

‘Piece’ full of pleasant surprises



Dylan Atkinson, as the unscrupulous administrator, and Louis Sacks, a crazed lacrosse coach, deliver the fictitious news that Drama has been cancelled at Neshaminy. Photo/Emily Duke

By Emily Duke
Staff Writer

Under the direction of Gina Chiolan, Neshaminy students performed the 3rd Annual Drama Class Show, “Competition Piece,” from Jan. 19-22 with a special Master Cast performance Jan. 27. Each night had two shows in the Black Box Theater – one at 6:30 p.m. and one at 8:15p.m.– and the students in each cast varied from class to class.

Students in all four drama classes had been hard at work for the entire first semester to prepare this highly-anticipated show for their audience.

According to Chiolan, this production

was “one of the biggest drama endeavors ever done at Neshaminy High School.” Over 1,000 people attended “Competition Piece” over the course of 10 shows in five nights.

The play’s plot revolved around a high school play festival with three very different drama classes. One group consisted of preppy, argyle-wearing students led by a meticulous teacher with a knack for little details; the second was made up of artsy, free-spirited kids and their scarf-loving teacher with eccentric behavior.

The third group, guided by their school’s basketball coach who had been demoted to drama teacher, was composed of tough, metal-head rocker kids.

The story line progressed with the assistance of three judges and a narrator. “Competition Piece” used satire to comically mock the process of preparing a drama show, from selecting a play and treacherous auditions, to tiresome rehearsals and awkward kissing scenes.

Each night’s show had a different winning drama team scene and ending, all of which were very diverse, but entertaining all the same. “I was very proud of my students and I felt very fortunate to be their teacher,” Chiolan said.

See Drama Play on page 3

SADD/SAVE students lend Haiti helping hand

By Jon Mettus and Jocelyn Joseph
Staff Writer and News Editor

After a series of earthquakes and aftershocks convulsed through the impoverished country of Haiti, it remains in desperate need of supplies, medical aid, and nourishment. People around the world came together in an effort to offer aid, and students at Neshaminy are doing their own part to help those in dire need.

Members of SADD/SAVE held a fundraiser the week of Jan. 25 selling

“Be Aware, Make a Change” bracelets. The idea for the bracelets came from senior SADD/SAVE member, Patricia Bell. Originally used to support red and yellow ribbon week, the ribbons now serve as a charity to raise money for Haiti.

“I think the disaster in Haiti was terrible. So many lives were lost, just a horrible event for them to have to deal with. I do believe that the whole world is doing their part to help out,” freshman Ricky Lucas said. The bracelets only cost one dollar and all proceeds go to the

Red Cross Foundation efforts in Haiti to support the earthquake victims and survivors.

According to SADD/SAVE, many people are interested in buying the bracelets. They are hoping for and expecting a good turnout. “Every dollar counts,” Bell said. “Some people think, a dollar—it’s just a snack in the snack machine—but it’s really not.”

See Haiti Aid on page 2

News Flash

Medicinal Marijuana

A bill, signed by Gov. Jon Corzine on Jan. 11, approved the legal use of marijuana in NJ, making it the 14th state to approve its medical purposes.

Patients with fatal diseases and disorders, such as cancer, glaucoma, AIDS, seizure disorder, muscular dystrophy, and various terminal illnesses, will be eligible for a prescription.

A dispensary will be set up solely for its sale. Patients will be allowed up to two ounces of weed in a month. An ounce of the medicinal herb is estimated to cost 125 dollars, according to nydailynews.com.

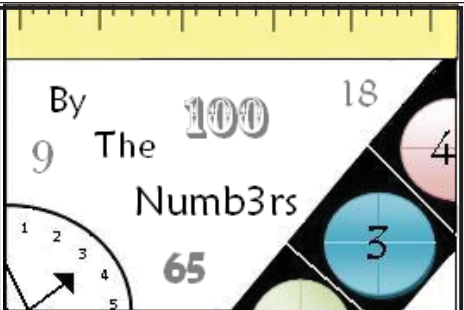
Patients cannot smoke marijuana on public transportation, school grounds, correctional facilities, at any public recreation center, or in areas where smoking is prohibited, as stated in nj.com.

The availability of marijuana leaves some concerned that it will increase abuses. “Although it helps the terminally ill, it also leads to greater social problems. People will abuse the system,” psychology teacher Erin Ennis said.

Many think that the pros outweigh the cons. 145 students and staff out of the 165 polled at NHS voiced their support of medicinal marijuana. Only 17 opposed legalization, while 3 individuals remained neutral.

New York is rumored to be the next state to legalize, but it is unclear if this will result in nationwide legalization.

~Tori Styner



200,000

People died in the 7-magnitude earthquake in Haiti on Jan. 12.



International Red Cross staff and volunteers are supporting the 2,000 local personnel.



Haitians living without any means of shelter.

Issue In this



News

Statue of Liberty may receive male counterpart 2

Op-Ed

“Sexting” stirs up controversy 6

Special Features

Unravel Neshaminy’s Love Lines 8-9

Student Life

Check out student’s wacky Winter wardrobe 7

Sports

Boys’ basketball bounces back 12

Entertainment

Synthetic celebrities take plastic surgery to a new high 15

Olympics make official debut in Vancouver

By Josh Reznik
Copy Editor

The world will watch as the 2010 Olympic Winter Games begin in Vancouver, Canada tonight. As the winter games were last held in Turin, Italy in 2006, these games will be the first of the decade.

In an earlier report from the Vancouver Organizing Committee's official web site, vancouver2010.com, the Opening ceremony, which is held on the first night of every Olympic Games event, will be held at the BC Place Stadium. It marks the first time an Olympic opening ceremony will take place indoors.

There will be a total of 86 medal events in seven sports held during the 16 days of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games. It is estimated that over five thousand athletes from over 80

countries will participate in the Vancouver Olympics. Team USA is expected to send over 200 athletes to Vancouver. The Team USA site has also compiled and released a list of athletes expected to compete in Vancouver.

Short track speed skater Apolo Anton Ohno, who received medals at the Salt Lake City, Utah Olympics in 2002 and the 2006 Turin Olympics, will compete in Vancouver in the 500, 1000, and 1500-meter races, as well as the 5000-meter team relay with J.R. Celski, Simon Cho, Travis Jayner, and Jordan Malone.

Also competing in Vancouver is Shaun White, who returns to the Olympics after receiving a gold medal in the half pipe event in 2006 and Louie Vito, who, most recently is noted for participating in ABC's "Dancing with the Stars."

Team USA will also send two ice hockey teams to compete. The men's

team ranked eighth in Turin, and will be led by captain Jamie Langenbrunner, a member of the New Jersey Devils. The women's team will also return after having earned a bronze medal in Turin. The team will once again try to earn a medal under the captain leadership of Natalie Darwitz, an alumnus from the University of Minnesota, and current captain of the United States Women's National team.

After successfully earning a total of 25 medals in Turin, nine of which were gold, the team is expected once again to be successful in medal standings. The United States ranks fourth in possible gold medals to be earned behind the top medal earners from Turin 2006, Germany, Russia, and host country Canada, according to thespread.com.

The medals, which contain different designs depending on the host city, resemble Canadian-Aboriginal artwork of an orca whale. John Furlong, the chief executive officer of the Vancouver Orga-

nizing Committee, ended much speculation for the long awaited medal designs. "They are the reward for years of effort and sacrifice on the part of the athlete and have the power to inspire children and lift the spirits of an entire country," Furlong said.

The Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games is staged to bring in thousands of spectators from around the world to the Canadian city. The Opening ceremony will be broadcasted tonight at 7:30 p.m., and the closing ceremony on Feb. 28, both on NBC and various other television networks.



The winter Olympics promises to attract many to the city of Vancouver

Courtesy of Chakra.org

Haiti Aid

Continued from Front Page

SADD/SAVE is not just stopping with the "Be Aware, Make a Change" bracelet fundraiser. They also hope to hold a tent and clothing drives for the recovery in Haiti in the next few weeks and months.

SADD stands for Students against Destructive Decisions and SAVE stands for Stopping Aids via Education. "Originally, the mission of the SADD chapter was to help young people say 'No' to drinking and driving. Today, the mission has expanded," SADD/SAVE reported, as stated on the district web site. The organization has broadened, now making effort to aid those suffering in Haiti.

Various groups and clubs in Neshaminy are partaking in the effort to raise funds and offer donations for Haiti such as World Affairs, Foreign Language, Dance Team, and the Student Council, who have placed envelopes for collection in every homeroom.

The bracelets were on sale after the initial week, in which the aim was to see how much money could be raised for the relief efforts. SADD/SAVE raised a total of \$215.00 in donations, all of which is going to help the relief efforts.



Red Cross sets up truck loads of supplies for the needy Haitians.

Courtesy of ammodo.com

WEIRD NEWS!

A woman from Pennsylvania has to attend court on animal cruelty charges for piercing the ears of her kittens and then selling these 'Gothic Kittens' on-line.
www.weirduniverse.net



Vibram Five Fingers created toe shoes for exercise and play. The toe shoes stimulate muscles all throughout feet and lower legs while enhancing your balance and agility.

www.wordpress.com

A Michigan man was hospitalized due to the explosion of a home made rocket pack that was intended to propel him while sledding.
www.weirduniverse.net



Lady Liberty gets mate

By Anastasia Iorga
Staff Writer

The Atlanta-based National Monument Foundation, led by Rodney M. Cook, proposed a male counterpart to the Statue of Liberty in a Patriot's Point development board meeting on Jan. 18. The new statue would stand in the Charleston area, in South Carolina.

Lady Liberty, a symbol of American liberty and freedom, has been standing on Ellis Island in New York Harbor for 124 years, completed in Paris and then sent to America as a gift from the French.

The male version of the Statue of Liberty would house a high-tech museum about South Carolina's role in the Revolution and Civil War, according to 6abc.com. The over-arching theme would be freedom and patriotism, and it could have its own island.

It would face the mouth of the Charleston Harbor and Fort Sumter, both of them significant places in the South for their roles in the Civil War. Cook is reported saying Charleston is the only other good match for a monument highlighting the South's role, and symbolizing freedom.

