



#### SPECIAL FEATURES

Students with exceptional out of school activities highlighted 6



#### SPORTS

Athlete of the Issue: Justin Andrews 3



#### STUDENT LIFE

Students sign cards for ally week 8



#### ENTERTAINMENT

Artist of the Issue: Kathy Celis 10

www.playwickian.com

2001 Old Lincoln Highway Langhorne, Pa. 19047

April 24, 2013

Volume 81 Issue 6

# PLAYWICKIAN

The Students' Newspaper of Neshaminy High School

## Boys' volleyball dominates, starts season 7-0



By Vinny Frazzetto  
Sports Editor

The Neshaminy boys' volleyball team is off to a hot start in their 2013 campaign, starting the season 7-1, with many of their wins coming in dominating fashion. Currently housed in second place in the SOL National conference, the team is poised to make an impact in the division and quite possibly the state tournament this year.

A major contributor to the 'Skins successes this year has been their impressive play on the road, with a 5-1 record thus far. The team shows confidence as they compete competitively away from home. "We are playing well as of now, hopefully we can step it up and play even better later on and it can carry into the playoffs," Junior and co-captain Chase Fullen said.

Not only has the team been successful this season, they have been downright dominant against the teams they've faced, losing only one game through their first seven, undefeated matches, holding a record of 21-1.

The team would be nothing without strong contributions from captains senior Zach McGowan and juniors Ryan Jamison and Chase Fullen. While they are the team's backbone and the members of the team that are looked to for motivation, they are also some of the best players on the team, with McGowan and Jamison leading the team in kills, and Fullen leading in assists.

However, on April 16, the 'Skins lost to their undefeated rival, the Pennsbury Falcons, falling in four games to the division leader, 14-25, 25-19, 16-25 and 22-25. "I feel that we had a few too many serving and hitting errors to beat Pennsbury last night," fourth year coach Kevin Roode said. However the team stays confident even after suffering their first loss, "If we can tighten up those areas, I think we can win the next time we play them," Roode continued.

The boys' volleyball team started off the season hot, winning all of their first seven games. The team's first lost came against rival, division leader Pennsbury High School on April 16. The boys' next match is against William Tennent at home on April 30. Senior night takes place on May 9 against Abington and the team will finish the season at Upper Dublin on May 10.

Photo/Redskin Yearbook

See Volleyball: pg 3

## District changes graduation, could lose funding

By Sara Keating  
Student Life Editor

The confusion surrounding this year's graduation date is no secret. The publication of the date as June 19 upset many families in the district for various reasons. One week and many phone calls later, the School Board announced that graduation for the class of 2013 would move up a week earlier to June 12, but this decision had a lot of factors that needed to be addressed before a solution could be reached.

"All secondary students (grade 7-12) require 180 days and 990 hours of instruction," Neshaminy's School Board President, Ritchie Webb, said. Holding graduation on June 12 will not meet the required number of days for seniors. Consequently, the District could lose up to \$20,000 in state funding.

Setting the graduation date each year proves to be a difficult task due to unforeseen events and inclement weather that are impossible to account for. This year, Hurricane Sandy wreaked havoc on the East Coast, shutting down Neshaminy

for a full week. This loss of time pushed the last day of school back and a dictated that students come into school on a few dates that they typically would have had off. In order for seniors to have the mandatory number of hours, graduation had to be pushed back a week. However, what should have been a simple solution turned out to be quite complicated. The week of June 19 is smack-dab in the middle of senior week and many seniors worried about making the drive from the beach to Neshaminy multiple times that week.

"There was a great deal of reaction from high school seniors and their parents asking us to move graduation up to June 12 so they could enjoy the traditional senior week celebration. Many families already booked vacations for the week of June 17," Webb said.

Perhaps more importantly, many seniors begin summer classes for colleges soon after the 19<sup>th</sup> and worried that the adjustment would be too much. Also, a handful of members of the class of 2013 will be headed to basic training for the Armed Forces. Would it really be fair

for students not to be able to walk at graduation because they have chosen to serve their country?

This is not the first time Neshaminy has experienced this problem. Last year, due to the teacher strike, the class of 2012 feared their graduation date would be pushed back until the end of June. However, the Neshaminy Educational Support Professional Association, NESPA, agreed to work during Spring Break so that students could make up some days without having to extend the

year too late into June. The NESPA is comprised of custodians, security, aides, bus drivers, secretaries, and etc. who typically would have off over Spring Break along with the students.

Webb said that the NESPA was not asked to work over this year's break because "administration felt it would have been too short of notice for parents and staff to try to pull back the Spring Break holiday this year."

See Graduation: pg 2

For more great articles and up-to-date info, Check out our website:

<http://www.playwickian.com>



Join us  
on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/thePlaywickian](http://www.facebook.com/thePlaywickian)



Follow us  
on Twitter

@thePlaywickian

# Terrorists bomb Boston Marathon

By Brianna Spause  
Special Features Editor

The cheers and celebration of athleticism typically associated with the Boston Marathon were replaced this year with utter chaos and whispers of terrorism. The 117<sup>th</sup> annual marathon hosted by the Boston Athletic Association (BAA) took place on Monday, April 15 where two bombs exploded, killing three and injuring over 170 others.

Eight-year-old Martin Richard, 29-year-old Krystle Campbell and 23-year-old Lu Lingzi lost their lives on that Monday, and left 17 others critically injured. In response, other major sporting events have taken increased security measures. The US Open, set for June 10 will not be allowing cell phones or large bags, and airport security is on high alert.

"This was a heinous and cowardly act, and given what we now know about what took place, the FBI is investigating it as an act of terrorism," President Barack Obama told an audience of reporters in press conference on Monday. "Any time bombs are used to target innocent civilians it is an act of terror."

The bombs were made out of household items, and contained in a pressure cooker. Components consisted of nails, ball bearings and an unidentified timing device. "Lone wolf" bombs – or bombs created by a solo terrorist by themselves – are extremely difficult to trace by nature. "This is what you worry about the most. No trail, no intelligence," CNN Chief Political Analyst Gloria

Borger said.

The bombs exploded at approximately 2:50 p.m. about 100 yards from one another in Copley Square, located in front of the finish line of the 26.2 mile course. Athletes train year round for the event, and must qualify to be able to participate. Times vary based on age and gender. "You train for so many months, [experiencing such a tragic event] would literally scar me for life. I probably wouldn't even want to finish the race," junior, and member of the 'Skins track team Stephanie Donahue said.

Utter chaos was unleashed upon the explosions. Marathon participant Dana McLaren revealed to Time Magazine shortly finishing the race, "My first thought was: there's a bomb. A really loud bomb. It's not normal for a finish cannon to be happening at that point in the race." McLaren was not the only one frightened and confused by the civilian attack. Ambulances, fire engines and police officers poured in from all over the city. Volunteer staff and military personnel were also on staff to aid the injured.

