of sporting potential by examining the ratio between the index and ring fingers 'could help identify talented individuals at a pre-competitive stage,'" the Yahoo News article noted.

To some, these studies may seem superfluous, but by conducting studies like these we are one step closer to discovering definite genetic indicators of athletic ability.

According to the BBC News article, the director of the Lucozade Sports Science Academy, John Brewer, said, "It has always been said that in order to succeed in high level sport you need to chose your parents carefully, because genetic characteristics do play a huge role... Identifying a single physiological indicator to show whether somebody has a predisposition for high level sport is, in effect, the holy grail of talent identification programmes."



According to the study, this girl is athletic.
Photo/Joe Fida

Game Week 8	Joe, Julie and Matt Sports Editors	Chris Tenaglia Physical Education Teacher
Texans @ Titans	TITANS	TEXANS
Seahawks @ Chiefs	SEAHAWKS	CHIEFS
Jaguars @ Eagles	EAGLES	EAGLES
Cowboys @ Panthers	PANTHERS	PANTHERS
Patriots @ Vikings	PATRIOTS	VIKINGS