The statue would resemble the original exactly in terms of size and features, only more masculine. A computer image showed that the statue would have Liberty-like features, complete with the sunburst crown. "We're looking at a statue similar to the Statue of Liberty," Cook said, according to postandcourier.com.

The new statue could cost as much as \$110 to \$150 million, the majority de-

rived from private sources, according to 6abc.com. Cook also said the monument would drive tourism to the site, and the money will follow, according to charlestonbusiness.com.

Nick Tompkins, the spokesperson for Patriot's Point's Master Plan, said the board did not take any action on the foundation's presentation. The details will be discussed in next month's Patriot's Point board meeting.

"This is one of many presentations or ideas that our Board has been asked to consider for Patriot's Point's Master Plan," Tompkins said according to 11alive.com.



The Statue of Liberty remains a sign of peace and freedom.

Courtesy of ecofriend.com

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Plummeting President’s downward spiral of popularity leaves people questioning capability

By Nicole Gattone
Copy Writer

President Barack Obama’s total approval rating has dropped to 46 percent, with only 24 percent of voters strongly approving of Obama’s actions in office, as of Jan. 25 2010, according to Rasmussen Reports’ Daily Presidential Tracking Poll. Currently, the President’s Approval Index Rating is at -16, a full 42 points below where it was exactly one year ago. The question on the tongues of many citizens is: why has the president’s approval rating fallen so far so fast?

Critics equate President Obama’s declining popularity primarily with the health care debate and the president’s unclear plan for the economy. A common fear is that the quality of health care will decline once it is offered to everybody. Voters “are more concerned that health reform be done right rather than enacting the hastily constructed proposal currently on the table” according to Forbes.com.

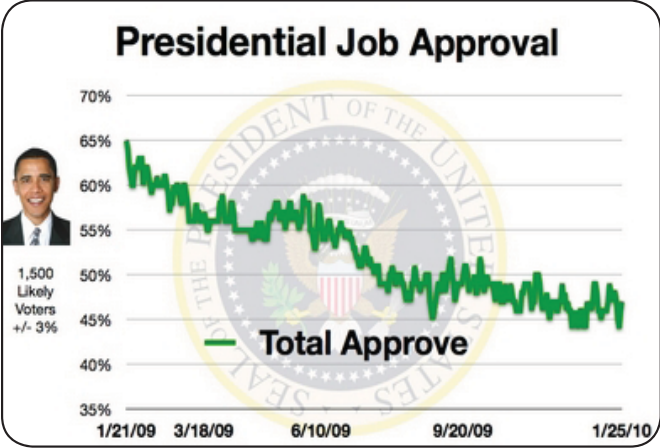
Although the economy is slowly improving, voters and Congress members agree that Obama is still not focusing enough on eliminating the

United States’ debts. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the stimulus bill will cost \$862 billion, and a poll run by CNN shows that three out of four Americans believe that the money provided by the bill has been wasted.

The poll, which ran from Jan. 8 to Jan. 10, also shows that the majority of the public, 54 percent, opposes the stimulus plan altogether. One out of ten Americans is still unemployed and the United States is by no means out of its recession, and with such a large amount of money going towards the stimulus bill, the country could be in the red for longer than Americans had hoped.

Scott Brown’s election to the seat of Massachusetts senator, which was previously held by the late Ted Kennedy, could prove to be a major loss of power for President Obama and the Democratic Part, as the new addition turns the reins of power over to the Republican Party. The health care plan that President Obama proposed may face even more opposition.

A slide in popularity is normal for all presidents once they start making decisions in their first term, but Obama “has suffered the steepest decline in job approval of any first year president since they started keeping such data,” according to CBSNews.com. Only time will tell if the President will be able to bounce back from his current low approval rating.



Obama’s approval rating shows a gradual decline.
Courtesy of RasmussenReports.com

No golden ticket necessary to see Willy Wonka

By Meghan Breitkreutz
Staff Writer

Recently, people all over the country have watched “American Idol” hopefuls try to earn the elusive golden ticket that enables them to enter the competition at Hollywood, but the original search for the golden ticket dates back to Roald Dahl’s beloved story of “Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.”

This story about a poor boy who gets a once in a lifetime opportunity to go to the magical Willy Wonka chocolate factory was first a book, recreated as a movie, and now this story will be brought to the Neshaminy stage.

The Theatre department has transformed the “Willy Wonka and the Choc-

olate Factory” story into Neshaminy’s 2010 musical production. The cast is essentially student based, as is the technical and stage crew, but the whole of the production is a student-faculty collaboration with music teacher Dr. Paul Croom as director.

“I anticipate the show will be really well received by the audience. I believe we have all the right components. We will have singing, dancing, and acrobatics, which you wouldn’t expect to see for this show,” Croom said.

Willy Wonka has been seen on film both in the 1971 version and in 2005 as “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” featuring Johnny Depp. “It’s closer to the new one without all the darkness to it,” senior Dan O’Connor, who will play the role of Augustus Gloop on the Feb. 13 night show, said.

The musical will own the stage with much originality as it also includes more songs than the movie, flying, and lots of dancing. Melissa Dyal, the

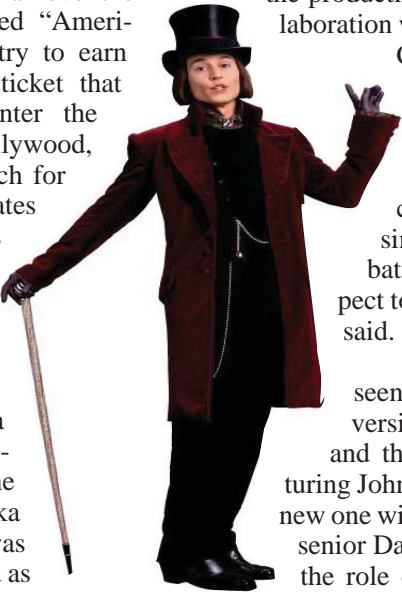
show’s choreographer, has incorporated flashlights while dancing in the auditorium aisles for the viewer’s enjoyment.

Tickets are available today for 7 p.m. Feb. 12 show, Feb. 13 for a 1:30 matinee, and also Feb. 13 for an 8 p.m. evening show. Tickets can be bought for \$7 for a reserved seat at the Co-Curricular Office or the Box Office an hour before the show.

This year’s musical promises not to be a disappointing one. Filled with surprises in every act, the audience

is sure to love this performance. There may even be a couple of those infamous little orange guys, Oompa-Loompas, flying across the recognizable stage.

Bring your friends and family tonight to support your classmates who will put on a performance that will make memories. “The cast has worked really hard to put on the show. ‘Willy Wonka’ is a timeless classic that the audience will enjoy until the curtain closes,” O’Connor said.



A remake of Willy Wonka premieres at Neshaminy.
Courtesy of starstore.com

Drama Play Continued from Front Page

Rehearsals for the show took place during drama class in the Black Box Theater. Students worked hard memorizing their lines and remembering their blocking. “Quite a few of the students had to overcome a lot of stage fright. Many of the kids in the cast had never been on stage before and had no idea what to expect. It seems to me that they all found it to be a positive experience,” senior Amanda Kemmerer said, who played a major role in seventh period’s show.

As for Master Cast, Chiolan selected members from each cast to collaborate for two shows the night of Jan. 27. Many parts were added for the performances as well, including a crazy coach played by Louis Sacks and one of Neshaminy’s fine administrators, played by both John Finnell and Dylan Atkinson. “I had an amazing time. It’s such a good feeling to see something you’ve worked hard on come together,” junior Brian Beloff, who had parts in both first period and seventh period’s shows, as well as Master Cast, said.

Each class really made their show unique by adding tons of jokes that were not included in the script. “Some of the funniest parts were thought of by the students themselves,” Beloff said. It was interesting to see the shows each night and how much they varied from one another. The students adopted different personalities for the same characters, and really made each show their own, making for ten performances in the Black Box Theater.

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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 student exercise of freedom of expression and press freedom is protected by PA Code Section 12.9 and the First Amendment to the Constitution. School officials exercise their right to Prior Review.

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 should not exceed 300 words. Letters must be signed and of appropriate subject matter. Guest opinions, 500 words or more, will be published as space allows.

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.

Graduation project causes anger amongst students, teachers

Bewilderment and agitation are the emotions that most seniors experienced upon receiving their graded graduation projects in late December. Recently changed from a much more diverse assignment, this project was designed to allow students to “develop ideas about what they want to use to build their futures, with a definite emphasis on career exploration,” according to one of the project’s architects this year, business teacher Anita Moore. Moore and math teacher Diana McCollick are in charge of the graduation project for class of 2010 seniors.

Since these graded projects were returned, the graduation project office has literally been overflowing with students wondering why they received “not proficient” on the writing section of their projects because they omitted something as trivial as a comma.

With senior year dwindling away faster than Miley Cyrus’ approval rating, it’s perfectly understandable for soon-to-be graduates to be stressed about grades, Gym Night and the first major decisions that will shape the rest of their lives. It’s even justifiable for teachers and administrators to put extra pressure on the class of 2010, because balancing all of these endeavors is just a preview of the effort that will be expected of us in college and the work place. However, there is no reason for so much emphasis to be placed on the current graduation project, a project that has proven inaccurate and unnecessary for seniors in the past few months.

The first obvious flaw with the graduation project is the extreme strictness of its grading criteria. Students who forgot something as insignificant as a signature or checkmark had their projects returned with a “not proficient” grade, and many were forced to make appointments to fix these minor mistakes. Forget the five-paragraph essay or several other general concepts taught in English class, because many students felt as though they could have obtained a Masters degree in English composition and still wouldn’t receive a passing grade on the writing portion of the project.

“I was told that I didn’t have a thesis or a point, but an English teacher told me my graduation project essay was one of the most well-written he’d read this year,” senior Alex Charen said.

The Pennsylvania Writing Assessment Scoring Guide was used to grade the graduation projects, and they were marked by anonymous members of the certified teaching staff of the high school on a volunteer basis. Though this ensures that all graduation project graders are familiar and comfortable with the written English language, it does not guarantee that they have enough expertise to make detailed and style-based criticisms on students’ essays. And because a large portion of the individuals who graded essays probably relied on a rubric more than their own knowledge, many of the remarks on seniors’ papers seemed more concerned with trivial punctuation inconsistencies than with the overall quality of each piece.