Tragedy strikes in more area than one in the realm of the Boston Marathon Bombings. The BAA had dedicated the race to honor the losses of Newtown families, and in acknowledgement, six families who felt the effects of the Sandy Hook shooting in December participated in the marathon.

One hundred eighteen candles light the last mile of the marathon's path in acknowledgement that the time-honored tradition will run again next year in



During this year's running of the iconic Boston Marathon, two bombs exploded killing three and injuring many.

Media Credit/ McClatchy Tribune  
commemoration of the 2013 victims. "It's not going to decline the amount of people running. If you want to run you're going to run" Donahue said. "More people might go next year as a tribute," Senior Amy Gallagher added.

Investigations by both the FBI and Boston Police Department are working around the clock to find the culprit. The FBI has been examining amateur videos and still photos taken at the scene in attempt find a lead. "We will find out. We will find whoever harmed our citizens and we will bring them to justice. We also know this, the American people refuse to

be terrorized" Obama said.

As of April 18, two suspects were identified performing suspicious behavior near the scene of the explosion as caught by Lord & Taylor security footage.

One of the suspects, Tamerlan Tsarnaev 26, was found and after a gunfight with police was shot to death. Tsarnaev was found with a bomb strapped to his chest and a bomb in his car. His younger brother, Dzhokar Tsarnaev 19, escaped and is still at large in Cambridge.

**For the updated version of this article, please visit our website.**  
[www.Playwickian.com](http://www.Playwickian.com)

## Business and Spanish teachers win 'Dancing with the Faculty'

By Michelle Borisov  
Staff Writer

On April 4, the Neshaminy Dance Team hosted their annual event, Dancing with the Faculty. Similar to "Dancing with the Stars", the show is features teams of teachers and students who perform group dances and compete against one another. Students paired up with teachers for a chance to teach them for a change.

Members of the dance team were put into groups and chose teachers to work with, giving the students an opportunity to teach the teachers for a change. The students were given three months to choreograph and teach a dance that was easy enough for all the group members to learn, as well as still being funky and unique. The groups had to meet after school to rehearse.

"Making up a dance was really fun, and teaching it was a great experience," sophomore Victoria Gutman said.

The teachers were hard at work trying to learn the dances. "My partners were amazing and it was super fun practicing," English teacher, Kate Livingstone said. Although the dances might have been challenging, the teams pulled through and the teachers were given the opportunity to add their own old school flare.

After three months of after school practices, it was performance night. Before the show, the groups were anxious and excited to show off their dances. The show was held in the auditorium on April 4. It was broken up into two acts with a brief intermission in between.

The seats were filled with adoring fans, curious students and the friends and family of all the performers. Finally, the curtains went up and the Neshaminy Dance Team opened with a dance to set the mood for the evening.

Everyone was having a blast performing up on stage. The audience was cheering and the teachers amazed with their goofy style of dancing that was charming and silly. "Performing was awesome," Livingstone said.

After all the teams had their chance to steal the show, the winners were finally crowned with bragging rights and gift cards to Dunkin Donuts. Business teacher, Chuck Deal and Spanish teacher, Richard Kain graciously came up on stage to receive their awards.

When the show was wrapping up, the Dance Team had one more surprise up their sleeves. They brought their adviser Melissa Catrambone up on stage to thank her for all she does for the Dance Team.

Overall, it was a great success and the Dance Team hopes it will continue through the years.



Business teacher Chuck Deal and Spanish teacher Richard Kain won the 2013 Dancing with the Faculty. Photo/RedskinYearbook

## Graduation: Date moved despite possible consequences

Continued from page 1

"Last year we were asked to work over Spring Break and *we did*, not so many years ago we were asked to work over another holiday due to a very bad winter and *we did*," President of the NESPA, Mindy Anderson, said. But this year, the NESPA was not asked to work over the break which would have ensured an earlier last day of school for all students, even if it was only by a couple of days. Had they been asked, keeping up with their consistent dependability, it is likely that the NESPA would have agreed to work those extra few days in order to help out.

Difficulties with setting the graduation date arise each year, but each party concerned seems to have the student body's best interests in mind while staying within the parameters that have been established by the state.

Webb hopes to see to it that the District's "official policy be to schedule graduation to occur 2 days prior to the last day of school for grades K thru 11," in order to guarantee that this issue does not occur again in future years.

## Brain: President Obama proposes billion dollar brain mapping initiative

By Erin Coyle  
Staff Writer

The Obama administration has proposed a new plan to fund a project surrounding brain mapping called The BRAIN initiative. This plan would ultimately cost billions of dollars and many people question if it will be a good investment.

Brain mapping is an effort to build a map of the brain activity and capture a better understanding of diseases such as Alzheimer's, epilepsy, and autism.

Efforts to map the connections in the brain are already in progress; however these projects look at postmortem brains or only provide a low-resolution view of certain regions of the brain. More funding, as the plan suggests, would be a huge asset to the study.

The initial cost of this project is \$100 million in Obama's 2014 fiscal year budget. Congress must approve this sum.

"Every dollar we invested to map the human genome returned \$140 to our economy — every dollar," Obama said in his state of the Union Address on Feb. 12, showing us exactly why he plans in

investing even more money into science research.

"I think the information we could gain due to this project could be really beneficial for not only science, but also health," sophomore Summer Santoro said.

Many are hopeful that this research could lead to a development in the kind of technology that will help us find new therapies and treatments for many mental illnesses. Therefore this project will not only improve our economy, but it could also improve the well-being of the mentally-ill.

According to a Feb. 17 New York Times article by John Markoff, "The details are not final, and it is not clear how much federal money would be proposed or approved for the project in a time of fiscal constraint or how far the research would be able to get without significant federal financing."

Nothing is completely finalized for this project, but many are staying hopeful that this proposed plan could have a bright future in the world of science and change the lives of so many afflicted with mental illness.

# Lacrosse team struggles early, hopeful for rebound

**By Kirstin Delaney**  
*Staff Writer*

Neshaminy’s girls’ lacrosse team is off to a slow start in the beginning part of the season with a 2-5 record; in their first game, on March 22 against Plymouth Whitemarsh, the ‘Skins lost 10-9 in a nail-biter. After rebounding from the loss, Neshaminy went on to beat Pope John Paul High school 17-13 on April 2. However, the ‘Skins were dominated by Council Rock North on April 8, with a score of 18-3.

The final score of a close loss to Academy of the New Church on April 5 ended 14 -10. This was followed by another disappointing loss to Pennsbury on April 9, scoring 19-2. Finally conquering a great win of a 12 - 9 score from Chichester on April 15, and then losing with a 26 -10

to Abington on April 16.

The ‘Skins have had a better season so far. “We are early in the season and we are currently 2-5. However, this is already a huge improvement from last year,” head coach Ashley Belmonte said.