“I submitted my Common App for the grad project, essay included, and got a really low mark. I remember being really surprised by the feedback because I put a ton of work into that application; it was obviously pretty important to me,” 2009 Neshaminy graduate Jared Middleman said. “It just made the entire grad project especially laughable.” Middleman is now a freshman at Yale University; he gained acceptance to that school using the same application that was marked “not proficient” when submitted for the graduation project.

Even more disturbing than the severe emphasis put on comma placement was criticism of students’ projects that was not constructive, by any stretch of the imagination. One would think that the leaders of a project rooted in the guidance department of our high school would be a tad more sensitive to seniors’ goals and dreams, but unfortunately, some students found their projects’ comments not only blunt, but offensive.

“I just found the entire grad project experience very discouraging,” senior Megan Dickson stated. “Teachers are supposed to encourage kids’ dreams, and one basically told me that mine couldn’t happen. I thought it was very inappropriate for a teacher to insert her opinions into my graduation project.”

Finally, the biggest flaw of the senior graduation project is that it doesn’t get returned until late-December and revisions are due on either Jan. 29 or Feb. 12, depending on whether or not an individual

Who would be your teacher Valentine?

Freshman
Erica Mohan
“That one sub...”

Junior
Luke McIlvaine
“Mr. Toner.”

Roses are red, violets are blue, for Valentine’s Day, I’m going to...

Sophomore
Char Reese
“Stay home and eat ice cream.”

Sophomore
Zack Aberman
“Cry myself to sleep.”

completed the first portion on time. At this point, the graduation project is almost entirely pointless because the application deadline for most universities is in January. Students are, for the most part, finished making their decisions for next year by the time they receive their graded graduation projects, so the only thing this project provides for seniors is more stress.

In order to repair the very “not proficient” graduation project, several aspects of it must be changed. If such a great emphasis is going to be placed on grammar in written sections of the project, then the people who grade those sections should be English teachers. With no disrespect meant towards the caring teachers who selflessly dedicated their time to grade essays, applying to college or preparing for the workforce is a very important time in an individual’s life. If acceptance into college or acquisition of a job is based on an essay, then that essay should be edited by someone who has a great deal of experience in English composition.

Furthermore, if the graduation project is supposed to help us gain jobs and acceptance letters, then the project should be completed by students at the end of junior year, when it’s still beneficial to those who are applying to college. Moore stated that juniors have “enough on their plate” as it is, and burdening them with yet another project would just cause more stress. But if this project is truly meant to help students with career exploration, then it should be done in a time when decisions about the future aren’t already made.

Though its intentions are good, the current graduation project is causing more harm than help for most 2010 seniors. Serious modifications need to be made if the architects of this project want to benefit students in coming years, because as of now, the assignment that is supposed to help us make important decisions about our futures is mostly a waste of time.

This unsigned editorial represents the majority view of the editorial board.

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, 2008. Gold Medalist: 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009.

Send Us a Letter!

Email your Letters to the Editor at
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Sparknotes is an online resource to help students understand difficult reading material. However, while some students use Sparknotes as a supplement to their readings, others use it as a tool to get by without reading.



By Juliette Rihl
Staff Writer

We’ve all been there- you read the book, cover to cover. You spend a good 15 minutes pondering the information that you’ve just gathered. You try to come up with an appropriate theme or life-changing moral. And... nothing. You can’t seem to grasp what the author is trying to tell you. As hard as you try, the story just doesn’t make sense. There’s only one thing that can save you now: Sparknotes.

Created in January of 1999, The Spark (as it was formerly named) originated as a dating site for Harvard students. However, as college life became more and more demanding and the reading materials more challenging, decent study guides and reading supplements became equally as hard to come by. That is, until April of the same year, when Sparknotes was launched. An almost immediate success, SparkNotes offered (and continues to offer) everything from novel, poetry, and film overviews to popular quotation explanations and more.

As ideal as this sounds, some people seem to feel otherwise. By uptight teachers and strict parents, Sparknotes may be viewed as a form of “cheating” or “slacking.” It’s true-Sparknotes covers most of the important points in the literature, so to some students, actually reading the material may seem optional. However, Sparknotes specifically states that it does not support anything considered or related to dishonesty or plagiarism.

Furthermore, what these SparkNotes-haters don’t seem to understand is that the entire purpose of Sparknotes is to be able to compare your own interpretation of the literature with that in the Sparknotes analysis. For a responsible student who has read the text and is still struggling to understand key parts of the plot, Sparknotes is salvation.

Former Spark writer Kyle D. Hawkins agrees that “freshness” is the hallmark of Sparknotes, as does former writer Bryant Matthews, who states that “the free nature of the guides is what draws the students in and keeps them coming back,” according to The Harvard Crimson.

Sparknotes is a breath of fresh air compared to other outdated study sites such as Cliff’s Notes and Monarch notes.

In contrast to the criticism that these somewhat ill-reputed study sites receive, Sparknotes cofounder Sam Yagan raves that “teachers and parents actually like their kids to read Sparknotes... we are even on the syllabus in some schools,” according to The Harvard Crimson.

Not only does Sparknotes offer summaries, but on the site you’ll find practice quizzes, which you may find to be remarkably similar to the quizzes you take in class, and even resources to study for exams such as the SATs and ACTs. That’s right- Sparknotes doubles as your English tutor AND your SAT tutor. Is that impressive or what?

All in all, despite what you may have been told by your teachers, fellow classmates, or parents, Sparknotes is a very resourceful method of studying if used properly. Next time you are pouring over “Catcher in the Rye” or are just looking to brush up on your Shakespeare, you’ll know where to turn for assistance.



By Tom Van Osten
Copy Editor

An ever growing problem in the United States is that of illiteracy; a lack of interest in or appreciation of literature. Since the advent of the Internet, this problem has only worsened, with websites such as Sparknotes providing an easy way for young, tech-savvy students to bypass any actual reading and skip straight to what they want to know: the answers to tomorrow’s quiz.

Sparknotes is indeed a harbinger of ill-tidings, a sign that our generation is headed down a rocky slope of apathy. Upon a visit to Sparknotes.com, one will quickly find a “Top 10” list on the left side of the page. Among this list are many titles that Neshaminy students may be vaguely familiar with, such as Mark Twain’s “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” or J.D. Salinger’s “The Catcher in the Rye.” The titles contain hyperlinks to pages containing plot summaries, chapter information, and character summaries; articles which would no doubt contain answers to an average reading quiz.

With information presented in a manner that is easy for today’s computer-oriented generation to access, many students find that Sparknotes is a better alternative to the archaic and time consuming practice of reading a book.

Essentially, Sparknotes allows students to circumvent reading altogether, yet achieve the same grade as someone who actually read. Not only does this hinder the learning process, this is completely unfair to those who read what they are assigned and take time to appreciate and understand literature.

Students are regularly punished for cheating off of other students during tests, why is it any different if they cheat from a web site? Is Sparknotes not just another medium for students to copy answers from?

Web sites such as Sparknotes promote illiteracy and bibliophobia by eliminating the necessity of reading that school usually presents: when students do not need to read a book in order to succeed in a class, and it is much easier for them to simply read a plot summary on the Internet, readership will decrease and thus literacy suffers, and over time this trend will do great harm to the education system.

This has been the trend since the rapid growth of the Internet starting 10 years ago. According to the National Survey of Student Engagement, 80 percent of college freshmen read four or fewer books during the entire year of 2005. Also, the American Freshman Survey of 2006 claims that almost three quarters of all high school freshmen read for less than two hours per week.

In essence, web sites such as Sparknote are not simply useful educational tools. They are a readily accessible method of cheating for students. These web sites are harmful in that they promote illiteracy and bibliophobia, which statistics have proven. They are dangerous to the psyche of young people, and morally wrong, as they reward those who do little to no work of their own, at the expense of those who try. Web sites such as Sparknotes are not merely an easy alternative to reading, they are a danger to literacy, and promote a culture of sloth and ignorance.



SparkNotes was originally created to offer reading supplements and study guides for difficult subjects. However, many students abuse this privelege and use it to cheat. Photo/ Jenna Overton

BCCC’s bad reputation undeserving among students

By Tori Hyndman
Student Life Editor

It’s that time again. The time where all of the graduation-awaiting seniors are checking their e-mails and mailboxes frantically to see if that certain special college has granted them acceptance into a world unfamiliar and unknown past the depths of Langhorne, Pa.

Some get their wish, and all that is keeping them back is the final semester before they shake hands and get the diploma they’ve worked longer than a decade for. But you? You’re going to Bucks.

Now even though this may seem like a potential nightmare, worry not. Bucks County Community College has proved endlessly that it is a commendable school, one that is seriously much better than the less-than-remarkable reputation that the Neshaminy students have seemed to

solidify.

Just look at it this way: at the end of each school year, Neshaminy never fails to send a significant amount of its graduating class off to Newtown to attend classes at BCCC in the fall.

If the two-year public community college is as bad as people make it out to be, why do so many continue to keep it on their shortlist of college possibilities?

Roughly 35 percent of 2009 Neshaminy grads are now attending the school that was founded in 1964 and offers almost 90 different majors and programs of study.

Now although it is still a community college-schools that will forever be deemed inadequate in comparison to the big name campuses and universities that

we hear about all of the time-BCCC isn’t what people always think it is.

If taken seriously, BCCC can get a determined individual the credits and classes they need to attain a diploma or certificate suited to their area of study. Or what seems to be the most often case, the classes give students enough credits to later transfer to a four-year university.

In addition, Bucks provides many benefits that are often overlooked throughout the college selection process. Most importantly, it’s cheap. Competitive private campuses reach extremes of \$50,000 for tuition. But Bucks, yeah you’ll probably be able to handle the near \$4,000 price tag it holds for in-state students

Roughly 35 percent of 2009 Neshaminy grads are now attending Bucks County Community College.

according to CollegeBoard.

If that isn’t tantalizing enough, consider the fact that you won’t have to pay extra for room and board or finding your own apartment. You can stay and study in the comfort of your own home, which although may be depriving of the true college experience, can help you to save up if you were to transfer to a different school and plan on living there.

Honestly, making the decision on where to go for college is a hefty one that only can be done with your own needs and wants in mind.

But if college ends up being Bucks for you, there is no need to fret. Bucks can easily be the school you need it to be; it can give you the education you need, the skills necessary to do what you want, and the independence of being a college student, even if it is just a few miles from home.

Lonely Men, please hold the flowers, candy, love lines; too much to handle for single women on Valentine's Day

By Becca Erskine
Entertainment Editor

Dreading the fourteenth of the month? Not cupid's biggest fan? Think Valentine's Day is quite possibly the most ridiculous holiday to ever be invented? If you answered yes to these questions, you're probably single on the day that was created to celebrate love all around the world. But before you begin to wallow, realize it may not be that terrible of a thing; after all... do you really need the sappy cards and cheap assorted box of chocolates that bad?

Although cupid had only the best of intentions when he was proclaimed the world-wide symbol of love, his bows and arrows only haunt you on this holiday. The combination of reds and pinks appear in every store, as if Cupid regurgitated in every Walgreens or 7-11.

The classic one-liners appear all around you; "Be Mine," "Kiss Me." How original? Valentine's Day is clearly the most clichéd holiday around and the worst part is it's not going anywhere. So for all of the anti-Valentine's Day people out there, we're just going to have to grin and bear it.

Valentines Day has many dreadful traditions, one being the distribution of candies and chocolates to the person you

love, but if this tradition is so popular, shouldn't the candy be somewhat enjoyable? Candy hearts, the holiday's most common candy, aren't in any way appealing to taste buds.

Their chalky consistency should not allow it to even be called candy. As for the classic box of chocolates, sure it's pretty and heart shape but how many chocolates in there do you actually eat?

After 10 minutes of biting into each chocolate to find out which ones you actually like, and which ones you have to spit out and remember not to eat, is it really worth it?

Despite encouraging your valentine to chow down on some half-priced chocolates, what is the actual point of this holiday anyway? How did Valentine's Day become a huge franchise?

True love does not need to be assigned a day to be recognized, it is not stamped on a candy heart.

This holiday was only created for the absent-minded consumers who need a Hallmark card in order to express themselves.

My best advice? It is important to keep the disadvantages of Valentine's Day in mind when you are single; keep reminding yourself of how much the holiday actually bites.

Be thankful that you don't have

inflated heart balloons lingering in your room, and that you don't have to pretend to like the chocolates he bought you. How to be single on Valentine's Day? Learn to hate it.

It's simple really, and if you find yourself having a tough time, it's not a crime to send yourself your own candy gram; at least you'll know what flavor you like.

But for those of you who can't wrap your head around having a healthy hate for this day, and you sit in despair every fourteenth of February and hope for a secret admirer, grab yourself some Ben and Jerry's because it's going to be a long day.



Being single is bad enough, and it's 10 times worse on Valentine's Day.
Photo/ Nicole Onisick

School related stress outweighs high school experiences

By Ellen LoManto
Managing Editor

When our hairlines begin to recede and our hips protrude over our jeans as we hit the middle ages, we'll reminisce on the glory days of high school, thinking of the highlights and insisting to our kids that we were "cool" back then. And during our trip down memory lane we may stumble across a couple of our regrets. Like never trying out for the basketball team, not having the courage to take the stage at Neshaminy Idol, never asking the hottie from math class for his number, or not working hard enough.

But as the pressure to succeed and the anxiety from school overshadow the high school experience, a new regret may loom over us: stressing too much over school work. Students fill their schedules with honors and AP classes, despite their academic abilities, because that's what colleges want to see.

Teens often have so much homework on their plates that there's no room for activities or jobs without having a stress overload. Homework becomes a roadblock for Neshaminy students wishing to participate in Gym Night, Powder Puff, sports teams, and clubs.

As a junior, I was one of these stressful students. I took honors math, even though I still hadn't mastered my times tables. I panicked nights before tests, and hyperventilated when I earned anything lower than an 80 percent out of fear of how

it would "ruin" my precious GPA.

Tutors were called, tears were constantly flowing, and stress levels were exceedingly high. In the end I earned my dream GPA, but at what price?

With high school suicide rates climbing as the years pass, can we blame it on the stress students feel to succeed and the sense of failure they experience over something as insignificant as one bad grade?

Teachers drill the importance of grades in our brains from sixth grade on, all while parents demand nothing less than A's and B's. Grades take precedence over friends, and sometimes leave little time for family.

When we dust off yearbooks in 20 years, we should discover memories of cheering fans at football games and smiling faces, not late night study sessions and faces buried in books.

Now, before you burn your agenda, let me inform you that parents and teachers are not lying, working hard in high school is very important. The chances to get a good job without a college education, let alone a high school diploma, are very slim. It is exceedingly important to try your hardest in high school, but not important enough to let it take over your life.

There's a difference between living up to your potential and focusing so much on school work that the other aspects of the high school experience fade to the background. Students should define themselves by what they accomplish in high school and how they get involved, not by their GPA.

Sexting: put those phones away, keep those clothes on

By Colleen Kane
and Josh Reznik
Circulation Editor and Copy Editor

Picture this. It's 11 p.m. and you're getting ready to go to bed, when all of a sudden you receive a promiscuous picture message from your friend. You recognize this to be the girl who sits two seats away from you in your third period class. So,

what would you do? Do you forward the message or delete it? Or, do you send it to the cops and report it as child pornography? Needless to say your friend has just placed you in an awkward situation.

In a recent study conducted by the National Campaign to Support Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, roughly 20 percent of teens admitted to participating in "sexting." However, what many teenagers do

not understand is the fact that "sexting" is considered a crime.

Earlier this month, three teenage girls sent nude pictures of themselves to their boyfriends in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. These pictures then spread like an epidemic around their high school.

In a report from cnet. news.com, Larry Magid, a CBS News legal analyst, reported on the increase of "sexting" with teenagers. "We cannot

lock up 20 percent of the teenage population," Magid said.

This is a legal matter, as well as an emotional matter. High school student Jessica Logan attended Sycamore High School in Ohio. She committed suicide in July 2008 when a revealing picture of herself was circulated around the school by her boyfriend, leading to her being harassed.

When Logan asked administrators at Sycamore High School to have the photograph deleted from students' cell phones and prevent further distribution, she was told that nothing could be promised. She later decided to stop attending school because of the harassment which threatened her ability to graduate.

Even after she finished her school work and graduated in June 2008, she was still bombarded with cruel verbal attacks from fellow students. One month later, she committed suicide, and her parents are now suing the school and the students involved in the incident.

This event now furthers the question, "Why are young girls still doing it?" They have to be aware of the simple fact that

there are high school boys who are incapable of being fully mature. But still, for some reason

girls believe that their relationships are capable of professing this kind of love. However, they do not take into consideration that when light dims on that so called beautiful relationship, so does your boyfriend's respect.

So before you push that send button realize this-not only are you sharing a relationship with each other, you are possibly sharing it with the whole school. The expression "some things are better left in the dark" may be true. If you push that send button, you might just want to stay in the dark yourself.

**SEXTERS ARE
FOUR TIMES AS
LIKELY TO HAVE
CONSIDERED
SUICIDE IN THE
PAST YEAR THAN
NON-SEXTERS.**

Courtesy of athinline.org



"There's a thin line between him and the whole school." Sexting is not something to be taken lightly. For more information, visit athinline.org or call 1-866-331-9474.

Photo/Jenna Overton

Winter wear widens to flip-flops, mini-skirts



By Jessica Romberger
Staff Writer

Ever walk through the halls of Neshaminy High School and give someone's outfit the "once over?" Ever actually get the "once over" yourself? Girls are always critiquing each other, comparing this and that about themselves. Then there are those girls that just don't care.

Those are the girls that have their signature trademark styles, start trends that do not necessarily catch on, and are used to those glares. They stare right back at you unscathed on a regular basis, not worried whether or not they have the Neshaminy population's approval of their choice in outfit for the day.

These are the people that aren't afraid of what you think...

Even if their style is rather bizarre and different, especially for this time of year.

Neshaminy junior Chelsea

Thee is one of those girls that couldn't care less if you gave her that strange look or stared at her feet a little longer than you should. But why would Thee's feet be deserving of more than a one second glance you might be wondering?

Thee wears flip-flops all year long. Yes, that means if you passed her in the halls today and looked at her feet, she'll more than likely be sporting toe g-strings.

"I don't like to have my feet enclosed. I wear Uggs to school, then put them in my

locker because they're too hot," Thee said.

Girls, like Thee, that defy the weather don't just stop at flip-

mate crusaders.

"I hate jeans; they're tight and uncomfortable, just all around terrible. I'm trying to find a

good replacement; not sweats or yogas or black tights. I'm still on the search," Thee added.

Even though some of these crusaders dress like it's July because they are uncomfortable in the alternative, the rest of this scantily clad group's motives lie in seeking as much male attention as possible.

"I don't know, I think it's pretty stupid," junior Mike Zumar said. "I mean

they could look sexy in warmer clothes, and I hate it when they wear stuff like that and then complain that it's cold outside

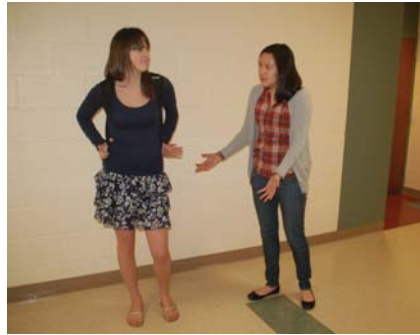
or in the classroom."

Regardless of wind chill factors, or a few extra inches of snow on the ground, these girls never succumb to the freezing temps, never put on a few extra layers before leaving home.

"I'm in denial of winter's existence," Thee said. "I think [winter] is just a myth. Summer is just on vacation, it's gonna be back soon so why change my style?"

Sure, their style is a little different and some may say wearing tropical apparel this time of year is just plain ridiculous, but if it tickles their fancy, then let them freeze in spaghetti-strings and sandals.

Girls like Thee go against the norm just to be happy. Most people are too afraid of what others will think to defy the fashion standards and put on, or take off, what they wish. In high school it seems to be all about fitting in, and these girls definitely don't.