A lot of the players are new and inexperienced, but continue to improve game after game.

“Neshaminy girls’ lacrosse continues to be a growing sport and the girls are really picking it up,” Belmonte said. The ‘Skins lacrosse team is getting better with each game and playoffs seem to be in their future. “We will continue to work hard at practice and we hope this will help us with the remainder of our season,” Belmonte continued.

Team captains, seniors Kelsey Fuller and Kathy Celis are working hard to shape up their team, “Our captains Kelsey

Fueller and Kathy Celis are doing a great job and they continue to motivate the girls and keep the team organized,” Belmonte said. The players are working hard to improve and are excelling. “We are also very pleased that one of our seniors, Mallore-Jo Mason is going to play at the college level next year,” Belmonte continued.

The lacrosse team didn’t start off to well, but any young, growing team will have their problems. Also, with their fourth head coach in four years the team will need time to adjust and become comfortable with their new coach.

Belmonte is no stranger to lacrosse, graduating from Villa Jo Marie High School, Belmonte was the league MVP her senior year and scored an area high 73 goals and 118 assists.



Senior Mallore-Jo Mason sprints past a defender in a game against Abington.  
*Photo / Vinny Frazzetto*

# Softball team motivated by disappointing season

**By Brianna Spaue**  
*Special Features Editor*

Last year’s heartbreaking loss in the first round of playoffs has lit a fire under the spikes of Neshaminy High School’s Varsity Softball team. According to Head Coach David Chichilitti, the Lady ‘Skins are a PIAA favorite to win the league. Being determined to make it to the state title match this year has prompted much success on the field so far in the 2013 season. The girls hold a record of 7-1 as of April 18, and will continue to fight their way to the top in their remaining games.

This year’s varsity squad is fully loaded, and will be seeing six seniors off into the competitive world of collegiate ball after graduation. Lauren Creamer starts off the list by signing with Sesquehanna University, a Division III school. Selina Alicea and Molly Garrigan have been recruited to play Division II softball at California University of Pennsylvania and East Stroudsburg University respectively. The class of 2013 has also

produced three prospective Division I ball players in Diana LaPalombara with St. Francis University, Julia McGovern with Quinnipiac University, and Lauren Quense with Fordham University.

This year’s talent is not only concentrated within the senior class however. Three freshmen have earned a spot on the team, and are accumulating experience. Junior, Jenny Rakita has also shown serious promise on the Junior Varsity team, going undefeated so far this season. “I think we’re really lucky because the underclassman show leadership both on and off of the field. Everyone works well as a unit,” starting pitcher, Lauren Quense said. “We’re taking it one game at a time and treat every opponent the same. We definitely have big goals for this year.”

Chichilitti shares these high hopes for the rest of the season, but extends them past the individual talent on the field. “The girls on the team work together like a family. Team chemistry is one of the most important facets of my coaching plan. Our girls do everything together.” The stressed

importance of working as a team has been proven to be a success. Support from the bench, and communication on the field are vital components to team success that the Lady ‘Skins have mastered.

“I constantly tell them that in addition to practicing all year and being the best players we can be, that we have to bond and be the best team we can be. At the end of every season it’s rare that the team with the best players win the championship. The best team is usually who prevails and that is our focus - being the best team,” Chichilitti said.

Friday, April 5 marked the team’s most memorable moment so far when the Lady ‘Skins lost a home contest against

Nazareth Academy. “We lost our focus and intensity and our talent couldn’t prevail. This is a valuable lesson to learn early in the season and because of that, right now, that is the most memorable moment. We will learn from this and work hard to not have that feeling again,” Chichilitti said.

The beginning of the season has shown promise for Neshaminy’s own. There are many balls to be fielded, runs to be scored and lessons to be learned on their path to seek the championship this season. The next game will take place tonight away at Rancocas Valley High School.

# Star athlete looking to help team win league title



Justin Andrews takes on his opponets on the mound and in the batter’s box.  
*Photo / Vinny Frazzetto*

year I have been on varsity, played with a lot of different classes, but this year we’re going to take it far,” Andrews said.

Andrews and his team have taken it upon themselves to immediately start the season off at full speed. With only one loss, the ‘Skins are looking promising for the playoffs. The dedication and talent of Andrews combined with the talented coaching staff and players, the Neshaminy ‘Skins could go all the way this year.

**By Reed Hennessy**  
*Sports Editor*

Justin Andrews, pitcher, outfielder and an outstanding athlete who leaves everything on the field. “Justin has been an extremely special student-athlete here at Neshaminy. He’s been a four year varsity starter on the diamond and a major contributor as a receiver on the football field.”

Upon entering Neshaminy in his freshman year, Andrews excelled on the diamond and was put on the varsity team immediately and has been an essential part of the team ever since. Playing the outfield with incredible speed, and pitching lefty on the mound, Andrews is always captivating the crowd.

After three years at Neshaminy Andrews enters his final year as a ‘Skin. “The Neshaminy coaches have helped me improve my pitching and helped me develop mentally to make me a leader,” Andrews said. Having committed to Monmouth University Andrews should have no trouble becoming a leader as he already possess the skills required.

Coming off to a great start this season Andrews has three wins and no losses on the mound and already has two homeruns and six runs batted in. Disappointed last year, Andrews is very hopeful for this year’s chances in the playoffs. “Since my freshman

# Volleyball:Continued from page 1

This loss has proved to aspire and motivate the ‘Skins, however. “We need to work even harder than we already are. We need to bring the intensity to every match and even practice. Focus is key. If we stay focused on what we need to accomplish, it will get done,” Fullen said.

“This year’s team is really hungry. They come to practice every day and show they really want to get better,” Roode said. This self-prescribed motivation will be tested as the ‘Skins will play a night game at Council Rock North, tomorrow, April 25 and will attempt to redeem themselves against Pennsbury at home May 8 at home.

With six games left this season, and the remaining games riddled with possible roadblocks, the ‘Skins will have to be on top of their game for the remainder of the year. While motivated internally with hopes of a league title, the team has the ability to advance much further.

# Track:Team members take their marks, get set

**By Jon Mettus**  
*Editor- In-Chief*

The Neshaminy boys’ and girls’ track teams are off to strong starts for their seasons. As of April 16, boys’ team is 2-2 and the girls’ team is 3-1.

The Lady ‘Skins won their first meet of the season against Bensalem, 113-47. They finished first in all three relays and Dasia Pressley placed first in the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes. Kate Pinker, Kelly Larson, Alyssa Zukowski, Jessica Stecklein and Lisa Patterson placed first in the mile, two-mile, 100-meter hurdles, long jump and triple jump and high jump, respectively.

The girls’ won their next meet against Abington, but lost the next week against Pennsbury East by four points.

On Saturday April 13, the girls’ team hosted the Lady ‘Skins Invitational. The event featured 26 schools from the area. Pressley placed first in the 200-meter dash. She was named the Courier Time’s Athlete of the Week for setting a Lady ‘Skins Invitational record and a school record by running a 25.08 in the even.

Most recently the girls’ team defeated William Tennent on April 16. They won by a score of 102.5-47.5.

The boys’ team attended Council Rock’s Kiwanis Invitational on Saturday, April 6. The team placed second, tying Cardinal O’Hara with 83 points, losing

to Pennridge who had 110 points.

Renard Howell and Cody Minnig placed first and second in the 100-meter dash, respectively, running 10.64 and 10.73. Their 4x100-meter relay team consisting of Minnig, D’Andre Pollard, Nate Hall and Howell ran a 43.10 placing second. The new relay team will have the tough task of replacing last year’s group of Bryan Reice, Austin Gardener, Ryan DePinto and Minnig who set the team record of 41.50.

Howell also placed first in the 200-meter dash. He was named athlete of the meet. “This is the best team we’ve had in years,” captain, senior Joe Sulon said. The boys are hoping to improve on their 3-4 record from last year.

“Everybody is stepping up and contributing this year,” senior Jared Dooley added.

In their second meet of the season the boys’ team lost to Bensalem by a score of 74.5-71.5. They went on to beat Abington a week later.

On Saturday, May 5 the boys’ track team is hosting their annual Rob Thomas Memorial Invitational.

Suburban One League National Championships will be held on May 10 and 11, followed by PIAA District I Championships and PIAA State Championships which will be held on May 17 and 18 and May 24 and 28, respectively.

The Playwickian

2001 Old Lincoln Highway  
Langhorne, PA 19047  
(215) 809-6670

Editorial Board

**Editors In Chief**  
Brielle Ballantine and  
Jon Mettus

**Managing Editor**  
Francesca Mancino

**Business Editor**  
Melanie Matyi

**News Editors**  
Jon Mettus

**OP-ED Editor**  
Jack Haines

**Student Life Editors**  
Maddy Buffardi  
and Sara Keating

**Special Features Editor/  
Web Editor**  
Brianna Spause

**Entertainment Editors**  
Gillian McGoldrick  
and Ashley Titler

**Sports Editors**  
Vinny Frazzetto  
and Reed Hennessy

**Literary Editor**  
Miya Syvyk

**Photo/Graphics Editor**  
Josh Einbinder-Schatz  
and Samantha Rose

**Circulation Editors**  
Tiffany McMahon  
and Ashley Titler

**Copy Editors**  
Julianne Miller, Corey LaQuay,  
Emily Scott and Erica Martelli

**Archivist**  
Tom Sottnick

**Adviser**  
Tara Huber

Staff Writers

Nikki Ashton, Morgan Bond,  
Michelle Borisov, Dakota Kalman,  
Tim Cho, Erin Coyle, Olivia Cruz,  
Brooke Diamond, Kirstin Delaney  
Eva Fisher, Summer Fox, Stephanie  
Harvey, Sloane Horton, Sarah  
Pringle, Eishna Ranganathan, Rachel  
Rotteveel, Hope Reardon, Emily  
Scott, Elena Sesito, Alex Shulski,  
Sarah Stevens, Katie Suchodolski,  
Olivia Zaino

Senior week fiasco: shame to school



Senior week is a week, typically in June, when a group of recent high school graduates rent a house, apartment, or condo together in a beach town. The week is a final hoorah, a celebration of the past and the future to come.

According to the Washington Post, “Senior Week is a tradition that has been dreaded by...parents for decades. It’s the annual migration of newly graduated, newly liberated, barely legal teens to the shore, where they party, plot, puke, hook up, scheme, swim, roam, dirty dance in foam and — for about 10 percent of them — get locked up for everything from underage drinking to drug possession to assault.”

“Senior week is the final and climactic expulsion of all repressed high school inhibitions,” senior Evan Reinhart said.

It’s something that’s been practiced for decades, taking your summer before college and filling it with a lifetime of memories, friends, the beach, traveling the country, and maybe even other countries. But now it’s becoming less of a celebration, and more of a disgrace.

At what point have we gone too far? Where do we draw the line? As kids, as parents, as teachers, and as a society, how far are we supposed to let this go until it’s too late? It seems less like senior week is for having a good time, and more like an encouragement to abuse drugs and alcohol as much as possible for a week straight.

It’s not a new thing for high school students to participate in underage drinking or drug abuse. According to a study by the University of Michigan, in 2012 36.4 percent of high school seniors

reported use of marijuana and 28.1 percent reported use of alcohol. Synthetic marijuana was reportedly used by 11.3 percent of seniors.

Many parents know what senior week is, they know what goes on, yet they don’t do anything to stop it. They pay for their children to go, they give them money to buy ‘food,’ they encourage them to have a good time and take advantage of being young.

When graduation was originally set for June 19, there was uproar among the senior class because that date was right in the middle of the week and most seniors had already booked a house. Due to the numerous complaints from students and their parents, the district moved graduation a week earlier, which will cause them to forfeit 20,000 dollars in state funding. It seems as if even the district administration is encouraging the illegal activities that go on during senior week.

It’s understandable to have a desire to take full advantage of your youth, and really enjoy the limited time you have while you’re young, but there’s a pretty clear difference between taking advantage of your youth and abusing it. Senior week has crossed that line, and is a disgraceful reflection of today’s generation.

Kids grow up learning from society that partying, drugs, and alcohol are all cool. We have to stop and think about what we’re putting into our bodies and realizing how bad it is for us, especially at the high levels consumed during a time like senior week.

Why is it that people need drugs and alcohol to have a good time? Is that the message we want to be sending to other people, that we don’t like to have fun unless we’re in an altered state of mind?

Senior week isn’t a bad thing. Having fun isn’t a bad thing. Not thinking and damaging your body is. Repeated and constant drug use is a bad thing. It’s time to stop and think about your actions and the consequences they will have later on.

**Look At It Our Way is the unsigned editorial, which represents the view of the editorial board.**

North Korea’s bark worse than bite

By Jack Haines  
Op-Ed Editor

For the last half century, the Korean Peninsula has been engulfed in an atmosphere of hostility and tension. Communist North Korea and democratic South Korea have been, in a technical ongoing state of war since a truce ended the armed conflict between the two nations in the early 1950’s. Since then, North Korea has acted out with various threats and provocations. The dictatorship has used heated rhetoric and pursued nuclear weapons for the past two decades, all while its own people were starving or imprisoned in labor camps. In the last month, the situation has become increasingly heated and it appears as if some sort of conflict is imminent.

But as dire as the situation may appear, the U.S. must ignore North Korea. If one looks at the past 50 years, it is evident that North Korea never backs up its threats. The nation is simply trying to stay in power, and receive food aid in exchange for an agreement.