A summery Thee is never phased by the endless stares her wardrobe summons.
Photo/Tori Hyndman

flops. Mini-skirts with bare legs, tank tops, or t-shirts with plumping v's are also in abundance within the Neshaminy warm cli-

Look to stars for love

By Tori Hyndman and
Kate Pfeilsticker
Student Life Editor and Office
Assistant

Aquarius

January 20- February 18

This is the month of your sun sign and you should live it to the fullest. Go out on a limb and talk to new people, and dream big. Don't be too pushy though, because those you push will push back—harder. This month is all about you, but you need a plan, so you should probably make one.

Pisces

February 19- March 20

This month, pursue your love interest, but don't stalk anyone or harass people. No one likes a creeper.

Aries

March 21- April 19

This month may be tough for you. If you suddenly feel tied down from various suitors or your significant other, then traveling (the farther the better) may be in your best interest. Caution clingers.

Taurus

April 20- May 20

Change will be hard, there's no denying that, but it's better than being stuck in a rut. Try something new this month, it may pay off. Take a risk and talk to that special someone, they probably won't reject you.

Gemini

May 21- June 20

Your love interest thinks you're mysterious, so take the plunge and let them see behind the curtain, but not too far, 'cause that's just not attractive.

Cancer

June 21- July 22

Welcome new people into your life this month and be

open for relationships to blossom, because you never know where love may come from—d-hall, the hub, Gym 3. It's all relative.

Leo

July 23- August 22

Because this will be a month ruled solely by your heart, you may be more vulnerable to others and what they have to say about you. Keep the scandals to a minimum in the days to come.

Virgo

August 23- September 22

Try not to be too fussy this month, and don't let a bad romance ruin your faith in others, because not everyone will turn out to be backstabbing and two-faced.

Libra

September 23- October 22

Stay happy this month because you may meet the person of your dreams, or not. But, either way, stay happy.

Scorpio

October 23- November 21

Stay resilient and you might get something similar to what you want, or you could get something completely random. At least you're getting something and you aren't totally abandoned.

Sagittarius

November 22- December 21

You are very free-spirited and this will be a great month for relationship developments, let's just hope it develops in the right direction.

Capricorn

December 22- January 19

Try to be more adventurous, you might normally approach relationships cautiously, some may call you dull, but live a little this month your spontaneous side will shine.

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Student captures photography award

By Rebecca Yacker
Expressions Editor

Selected out of 2200 applicants from all over America, senior Marissa Harven was included in the 150 students who were chosen for their unique images submitted in the 2009 Drexel Undergraduate photography contest.

Awards for first, second, and third place were given, along with 150 slots in which certain students' images were deemed more than noteworthy for the individuality by being showcased in an Art Gallery on Drexel's Campus.

Harven's photograph, appropriately named "Shattered" for its distinctive, Mosaic like style, is composed of many different simple images creating one complex picture. Emma Robertson, a Neshaminy Senior and photography student, raved Harven's image to be "extremely Avant Garde."

"It really emphasizes a sort of sophistication you don't see much within high school photography; it is truly refreshing," Robertson said.

In regards to receiving national acclaimed status, "I'm not going to lie I wanted to win first place," Harven said with a slight smirk, "But I'm still very proud."

Harven is a humble, talented individual, one who proves to be extremely passionate about her art. Art is her vessel for

self-expression. Her personality comes through in her understated, yet intricate works.

She likes to be able to reflect her own fascinating personality and interests through her photography, and ultimately leave her audience with a lasting impression of the artist—as all good art should.

Harven plans to attend the small, intimate Ithaca College located in New York as a communications major next year. Harven's eye for difference and eclectic taste will be sure to work to her advantage in any occupation geared to her talents.



Award-winning Marissa Harven excels at art and photography.
Photo/Rebecca Yacker

STUDENT OR STAR?



Photo/Ed Packer



Courtesy of Shallownation

Is this Neshaminy senior Wes Johnson or college-loving singer Asher Roth?

At the touch of love, everyone becomes a poet
-Plato

Dear Mills,
Thanks for getting me in Journalism like
3 years ago!(and I'm way happy you're
our teacher this year!)=) -<3, Stace

Neshaminy comes of age through song

By Melanie Matyi
Staff Writer

In 1950, when the name of the school officially changed to Neshaminy from Langhorne-Middletown High School, a sophomore at the time, Shirley Heizmann, now Shirley Wunsch, wrote and put to music our current Alma Mater.

Before there was a Neshaminy School District, there was the Langhorne-Middletown High School. The school was located on Maple and Cherry avenues in Langhorne, before later being replaced by an office complex.

In the early 1950s, Bucks County was growing. According to the US census, the population of Bucks County more than doubled from 1900 to 1950. The population growth caused the school to grow as well.

Other municipalities were added to Langhorne-Middletown High School, forcing them to issue a new name. Neshaminy was chosen because "the Neshaminy Creek went through all the different areas that encompassed the whole school district," Wunsch said. With a new name there also needed to be a new Alma Mater song.

To complete this feat, the school

decided to have a competition. Any student who wanted to could enter a tune and words for the school's new Alma Mater. "A few of us submitted tunes and the

words for the Alma Mater, and I won," Wunsch said.

She went on to explain how her original Alma Mater came to be. "I got the music from a music book that I had. It was from the Holy Cross College fight song and then I made up the words," Wunsch said. The Alma Mater that she had written and submitted was adopted as the new Neshaminy School District's Alma Mater in October of 1950. It is still

sung today at athletic competitions and graduation.

After graduating in 1952, Wunsch went on to major in music at Lebanon

Valley College. She graduated from college in 1956 and went on to teach music. She taught in elementary schools in the 50s and 60s, and at Lower Mer-

surprised to discover that Neshaminy still uses the same Alma Mater she composed back in the 50s. It is one of the many things that haven't changed.

When the Langhorne-Middletown High School students were told about the changing name of their school they weren't happy about it, including Wunsch. "The majority of us in high school were not really enthused about changing the name," Wunsch stated.

But this event gave Wunsch the chance to submit her entry to the competition for the Alma Mater. With the name change to Neshaminy, Shirley Wunsch and her song entered into history.



Looking back, Neshaminy has come quite far since its place as Langhorne-Middletown High School in the 50s.

Photo/Kate Pfeilsticker

reland High School as well. She married in 1956 to Albert Wunsch and stopped teaching in schools to help him with his business, Golf Cars, Inc., in 1972. After this, she continued to give private piano lessons.

Wunsch, now in her 70s, was

MacDonald spills



By Tori Hyndman
Student Life Editor

Quirky Kate, not Katelyn, MacDonald is a junior with a skill for ripping apples. She may not be a pleasant baby-sitter, but she sure knows the best hiding places.

Q: What's the strangest thing you've ever gotten for Valentine's Day?

A: Nothing. Sobbed uncontrollably, can you add that?

Q: If you ruled your own country, what would the currency be?

A: Magic conch shells.

Q: What do your jeans tell about you?

A: That I'm prone to spilling things.

Q: What is the title of your autobiography?

A: "It's Just Kate: Living Life with a Name That People Assume is a Nick-name For Katelyn"

Q: What's your best talent?

A: I can rip an apple in half.

Q: How do you relieve stress?

A: I take it out on the kids I babysit, with arbitrary rules. There will be no cookies today.

Q: What's your redeeming quality?

A: I have a knack for storing large amounts of trivial information. Did you know that an octopus can eat itself to death?

Q: Who's your favorite fictional character?

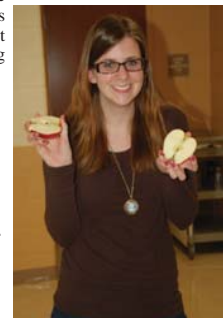
A: Michael Jackson.

Q: If you were playing hide and seek right now where would you hide?

A: Inside the dryer.

Q: Whose face would you use as wallpaper for your room?

A: Alexander Hamilton.



MacDonald shows off her otherworldly talents.

Photo/Dan Coleman



Mark Henry FASHIONS

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Navy SEAL turned contractor turned teacher



By Lera Salmon
News Editor

For Robert Boffa, teaching at Neshaminy was not his first career choice. In fact, instructing at Neshaminy Paradise followed two other careers, an extremely successful contracting business and his eight year involvement in the Navy.

Boffa started off his military career at a young age and began as a Navy seabee—the name for construction Battalioners, after which he joined the Navy SEALs. After a PLO bombing in 1983, Boffa joined a counter terrorism team with the SEALs to attempt to expose and bring to justice those who caused terrific destruction to those honorable men who lost their lives. He ended up in a unit of Special Ops for the Navy SEALs for the remainder of his time in the service.

The team traveled back and forth through the Middle East and South America working with the United Nations on numerous peacekeeping missions. "Training in the military and in martial arts has given me a won't quit, can't quit, never quit attitude... and I live my life like that for everything that I do," Boffa said in regards to his motivation and

inspiration towards life.

Boffa orchestrated a thriving contracting business for about 15 years, in which he worked with faux finishing and other types of workings for hotels, churches, and other high-end real estate. The flourishing business took on 75 full-time employees and was spread all over the East coast. The collaborate time away from home and family and difficulties with unions ultimately caused Boffa to sell the business to a union contractor.

After selling the contracting business, he later consulted with the same company through which he worked during the night, and continued to attend school during the day. Boffa transferred to Temple University from Bucks County Community College to complete his undergraduate degrees in Literature, History, and Education. He began his teaching career at West Philadelphia High School, then in 2001 he transferred to Palisades Middle School where he was in charge of the "gifted"

program instructing children in English and Social Studies.

Now working at Neshaminy, Boffa instructs twelfth grade honors, twelfth grade fundamentals, public speaking, and a

Neshaminy to whom he treats with great respect and is always one to value another persons input.

"I thought that if I got into education I could probably help a couple kids that were like me possibly stay in school, enjoy it a little bit more, and feel that their voice matters," Boffa said.

His insight and respectful attitude provides students with a stress-free and open environment at Neshaminy.

Boffa spends most of his time with his 2 year-old twins, taking them to gymnastics and dance. He is a

partner in several different Martial Arts studios around Bucks County and in New Jersey. Boffa's 25-year involvement in Martial Arts as a teacher and a student has given him a valuable and spectacular outlook on life itself; one everybody should be familiar with: to never quit at anything.

His motivational and inviting attitude can only be described as contagious and his positive approach towards the kids has his students enjoying every moment of his class. "My goal is to try to find ways to reach out to these kids to allow them to understand the importance of education," Boffa said.

Boffa's empathic and sympathetic perspective was created on the reality of his own life and past and has allowed him to be open to many ideas coming from his own students. His motive in life is one of the greatest, and his inspirational attitude is spread throughout Neshaminy day-in and day-out.



A modest Boffa stands in front of one of his English classes, humble despite the great strides he has made in his lifetime.

Photo/Gina Artillio

Shakespeare course. Being the nonconformist and somewhat of a trouble maker in high school he never would have thought that being in a classroom, teaching students would wind up being what he considers as "the best job in the world."

"Being able to come here and hang out with a bunch of young people to share ideas, I learn from the students sometimes more so than they might learn from me," Boffa said, on the account of the students at

Job attainable in poor economy

By Rachel Rotteveel
Staff Writer

It's no surprise that teenagers' pockets are as empty as everyone else's during this tough economic time; however, for the determined individuals out there wanting to change this by joining the work force, here are some tips to make a potential job interview a success.

1. Dress appropriately-

When you are interviewing for a job, a first impression is the only chance you get to prove you are a worthy candidate.

"Visual appearance has a powerful impact on interviewers - in fact, many start making up their mind up about you in the first sixty seconds," David Drennan, a Professor of Management and an international consultant, according to (www.interview-success.com). Dressing to impress shows the interviewer you care.

2. Come prepared-

This means do your research on the company you are interviewing for. Be aware of the hours of operation, job description, and the different kinds of people that go there. Knowing basic information about your potential employer only reaffirms the fact that you are very interested in what the company has to offer.

Also be prepared with a few questions you would like to ask the interviewer, such as the salary, but save them for the end of the interview.

3. Tell why you deserve

the job- Many people make the mistake of going into an interview and giving every reason why they want the job, but not why they actually deserve it.

It may be a good idea to bring a resume of your accomplishments with you to your interview. A company is more likely to hire a person who has good grades and extracurriculars in opposition to one that does not.

4. Relax, this is a learning

experience- When you are really hoping to ace the interview

and get the job you desire, it is easy to get nervous. Make sure you stay calm and keep your cool. Try not to use filler words such as "uh" and "umm" because they make you sound less intelligent. Most importantly, trust in yourself and what you have to offer.

The recession does not mean that teenagers have to go jobless. With these few tips and some confidence, a new income stream may be just one interview away.



February 14
Valentine's Day

February 15
Presidents' Day-No School

February 24
Act 80 Day-No School

February 26-27
Gym Night

March 14
Daylight Savings

March 17
St. Patrick's Day

March 20
First Day of Spring

Love Quiz Results

Mostly A's



Josh Reznik
Copy Editor

Mostly C's



Vijay Patel
Staff Writer

Mostly B's



CJ Colando
Business Editor

Mostly D's



Dan Coleman
Student Life Editor



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	3	9				2	4	
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				2				

Boys prove age shows nothing but numbers

By **Victoria Mazzeo**
Sports Editor

There has been a lot of apprehension about the boy's basketball team and their youthful players due to the fact that they only have one senior and a handful of juniors.

A young basketball team can either mature rapidly or come unglued late when it faces tough opponents in close games. Neshaminy's Redskins are making due and proving to be a formidable opponent.

It's getting harder and harder to tell that the Redskins have only one senior. Overall the boys

have a record of 11-4 for the season. The boys had a tough loss against Council Rock North, shy of four points. This made two close losses with the Indians.

Council Rock North (15-4, 8-3) withstood a furious 29-point fourth quarter rush by Neshaminy (14-4, 8-3) to defeat the host team- 64-60.

This was a key Suburban One League National Conference game because both the visiting Indians and the Redskins are tied atop the conference standings.

Both teams showed balance on the scoring ledger. North and the Skins each had four players in double figures. Charlie Anastasi and John Raymon led the Indians with 14 points each, while

Ryan Arcidiacono and Mike McGarry led Neshaminy with 15 points each.

"The reality is that we have to respond to this loss on Friday against William Tennent," said Coach Devine. "Losing this game doesn't decide anything — but it does put more pressure on us to win in order to be champions."

After losing a 10-point lead in the third quarter, Neshaminy fought hard and hung on for a 54-51 victory over the Eagle, starting two sophomores and two juniors to go with senior guard Steve Warhola. Neshaminy is now 4-1 in games decided by five points or fewer.

The Redskins recently beat always tough Norristown, 42-40, and now stand 13-4 overall, including a Suburban One League National Conference-leading 7-2 as they head back into conference play.

The boys beat William Tennent 62-43 on Feb. 5. They look forward to their next two games as well as playoffs. Tonight they play Pennsbury at home which will be a white out.



Sophomore stand-out Ryan Arcidiacono helps Neshaminy push past the competition.

Courtesy of Suburban One Sports

Redskins thrive in second half

By **Samantha Pipe**
Sports Editor

With only five games left in their season, the Lady Redskins Basketball team had a tough match against the Hawks of Council Rock South on Tuesday, Jan. 26. After a rough first half the 'Skins were down 25-12. The 'Skins had a few too many turnovers and South's successful outside shooting put important points on the board.

When the 'Skins came out in the second half they were clearly determined to make a comeback. The game became very physical and the 'Skins were not going to let South push them around. The 'Skins kept on pulling closer and closer to the Hawks.

With less than two minutes left in the final quarter, Kelsey Ryan stayed tough under the net and managed to make a lay up to bring the 'Skins only one point away from tying the game.

The 'Skins kept fighting up to the very end of the game but couldn't get those last few points. Council Rock South managed to barely win the game with a final score of 39-38. Kelsey Ryan led the team with 18 points and 11 rebounds followed by Brianna Weiler with 7 points.

The leadership role for the Lady 'Skins this season has fallen on the shoulders of senior Captain and star forward Kelsey Ryan. With an average of 12.5 points per game, Ryan has been a key aspect of the 'Skins success. Ryan also is very proud of how her team is performing this year, "We work together very well and have a strong connection on and off the court," she said.

Injuries in the beginning of the season have kept the Lady 'Skins from reaching their full potential this year but head coach JoAnn McVey is confident

that they are a force to be reckoned with. "We have great team chemistry this year, probably the best in a few years. The girls get along well and work hard," McVey said.

The current record is 9-11, the Lady 'Skins have big plans for the rest of their season.

The Lady 'Skins biggest goal for improvement is to become more consistent as a team. "We need to start playing a full four quarters in every game, not just the final half," Ryan said. "The second half of the Council Rock South game was one of the highlights of our season this year." Second half rallies have been the big story for most of the Lady 'Skins season.

In a big win against Tennent earlier in the season, the 'Skins scored 33 points in the second half after scoring only 9 points in the first.

The 'Skins last game of the 09-10 season is tonight at Pennsbury West. This is a huge game for Neshaminy because it can help them with their SOL National Conference record along with boosting their confidence going into the playoffs with a win against the biggest rival.

The girls had a disappointing loss to Council Rock North on the Feb. 2.

They lost to William Tennent by one point on Feb. 5. The Panthers held leads of 24-10 and 26-13 and, once

again, the Redskins put on a rally. The score was tied at 36-36 with 10 seconds to go when Tennent's Ashley Alden made a free throw and, on the ensuing possession, Neshaminy turned the ball over to give the win to the Panthers.

Neshaminy will look to finish strong.



Senior captain Kelsey Ryan scores for Neshaminy with her jump shot.

Courtesy of Suburban One Sports

McVey impresses many with resume



By **Codi Regan**
Staff Writer

She shoots. She scores! Time expires. The buzzer announces the end of the game. The Neshaminy Girls' basketball team wins! The crowd cheers wildly. The players jump for joy and hug each other. Their teammates, on the bench, join in the celebration. Everyone savors victory. But, when you look past the excited players and exuberant fans you find the real reason for the team's success—their coach.

Coach Joanne McVey has been the head coach of Neshaminy Girls' Basketball for nine years. McVey brings with her an impressive basketball resume. Before she became a coach, she played on high school and college teams. She even tried out for and made a professional team. "I love the game. I was blessed to have always been surrounded by teammates that cared as much as I did," she said.

McVey decided to become a coach because she loves the game and wants to teach girls

important lessons such as discipline, hard work, teamwork, friendship and confidence. She's known to be a tough coach and pushes her teams, but she always supports the girls and never loses faith in them. She gives an example that occurred during the 04-05 season. "The team started 4-4 and after an early season, disappointing Friday night loss, I wouldn't let the seven seniors practice on Saturday. Instead, I gave them 40 dollars and told them to go to breakfast and decide whether or not they wanted to continue playing for the team. That year the team finished 20-6 and won

the SOL title. To this day the girls still call themselves 'The Breakfast Club,'" McVey said.

Playing basketball is not just about preparing physically; the players must also prepare mentally. "We scout our opponents, identify their tendencies and look for favorable match ups for our team," she said. "Our practices focus on the keys to our success. Our Coaches put a lot of time into preparing us for each specific game, it really helps," junior player Amanda Lally commented. We tell our girls what we expect the opponent to do and what we need to do to win." With coaching like this, it's no surprise that most Neshaminy Girls' Basketball teams have enjoyed winning seasons.

This year the team has a 9-8 record. They suffered setbacks early when four key players experienced injuries that kept them on the bench. McVey said, "This prevented us from accomplishing what we had hoped." Although the team isn't where she wishes they'd be, McVey adds, "The team is resilient and I believe they'll come on strong at the end of the year."

One thing becomes evident after talking with Coach McVey: Neshaminy is fortunate to have such a caring and dedicated coach. If you'd like to play basketball Coach McVey has some advice to share, "Work hard because every

minute you're not, someone else is."

In addition Coach McVey lead the girls into the Athletes helping Athletes program. In which the players, Refs, Coaches and fans all dedicate home games to make several people who have mental and or physical disabilities. The program really means a lot to the people who participate in it and are dove honorary captains. It is the first time any Neshaminy team has participated in this and it really has meant a lot to the players as well. Coach McVey has been a valuable attribute to the girls' basketball team and has no plans of stopping anytime soon.