In the past month, North Korea has threatened war, and closed down the only sign of north-to-south cooperation, the Kaesong industrial complex. While this may seem like a terrible sign of conflict to come, the Kaesong complex has been closed before, in 2009, without

any following military action.

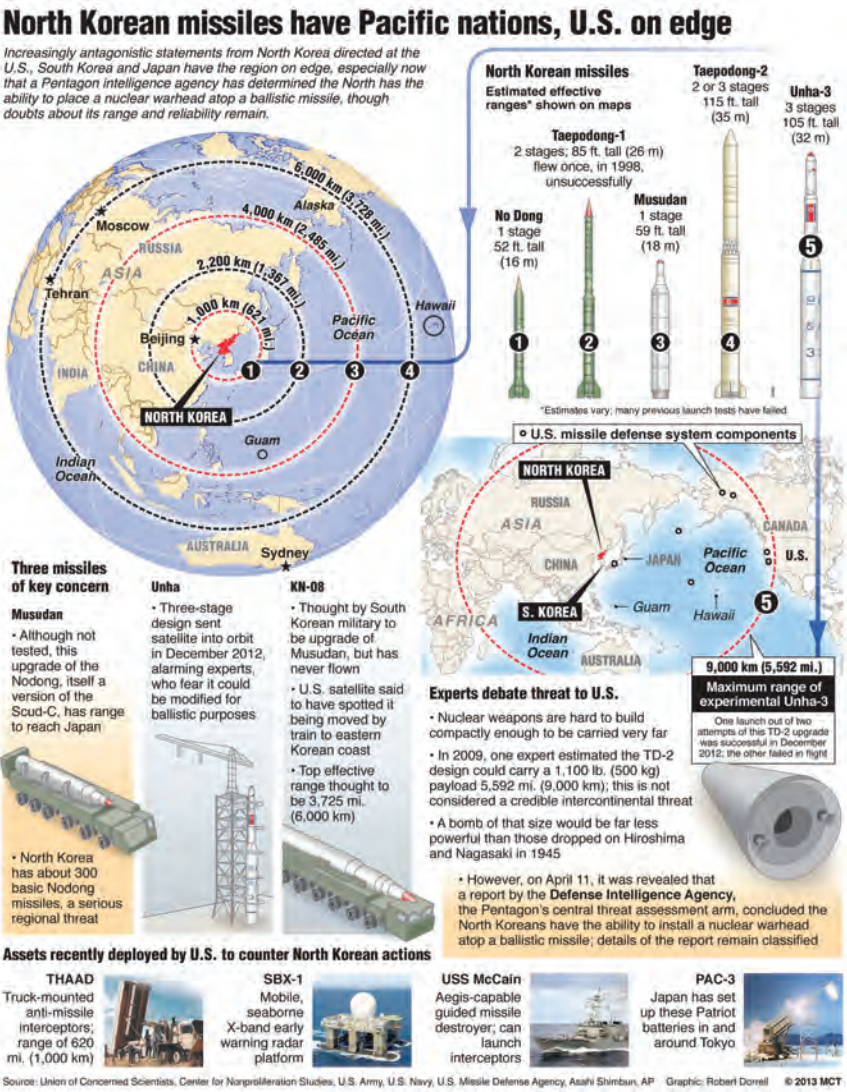
Most experts are only worried because leader Kim Jong-Un is inexperienced and has not been in control for very long. But he is no idiot. The Northern commanders are well aware of how to handle this situation, and know that any war against South Korea or the U.S. would spell doom for them. The North does not have the missile technology, food rations, or fuel supply to wage a full scale war. Any sort of Northern offensive would be short-lived and disastrous for the communists.

That being said, the likelihood of a war breaking out is slim. The communists do not want a war which they would certainly lose, and they want to stay in power. Keeping a state of perpetual “warfare” and a constant hatred for an enemy creates an atmosphere of nationalism, perfect for a dictatorship. North Korea needs to hate an enemy to survive in its current state.

So the best way to deal with this is to just ignore them. Mobilizing the military publicly will heighten the tensions, and push the countries closer to a war which could spawn by an accident.

That being said, nuclear proliferation cannot be allowed, and North Korea’s sanctions must be tightened. But starting a war will not help. The U.S. must not develop a policy of

appeasement, but should not be overly aggressive. Only tightened sanctions and ignoring the bellicose rhetoric is the answer.



North Korea has threatened the U.S. with nuclear strikes and war, but their bark is worse than their bite.

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. No anonymous sources will be accepted. 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. The Playwickian reserves the right to refuse advertising that the student staff determines to be false, misleading, or containing unverifiable and/or unsubstantiated content. No ads will be accepted that promote products, services, or messages that are determined by the student staff to be inappropriate for the newspaper’s primary readers – NHS students. Advertisements that appear in the publication are not necessarily endorsed by the publication.

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, 2011, 2012.

Email us your comments, questions or concerns at [Playwickian@gmail.com](mailto:Playwickian@gmail.com). Call us at (215) 809-6670  
Friend us on Facebook: [Facebook.com/ThePlaywickian](https://www.facebook.com/ThePlaywickian)  
Follow us on Twitter: [Twitter.com/ThePlaywickian](https://twitter.com/ThePlaywickian)



A New Hampshire education program allows some students to graduate as Sophomores, and many want this change to become widespread.

# Sophomores should graduate... or leave that to seniors



By Jon Mettus  
Editor-in-Chief

In the United States the value of a college diploma has been declining, though the cost of a collegiate education is skyrocketing. While it’s great that everyone can pursue their education and go to college, the college diploma now has become equivalent to what a high school diploma was worth in the past.

College degrees don’t guarantee employment anymore and those who decide to stop their educations are pretty much on their own.

In many countries in Europe the schooling system works like this: in their last year of high school, students take a rigorous test which they have to score well on to be allowed to attend a university. The other students spend two years in vocational schools, training schools, or enter the workforce to get practical experience in the fields they

want to enter.

All across the United States students should be allowed to graduate in tenth grade. America should have a system modeled after the European countries, which outperform it on international tests.

In a February 2010 article in The Times Magazine, Walter Kirn, who graduated high school a year early, wrote that “if senior year were to vanish from our high schools... what might happen is that the education process, if it was shortened and compressed some, might help kids think more clearly about their paths in life and set out on them on the right foot instead of waiting to shape up later on.”

Letting students graduate in tenth grade would allow them to immerse themselves in the occupational field they would like to see themselves in the future. They would get training and hands-on experience rather than just reading about it in a classroom.

The result of this would be a more trained workforce. With two less years of schooling the high school dropout rate would be reduced as well.

According to a November 2008 Time Magazine article by Kathleen Kingsbury, New Hampshire’s plan to give students tests to see if they can graduate in tenth grade “is expected to guarantee higher competency in core school subjects, lower dropout rates and free up millions of education dollars. Students may take the exams — which are modeled on existing AP or International Baccalaureate tests — as many times as they need to pass. Or those who want to go to a prestigious university may stay and finish the final two years, taking a second, more difficult set of exams senior year.”