Coach McVey encourages Victoria Mazzeo during a tight game against Tennent.

Courtesy of Suburban One Sports

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Get to know ‘Trainer Bry’

By **Lindsay Lipsky**
Op-Ed Editor

In a high school where many students are also athletes, it is important to have someone who can help to heal the athletes’ aches and pains. Having an athletic trainer at any high school is a vital piece of its athletic organization. Athletic trainer Bryan Schedlinger is this essential piece of the athletic puzzle here at Neshaminy High School.

“Stretch it out, then put some ice on it,” said senior Ariel Hoffman. “He is a fabulous personal stretcher!”

This year marks the eighth year that Schedlinger is training at our high school. After growing up in Ewing, New Jersey, he attended Ithaca College in New York and became the trainer at Neshaminy shortly after graduating. Although he is employed by St. Mary Medical Center, he is contracted by the

high school. Schedlinger’s favorite part of his job is watching all the different teams succeed, although his favorite team varies. “My favorite team is the one in which the least amount of ath-



Trainer Bryan Schedlinger’s work is in action as he wraps an athlete’s foot.

Photo/Victoria Mazzeo

letes have injuries,” he joked. As many might believe, his job is not all fun and games. Despite arriving at work at around noon most days, he must stay until every sport is over, and sometimes that is past 8 p.m. Some days there can

be three different sports with games, and others still have practice. That is the most difficult part of Schedlinger’s job—he is expected to be in lots of places at one time.

The worst injury Schedlinger has seen is a complete break of both the tibia and fibula. He has seen this injury two times, once with a soccer player and another with a football player. The different types of injuries are what make his job so unique. He believes that certain injuries can be more interesting to work with, because the ones that are unusual have unique rehabilitation needs.

Almost every athlete and coach in this school appreciates Schedlinger’s dedication to his job and to the sports’ teams at Neshaminy High School.

We couldn’t have the athletic reputation we have here if all the athletes were injured, and with Schedlinger, this will never be the case here at Neshaminy High School.

Swimmers looks forward to Districts

By **Samantha Kaleck**
Web Editor

As shown by working morning and night, the Neshaminy girls and boys swim teams are not giving up yet. Their determination has kept them going through the season this far. “The team has exceeded their expectations, even if they haven’t realized it yet.” Says the head coach, Brian Suter.

Coach Suter is very proud of the progress that the team has made in one season. Suter says, “We are a very young team, a lot of ninth graders got out this year and most of the others were first year swimmers.” Along with first year swimmers, this is the first year that the swimmers

have had morning practices. The swimmers have a morning practice that is a dry land workout coached by cross fit trainer, Mr. Butler.

After school the swimmers work in the pool at Poquessing until 5:15 pm or the latest 6:00 pm. “Coming to school at 5:30 am in the morning is not easy for anyone, especially to work out,” explains captain, Sean Robinson. Even though in a rebuilding stage, the girls have successfully defeated Council Rock South, Lower Moreland, Upper Moreland, and Bensalem.

The boys have beat Lower Moreland, Upper Moreland, and Bensalem. As their season is coming to an end and SOL’s along with districts is right around the corner, the team will not rest yet.

Individual District qualifiers up to now are, Abby Miller in the 100 and 50 freestyle, Devon Perugini in 100 backstroke, Ryan Kaisinger in the 100 butterfly, and Jon Bento in 100 breaststroke. The girl’s team has qualified in districts in their 200 free relay and 400 freestyle relay in a time of 4:01.00. As far as the boys qualifying their 200 medley relay and the 400 freestyle relay.

The team’s positive attitude will keep them heading in the right direction. “Next year we will lose some great leadership. Our captains were great this year and made it a good transition year. They’ve done an awesome job with motivation and making a solid foundation for following seasons,” said Coach Suter.

Competing against

Girls’ bowling achieves five consecutive championship awards

By **Paige Brodnyan**
Staff Writer

Neshaminy’s bowling team has been champions for five years straight.

The bowling team is not heard of by many of the students in Neshaminy High School but is still another winning team in the Neshaminy family. “Bowling is not just fun but a family sport,” said bowling coach Mrs. Wargo.

The bowling team really enjoys working hard and winning. The team not only loves the sport but they love winning. The bowling averages range from 150 to 198. Neshaminy’s bowling

team faces many other schools in matches. Last game was Council Rock South away at Brunswick Zone.

The boys and girls bowling team will be defending their title against rival Pennsbury Feb.11.

“I enjoy the competition and winning,” varsity bowler, Kellie Tantom, said.

The hours this team puts in are worth it, that’s what makes Neshaminy’s girls bowling team champions five years running.

The key players for the girls bowling team are Katie Bevan, Kellie Tantom, Samantha Creamer, Brittany Calvert, and Christina Udris.

The girls were able to

defeat North Penn on Dec. 17 2673-2412.

“It’s not just the competition that makes the bowling team so much fun, it’s the togetherness and the people on the team that make it so enjoyable,” said junior varsity bowler, Brittany Hoffman.

In addition to the girls bowling team, the boys are also making strides during their season. As of Dec. 17, they were 4-0.

They defeated North Penn with a cumulative score of 3016-2778.

ATHLETES of the ISSUE



Junior Michael Joseph

When did you start swimming?

I began swimming when I was a freshman in high school.

What awards have you won?

I have won first place medals and ribbons.

What’s your favorite stroke or race?

My favorite stroke of race is the 100M Backstroke.

What’s your best times?

In the 100M Backstroke I have gotten a time of 1:00.86 s.

In the 100M Freestyle I have gotten :52.54 s.

What do you like about swimming?

Swimming presents a new challenge every day and there is always something to improve on.

What gets you pumped before a meet?

I like to listen to my music before a meet and cheer for/with all of my teammates.

Do you plan to swim in college? Or after college?

Yes I would like to swim for Penn State.

Junior Abby Miller

When did you start to swim?

I began swimming at age four through the Neshaminy Aquatic program

What are your accomplishments in swimming?

I have qualified for Districts in the 50 and 100 Freestyle and also in the swim relays. I have been awarded many ribbons and medals from my participation in the Suburban Aquatic League, The Lower Bucks Swim League, and US swimming meets.

What are your favorite events to swim?

My favorite events are the 50 and 100 freestyle events.

What are your goals in swimming?

My goals for swimming is always to go out and do my best, each time I swim I try to raise the bar a little higher.

What do you intend to do when you graduate?

My intent is to go to college to study Marine Biology and I also hope to swim for a



Juniors Abby Miller and Michael Joseph standout on the swim team.

Photo/ Samantha Pipe

college swim team.

What have you gained as an individual from participating in this sport?

I have gained a sense of self-discipline, team spirit and sportsmanship from my participation within the sport.

ally made it a memorable year,” said captain Amanda Swords in regard to her team this season.

The last meet of the season is being held on Wed. Feb. 10 at Bensalem.

Good luck to all the swimmers and participants in SOL’s and Districts.

The key players on the boys team are Branden Cummings, Jeff Murtha, Rob Raddi, Chris Walters, and John Mirgicin.

Both the boys and girls bowling teams are ready to try and capture their league title. Come out and see the bowlers play against rival Pennsbury!

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Summer
by Nicole Gattone

Each word
Each greeting, curse
Or joke you've heard'm say
Can be translated simply as:
love me.

A Breathing Heart
by Katey Olivia Smyth

I carry you everywhere with me. You are there everytime life takes my breath away. I can't help but wonder if it wasn't the moment, but you- that tied up my lungs. And that's when I realized that I was unconditionally head over heels in love with you.

Eight Ago is Now
by Rebecca Yacker

Reading your letter
I dripped from my body
on to the paper
I became the periods and dots
and blue lines in between words
dissolving into white parchment
lying on the desk
pulling the words from each line
over me like a blanket
getting wrapped
your whispers
someone else's words
to be for me from you
pulling me along
like a fall leaf floats
on a ray lit river
I see it now
I remember
I feel eight ago is now
don't let time
run through the V's
of your fingers
don't let me...

Eyes of Forever
by Paige Brodnyan

Moon light dances on my pale skin
Shining gems of your eyes show me the truth
Falling into you I feel happy, sorrow no longer exists
Slight fall breeze moving the colors of orange and red
Warm by your heart, you make me happy
I shall return to this moonlight path
But only for your smile, only for your life
Only breathing for this
Only living for this
Run away with me, stay with me
But only when I ask you to leave, could you stare into my eyes?
Nothing changes, but the seasons of your smile
Your hands- I'll hold forever.

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What to do before you die

tv.show review
By Becca Erskine
Entertainment Editor

Boy party before you die? Landing a date with Megan Fox? Reuniting an estranged father with his long-lost son? Making a toast at a stranger's wedding? The cast of "The Buried Life" has already accomplished these items and more exciting adventures on their list of 100. The series, often referred to as "The Bucket List" meets "Jackass," was developed to portray human potential and the excitement and exhilaration that it brings. The series helps show people that they are capable of doing things bigger than this world, and that whatever was setting them back prior to when they were asked the question, "What do you want to do before you die," isn't nearly large enough to take away their dreams.

Catch the guys of "The Buried Life" help people chase their dreams on MTV, Monday nights at 10pm.
Courtesy of tumblr.com

Follow the boys as they travel on their token purple tour bus named "Penelope" as they continue on their journey to complete the impossible before it is time to carry on to their next mission-their next chance to do something that they wish to do before they die, and help a stranger as well.

Not only do the young men have their own set of goals to accomplish, but they've promised themselves that for every goal they achieve on their list, they will help a stranger do something on theirs.

While the boys are chasing their dreams, at each stop they confront a stranger with the ultimate question: What do you want to do before you die? The cameras are rolling as the boys help the complete strangers accomplish what they had once thought to be impossible.

"[The Buried Life] encourages young folks to seize the day," according to Common Sense Media.

Do you dream of attending a Play

Turkey Rating (Out of 5):

Celebrities under the knife; easier to look at or terrifying?