Two years of community college would benefit students more than the last two years of high school because their teachers would be more specified in the subject they are teaching.

Those who graduate after four years of high school should be able to go to esteemed universities and earn law degrees, doctorates, etc. This would put value back into the American college diploma and increase its stature.



By Brielle Ballantine  
Editor-in-Chief

Recently, it has been announced that public high schools in eight states will introduce a new system next year allowing students the opportunity to graduate after their sophomore year. Students will have to pass a number of tests in order to get their diploma two years earlier, or they can choose to stay and finish their last two years.

In other countries, it is believed that the appropriate age for students to graduate is 16; but even at age 18, the human brain isn’t fully developed. “According to recent findings, the human brain does not reach full maturity until at least the mid-20s.” Jay Giedd, Chief of the Unit on Brain Imaging in the Child Psychiatry Branch at National Institute of Mental Health wrote, in his book “Adolescent Brain Development: Vulnerabilities and Opportunities.” “The brain isn’t fully mature at 16, when we are allowed to

drive, or at 18, when we are allowed to vote, or at 21, when we are allowed to drink, but closer to 25, when we are allowed to rent a car.” Most seniors are unsure of what

they want to pursue after they leave high school, giving students two years younger the opportunity to make those decisions is ridiculous.

Also, the life lessons that are taught in high school will be cut short, making students less prepared for the “real world.” In high school, most teens learn lessons that they can use for the rest of their life, making them mature and grow into their own person. When you cut these lesson short, they are less mature and less prepared for what is to come.

“When I was in tenth grade I wasn’t anywhere near as prepared for life as I am now,” senior Tori Del Titio said. “All I was worried about what having fun, not getting serious and worrying about my future.”

The maturity levels between a sophomore and a senior are completely different. The average senior is preparing for college, dealing with scholarships, grants and finical aid, or working non-stop to make a career; sophomores, on the other hand, are having fun and not worrying about a job, which is how it should be.

If students were to graduate earlier, they would be losing a part of their childhood. Fifteen and 16-year-olds deserve to have no worries and to live life. Iif we give them the opportunity to graduate early, we are pushing kids to want to grow up faster. That’s not fair to them.

At the young age of 16, the only job that students would be able to get would be a minimum wage job. Working at Sesame Place and going to Bucks County Community college while only 16 years old is not easy. The work and stress load these students would be carrying would be 10 times worse than if they were to stay in high school.

“Being a senior, I stress out enough with all the work I’m responsible for,” Senior Casey Binduga said, “let alone if I were to have a job and be in college level courses.”

Teenagers deserve to be teenagers; no one deserves to have life forced upon them, especially when they are mentally not ready. Students should take the four years they are in high school to find themselves and realize who they are, and who they want to be, before they try to grow up without a clue about the real world.



Students could potentially experience the joy of graduation two years earlier than they can currently.

Photo / Brielle Ballantine

# Prom adds unnecessary stresses,expenses for teenagers

By Emily Scott  
Copy Editor

As the ending months of the school year arrive so does the ever-so-important prom season. With empty wallets and overpriced dresses and tuxedos, prom is a hectic time of year for high school students. Balancing grades and planning a fun prom night can be difficult. Buying an extravagant and expensive dress that will be worn once, the guys being pressured to ask their date in some over-the-top way; just for the ‘perfect’ prom night. Figuring out all the little details of prom can be stressful and take away the sentiment of the dance. It has turned into a contest for the most aesthetic attire, or the best party. Is all this money and stress worth this one night or is it better just to not go?

Finding the money for all the prom necessities is one of the biggest obstacles. Deciding on a mode of transportation can be nerve-racking.

Often people who said they rent a limo will fall through, and the price may end up being over a hundred dollars per person. “We had a plan for a huge group to go together in a limo and it all ended up not working out because people just couldn’t get a plan together,” junior Emily Seidel said.

For the girls, it can often cause low self-esteem in planning the perfect night. They spend months of planning and searching for the right dress; as well spending outrageous amounts of money on the dress, shoes, and hair. “Looking for a dress that looks perfect can be challenging because there are so many factors that go into buying it...” junior Samantha Eckart said.

The media only portrays the glamorous aspects of the unforgettable night. They leave out the hardships that go into the small night; while glorifying the excitement of dancing with friends and looking good. The main concern for guys is finding a date and asking in some over-the-top way. After the date is found, it relieves some stress while

adding more that goes into planning the event.

The financial concerns going into prom can be a burden on teens. While teens in high school often have jobs and financial independence, it can be difficult watching their entire paycheck go into just one expensive night. Sometimes parents will help in buying the girls’ dress or renting a tux. “I think prom is over-exaggerated because it’s hundreds of dollars for one night and I questioned whether it’s worth it until I got to the prom,” junior Molly MacDonald said after attending the junior prom on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

“Prom was a lot of fun but I feel bad for the girls who spend so much money on a dress they only wear once. For the guys, it’s pretty much straight-forward and simple; all we really need to get is a tuxedo which is still a little pricy,” junior Andrew Boyd said.

Prom is the one day of the year the school can come together- besides graduation- and enjoy themselves for a night of music and dancing. Prom is

all of what is made of it. The night is about having fun, not stressing it. With prom season commencing, students of Neshaminy should not be concerned over the prom stresses and remembering it as it should be: a long time tradition with your closest friends.



A lot of work and money goes into the ‘perfect night’

Photo / Redskin Yearbook

John rides his unicycle here, he rides it there, he rides it everywhere.



JOHN KRAMER, 12



LOGAN MISZENCIN, 12  
Logan rides her horse Mort to victory in local and regional competitions.

Race, on a slow weekend, ranked as the #1 player in the world at Call of Duty: Black Ops 2.



RACE BACON, 10

Kevin - who is focusing on Music Production at the University of the Arts next year - both records local bands and controls Sound Check at St. Paul's church.

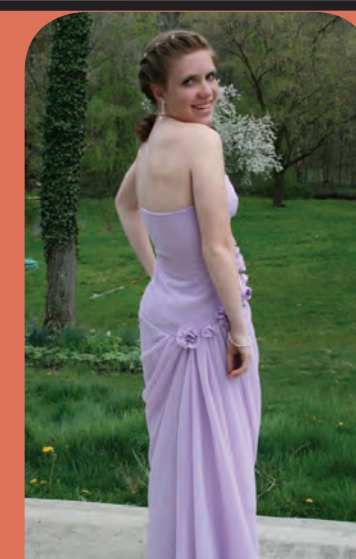


KEVIN MINOR, 12

Jeff's photograph (right) was recognized and published by the Photography Forum as a National Semifinalist.