POPTORIAL
By Annie Abdo
Sports Editor

In today’s society, people will do anything to look flawless. Many put their lives at risk in order to achieve perfection, to look just like the actors, actresses and models that rule Hollywood. However, these actors, actresses and models are getting altercations done to their bodies in order to make themselves appear “perfect.”

The most recent case of shocking plastic surgery was 23-year-old television reality star, Heidi Montag. “I almost died after my procedure,” Montag claimed in a recent article in NY Daily News. “I had too much Demerol like Michael Jackson

did and my breathing was five breaths per minute which is like almost dead. [I was] in an aftercare center, there were nurses that were supposed to be tending to me at all times.”

Montag went to the extreme, taking on 10 procedures in a single day. Montag’s procedures included “a mini brow lift, Botox, nose job, fat injections in her cheeks and lips, a chin reduction, liposuction to her neck, her ears pinned back, buttocks augmentation, liposuction to her waist and thighs and breast augmentation revision,” according to NY Daily News.

Montag is still more than ready to have more work done. Montag’s breasts are currently triple D’s, and she



Montag before and after her altercations.
Photo/ Courtesy of sodahead.com

claims she wants to go

larger, to size H.

Just taking one look at the “King of Pop,” one would be able to see the altercations. “Jackson had multiple nose jobs, cheek implants and he had a cleft put in his chin. He had eyelid surgery ... You name it he had it,” stated Dr. Wallace Goldstein in People’s Magazine.

Another victim of surgery, Nadya Suleman, has been scrutinized by the public for her appearance and allegations that she has had some procedures done. “Nadya Suleman seems to have altered her face in attempts to resemble Angelina Jolie. She looks like

she has had lip soft tissue fillers, Botox and possible cheek implants and rhinoplasty,” according to Dr. Wallen.

Are people going plastic surgery crazy, or is everyone just taking advantage of these new advanced technologies doctors have been able to establish? And here’s the simplest - yet most controversial question of all – has America gone too far in our altercations? While all of these questions are up for debate and are personal opinions, society needs to keep one thing in mind. What is going to happen to the world in years to come if all people begin to take advantage of plastic surgery just as frequently as everyone pays a visit to the doctor? One thing is certain; beauty is only a nip and tuck away.

Warning: bring tissues

MOVIE REVIEW
By Jenna Zaidman
Entertainment Editor

“Two weeks together, that’s all it took, two weeks for me to fall for you.”

Those of you that wept in “The Notebook,” “Nights in Rodanthe,” and “A Walk to Remember,” will without a doubt sob in the movie “Dear John” as well. “Dear John,” is a movie adaptation of the book, written by the hopeless romantic, Nicholas Sparks, and the movie is directed by Lasse Hallström, who also directed “Chocolat.”

“Dear John” portrays a love story of a handsome Special Forces Army Sergeant, John Tyree, played by Channing Tatum, and an idealistic college student, Amanda Seyfried, as Savannah Lynn Curtis. Tyree

first meets Curtis when her bag falls off of the pier and into the ocean. The two fall in love during Curtis’ spring vacation and Tyree’s two-week leave from Germany (typical, Sparks).

After the two weeks together, Tyree returns to the military, and continues writing and receiving letters from Curtis. Yawn. As a surprise, 9/11 outbursts and leave’s Tyree questioning if he should follow the others and re-up his time, or return to Curtis’ arms in South Carolina.

This movie is the epitome of all Sparks’ novels, it consists of walks on the beach, kissing in the rain, and (as expected) countless love-letters.

If you are single this Valentine’s Day, you should probably take this off your list and save it for next year, and maybe see another new flick, like “Valentine’s Day” with the wolf from “Twilight.”

MTV’s ‘Jersey Shore’ unfolded

By Nicole Onisick
Op-Ed Editor

They’re tan, they’re hot (debatable), and the pits of their shirts are swamped with sweat from fist pumping. The cast of the “Jersey Shore” has stolen our hearts and hair gel, and allowed the country to have a new set of morals- G.T.L. (gym, tanning and laundry, baby). The carefree members of MTV’s new reality television show is bringing the party, lack of morals, and some inadvertent laughs. And, no, Ed Hardy did not just throw up on the television.

MTV has never ceased to amaze us with their controversial television shows, but this time they left the snobby rich girls back in L.A. and brought in the crazy fun-loving Italians from Long Island of the middle class. It’s safe to agree that there’s slim to nothing in common with the most famous cast member ‘Snookie’ and Lauren Conrad of ‘The Hills’ except one not-so-small thing: their egos.

The buzz about the “Jersey Shore” is not strictly just up and down the East Coast; our favorite steroid enhanced cast members have hit a shocking international stardom. But not everyone is enjoying the mockery of these eight Italian-Americans. Many New Jersey residents are disappointed with MTV’s ‘stereotype.’ “There seemed to be physical violence, a very brash attitude toward sexuality — certainly a lot of focus on vanity,” said Danny Cappello, executive director of the Jersey Shore Convention & Visitors Bureau (Speakeasy, Wall Street Journal).

The cast members were up front about their nonchalant attitude for people who don’t care for their ‘lifestyle.’ “If you’re a hater, I gotta full time job for ya,” said the self-proclaimed man of the house Mike Sorrentino (a.k.a. “The Situation”). MTV never pulled the plug on the show, despite numerous attacks and outrage, and they shouldn’t have to. Many “haters” are not looking

at the show from the way most of America is, as a joke. When Snookie dances in her own drunken steeper on the boardwalk, or when Pauly D. and The Situation bring home female after female not many are applauding them, we are simply laughing at them. Many need to realize, this is MTV, not the Discovery Channel.

Unfortunately for America, this one summer at the “Jersey Shore” has continued all the way into winter, leaving the controversy simmering. Due to such backlash from Italian-American’s across the nation, many sponsors have chosen to pull the plug on their support. One of the most popular was Domino’s Pizza. Once Snookie got word of Domino’s dropping their support she had some, well, “choice” words for the company, who also retaliated with quite the comeback. “What a classy young lady-her parents must be so proud. There’s no need to get into a war with this young girl, because tick tock, her 15 minutes are almost up,” according to Examiner.

Although these tan, well maintained folk may have been an hour long comedic act on MTV, they are most certainly milking every minute of their sudden fame. With each cast mate receiving an alleged \$10,000 each per episode, they are getting their last fist pump all the way to the bank. With one member starting a clothing line, another creating his own perfume, and even another opening up a tanning salon, the only thing that stands in their way is skin cancer or death from steroid juice.

When it comes to stars that just won’t go away, what else is there to do put turn the opposite direction? What do you do with a seagull at the beach? You don’t keep giving it food. What do you do with a friendly long islander on TV? You don’t keep giving it money to go tanning! For those who are bitter about the “Jersey Shore” celeb’s, stop feeding their egos and they will slowly, but surely, disappear. Hey, remember Tila Tequila’s ‘A shot at love?’ Exactly.



DeRocco demonstrates natural artistic abilities



By Cassie DeRocco
Staff Writer

DeRocco poses in the hall.
Photo/ Becca Erskine

Many people have special talents, but only a few have artistic abilities that have a range of diversity. Even with other activities, Buddy DeRocco makes time for his artistic talents to shine through.

This very diverse artist focuses mostly on usual mediums—such as pencils—to make a statement through his artwork. But his creations are not usual at all. “When it comes to drawing, most of my inspiration comes from the artist I like, Alex Ross, and the comic book stuff. I’ve been drawing ever since I can remember—it’s always been a hobby of mine,” DeRocco said.

Not only do his detailed portraits bring him pleasure, but his artwork has won him awards. One picture was awarded with

a 4-day free session at Hussian School of Arts during the summer of 2009 where DeRocco took a few courses in illustration. He was brought to the attention of the school during the poster contest that was held by Hussian, in which he entered an extravagant ink drawing of Jekyll and Hyde.

In addition to comic book characters, DeRocco creates self portraits, portraits of others, and still-lives using mediums such as ink, pastels, acrylics and paints. “One of the more unique things I have tried was painting still life with a ball in Mr. Bursk’s advanced art three class,” DeRocco stated.

Although his range is broad, DeRocco still loves drawing comic book characters with a

number two pencil in his handy-dandy black notebook.

A few years ago he took on a new challenge: music. He now fell in love with a classic, the piano—which only took him two years to master. The very first song he decided to play was “Somebody to Love,” by Queen. “Then four months later, I performed that song at Jacob’s Music,” DeRocco said. The genres that DeRocco plays the most are jazz and rock. “I really admire Elton John and Freddie Mercury (Queen). But most people don’t realize that he is a piano player,” DeRocco said.

One year ago, he decided to take up the guitar. “I just thought it was cool so I said ‘hey, I want to do that,’” DeRocco confessed. With this attitude, he shows

great enthusiasm towards learning new songs. “So far, ‘Tears in Heaven,’ by Eric Clapton, is my best one,” DeRocco added.

Music has opened his eyes to other forms of art. To incorporate all his practice and effort towards drawing seems like it would be a challenge, but for DeRocco, it doesn’t seem to be much of a struggle at all. “It’s what I like to do. Just like anyone else would enjoy their hobby,” DeRocco said.

With all of his artistic talent, it’s no doubt that DeRocco will be very successful. Although he does not plan to major in the arts during college next year, he will continue to draw and make music daily. With his range and options, DeRocco’s name could be very well known in the future.



Romance in the Halls

Stories of love at Neshaminy High School



Senior Jon Bento & Junior Erinn Frisch

Q: How did the two of you meet?

A: In seventh grade through a mutual friend.

Q: What's your favorite thing to do together for fun?

A: Go out to eat, or hang out with other people.

Q: What are you planning to do when Jon leaves for college next year?

A: Stay together. He's planning on commuting to Temple so hopefully that should make things easier.



Juniors Kyle Martinez & Marissa Benedict

Q: What is your favorite flaw?

A: His beard.

Q: Do you still see the fireworks?

A: Everytime we kiss.

Q: What celebrity couple do you resemble the most?

A: Brangelina, she got them big lips.



Seniors Tim Haines & Martina Drew

Q: How did the two of you meet?

A: In Mr. Houseman's 10th grade Western Civilizations class. We had to work on a project together.

Q: What are you doing for Valentine's Day?

A: Martina's driving me to Olive Garden.

Q: What makes you different from other couples?

A: Our height difference.