JEFF HACKETT, 12



ELISE REARDON, 12  
Elise went to Junior Prom last year, dressed in a gown she made completely by hand.

Maloree and her mother, in attempts to find a way to spend time together started their own cake decoration business, Cakes by Tracey and Maloree.



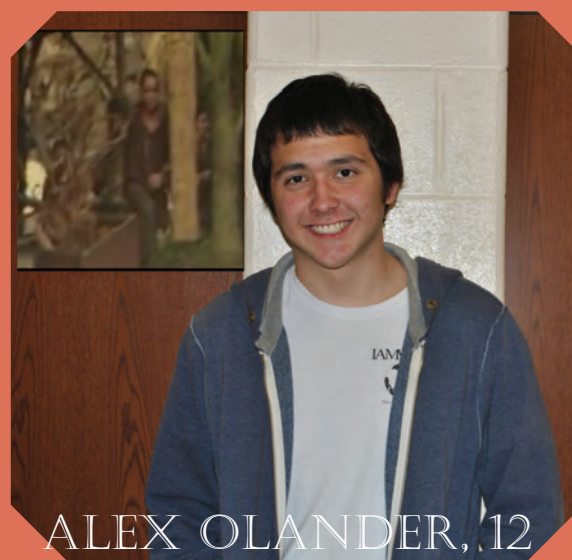
MALOREE MASON, 12



ANGEL CASTILLOS, 10

Angel moved to the United States from Venezuela in order to follow his dreams. He, along with his father are employed as jockeys at the Philadelphia Race Track.

Alex was an extra in the 2010 production of Avatar the Last Airbender. (Pictured left)



ALEX OLANDER, 12



AMANDA SHULSKI, 12  
Amanda shares her talent by giving tennis lessons at Bucks County Racquet Club



YASHMEET KAUR, 11

# Beyond the Halls

by Brianna Spause  
Special Features Editor

We are Neshaminy. We are Redskin Nation when we pile into the football stadium, we are Blue vs. Red during the most competitive weekend of the year, and we are one big family after Challenge Day. We are class mates, cohorts, and quite frankly, a very large student body.

It would be easier said than done to compile a complete list of Neshaminy Students' after school activities – trust me. I spoke to as many teachers, department heads, students and hallway staff as possible, and the results were overwhelming. Beyond the halls of Neshaminy High School, we are also producers, teachers, horseback riders; the amount of impressive and unique student talent I stumbled upon could not be contained in a mere two pages. So here's a glimpse into the real lives of a few of Neshaminy's own.

The spotlight starts out on freshman, Forrest Filiano. The Black Box Theater isn't the only place he showcases his acting skills, at the age of fourteen, this to-be-Roadie already has a foot into the world of Hollywood. In the past year, he has had 5 major appearances as an extra in major network television series'. Pictured is Forest's appearance in an episode of Law and Order: Special Victims Unit titled "Friending Emily". Since signing with Xist Talent Agency in Montclair, N.J., the young actor has appeared in "Royal Pains" once, "SVU" twice and "Person of Interest" twice. "I saw a lot of shows on stage, which is how I became interested in acting. What really took off with [my] stage work was when I played Willard in "Footloose" – he's the guy with the cowboy hat whose name no one remembers," Filiano said. The humor and energy Forrest displayed during our interview were characteristic of a stage personality, and have landed him his first appearance in a major motion picture. Forrest will appear in a montage of family photographs, posing as a young Tom Hardy in the film "Animal Rescue". The film will be coming to local theaters in 2014.

Round two follows sophomore, Deidra Hubay (not pictured). When not competing as the "Most Improved" member of the 'Skins swim team, Deidra dedicates her time to perfecting several different methods of Mixed Martial Arts. Her specialties are as follows: Muy Thai, Jan Taunton, Kali, Combat Submission, Gracie and Brisilia forms of Jiu Jitsu, as well as boxing and kick boxing.

Hubay has been competing for three and a half years at the Tristate Martial Arts Academy in Levittown, Pa., and has been breaking a classic gender stereotype. "Everyone in this sport is very respectful which is surprising because [MMA] is so individual. Usually guys are like 'Oh I can't pin a girl!' But in this sport they just put their pride aside and give you a fair fight," Hubay said. The growing respect for women in the field of MMA is illustrated by Hubay's winning of the 2012 Fall Tournament Championship.

When not competing in cage fights and open mat exhibitions, Deidra also dedicates her time to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, otherwise known as the Elk Club. This community service organization meets in Lake Hopatcong, N.J. and has been a part of her life for quite literally as long as she claims to remember. Deidra became an official member at ten years old, and will remain a Junior Elk until the age of eighteen.

A favorite of Deidra's projects in the club is the Annual Venison Dinner. With the help of her father and numerous other club members, deer is hunted, and donated to the event. A child fighting the battle for their health is chosen prior to the event, and is the recipient of all proceeds in order to ease the family's financial burden. This sophomore has a kind heart, and a fighting spirit.

Tuning into our third example of a rich extra-curricular resume leads us to junior, Yashmeet Kaur. While maintaining status as an honor student, and seasoned Model United Nations veteran, Yashmeet has also mastered several instruments that reflect her Sikh culture. "These instruments are religious. Our religious culture is very musically inclined. We sing hymns with them, we pray with them," Kaur said. Her specialty lies with the Dilruba, a complex string instrument closely related to the Sitar. While being a large part of her life, music is not the only art Yashmeet devotes her time to – the dedicated junior also competes with the Fencing Academy of South Jersey (pictured), and mentors with the Youth Toastmasters in Princeton, N.J..

It has been a long road since Yashmeet picked up her weapon of choice in the seventh grade. Wielding a sabre during traditional fencing matches has landed her a spot in the competitive world. Mr. Ma's prestigious Fencing School holds the opportunity to compete locally and internationally for its talented students. Yashmeet is no stranger to international recognition however, as she placed in the Internationally Public Speaking Competition in 2006. This award was her motive to begin mentoring with the Toastmasters, which she has done for the past four years. Through constructive discussions, mentors coach their peers to better their communication skills.

Wandering the halls, searching for unsung talents, I realized something. Our community is quick to recognize the football star, and the Gym Night captain with the utmost pride and reverence. The truth of the matter is however, underneath the glorified world Neshaminy High School is known for, is a sea of dedicated individuals. In my investigation, I was awed by the amount of students who succeed in keeping their talents and accomplishments under wraps.

So this is where that comes to an end. We here on the Playwickian Staff are asking you to tell us what you do that makes you special. After all, everyone deserves a little praise now and then. Email your story to [playwickian@gmail.com](mailto:playwickian@gmail.com) to be a part of our online 'Beyond the Halls' feature.

Make us proud,  
Neshaminy.



FORREST FILIANO, 9



ALI SLATE, 11

Ali isn't afraid to get dirty as she competitively races through all-terrain on her quad.

John and Alvaro have both served their time and showed the utmost commitment to the Boy Scouts of America, in order to receive the prestigious honor of Eagle Scout.



JOHN THOMAS, 12

ALVARO HURTADO, 12



SARAH EMSLIE, 12  
In the summer of 2012, Sarah devoted her time to studying Infectious and Epidemic Diseases at Brown University.



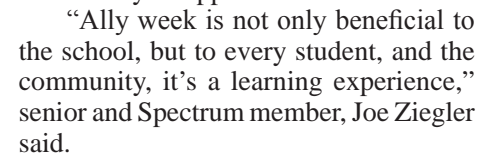
JIMMY BADLER, 10

**By Julianne Miller**  
*Copy Editor*

“The fact that I glanced over today reaching for the stairwell railing and saw a

**Keystone Exams**  
 ora 1: May 14 & May 15  
 ogy: May 16 & May 17  
 ature: May 20 & May 21  
 n Dismissal for Non-testers)

“I think Ally Week is a really important thing for our school to do, I really think more people should join the Spectrum Club,” sophomore and Spectrum member, Liz Schaefer said. Students were encouraged to sign an ally pledge which says they will not use anti-LGBT slurs, they will not bully, and try their best to stop bullying when they see it, and that they support safer school efforts. On the last day of Ally Week,



~Drawing/Jeff Kay

*Andy Harnishfeger*

*Austin Phillip*

*Nicole Nisivoccia*

*Sarah Yeagle*

*Nicole Brewer*

*David Kim*

*Lydia Strobe*

*Celina Lee*

*Brian Thomas*

*Sarah Dawson*

**Zach Albarran**

*Tom Collins II*

*Sean Devonshire*

## Robert Clark

*Jasper Nelson*

*Emily Kohler*

*Puja Patel*

**Submit your work to: [neshaminyhowler@gmail.com](mailto:neshaminyhowler@gmail.com)**

# Students voulunteer alongside local firefighters

By Miya Syvyk  
Literary Editor

The halls of Neshaminy High School are filled each day with talented students who partake in unbelievable activities and hobbies, one of which includes volunteer fire fighting. These students have a pager on them at all times and, when it sounds, they work their hardest to arrive at the destination that they have been called to.

“My Pop Pop was the chief in Langhorne in the ’70’s and later on my dad and all of my uncles; they inspired me to join the Langhorne-Middletown and Trevoose stations at the age of 16,” said senior Peter Stanford. Not only do firefighters save lives every day, but they also help out the community.

Most fire stations begin accepting volunteers at the age of 14; once admitted to the nearest firehouse, the adventure begins. Although privileges change throughout the years due to child labor laws, anyone from the age of 14 to 17 is considered a junior and can participate in emergency situations. However, what they can do is limited and the volunteers have to stay outside and near the fire truck while others put out the fires.

“Once 18, junior and exterior of the emergency situation turns into black hat and interior,” said sophomore Terry Warner. This means that as soon as the volunteer turns 18 years old, they are no longer considered a junior, with this

change comes a black hat, which leads to more in depth training, higher privileges and interior burning.

The initial step in becoming a volunteer firefighter is the preparation. “Basic Fire fighting training needs to be completed first, which is 196 hours; however this is only the beginning for most firefighters,” said president of the Lower Southampton fire department, Daniel Walsh. Juniors begin learning different techniques that are required in the fire service, such as how to work with the specific tools, connect hoses to the hydrants to allow water flow, search and rescue, instant management and defensive fire fighting.

“There are drills held every week, but each station differs from one another on when they are carried out,” said senior and exterior photographer of station 1, Kalyn McKeon. These drills are scheduled to help the firefighters keep up, accelerate in speed and receive hands on experience from older members.

The current volunteers joined the fire houses for numerous different reasons such as following in the footsteps of family members, looking into a career as a firefighter, wanting to help or simply because it seemed intriguing.

“I joined because it looked interesting and fun, but it turned out to be the most rewarding experience and I love it,” said sophomore Alex Dixon.

This type of volunteering is unlike others; it is, to a point, dangerous and

results of the hard work are seen immediately. “Most people run out of buildings on fire, we run in,” said sophomore Tim Walter.

According to www.Volunteer Firefighter.com, “volunteer emergency responders make up 73 percent of the fire service throughout the US. Although many community members don’t even realize they are supported by a volunteer department, it is more than likely that it’s a volunteer responding to an emergency, day or night, rain or shine.”

Volunteer firefighters, and Neshaminy students; Alex Dixon, Terry Warrner, Kalyn McKeon, Pete Standford, and Tim Walter take a break in the hub.



Photo / Solomiya Syvyk

## What’s on Bill Bech’s iPhone?

By Julie Darden  
Staff Writer

*Bill Bech is an art teacher at Neshaminy as well as the varsity girls’ and boys’ tennis coach.*



- Q. Favorite artist?**  
A. Leon Redbone.
- Q: Most used app?**  
A: Fairway golf.
- Q: Do you play any games?**  
A: Yes, all of the “With Friends” games.
- Q: Favorite emoji?**  
A: The alien.
- Q: What social media do you use?**  
A: Facebook.
- Q. How many texts do you send a day?**  
A. 80-100.

## Neshaminy student by day, Batman by night

*Junior Nick Gainer keeps busy with swimming and soccer. He’s an outgoing student, not afraid to show his goofy side. Gainer is dedicated to school and has a good sense of humor.*

By Miya Syvyk  
Literary Editor



Who’s that Dark Knight patrolling the halls? Junior Nick Gainer looks after Neshaminy with mask and cape.

Photo / Miya Syvyk

- Q: If you could be any land creature, what would you be and why?**  
A: A walrus because they have horns. I think.
- Q:Where’s Waldo?**  
A:In the school lunches, in the creamed corn, to be exact.
- Q:How many Kardashians does it take to screw in a light bulb?**  
A:Infinitely many and they still wouldn’t get it.
- Q:If you could replace one routine in Neshaminy, what would it be?**  
A:Instead of going to class every period, we would go to lunch.
- Q:What are you doing right now?**  
A:Enjoying the paparazzi like Dr. Conrad suggested I should.
- Q:What is something that you do in your spare time that people don’t often know about?**  
A: I am Batman in my free-time. If anyone needs to be saved, you know who to call.

## Service Learning Club starts seatbelt campaign

By Eishna Ranganathan  
Staff Writer

“Would you ever ride a roller-coaster without a harness?” asked Principal Rob McGee, “in that same way you should never drive a car without a seatbelt. Not only is it the law, it just makes sense.” Because buckling up your seatbelt is of utmost importance in daily life, the Service Learning Club is taking part in a Seatbelt Safety Challenge in attempt to raise \$500 for the school.

The Bucks County High School Seatbelt Safety Challenge is hosted by the Transportation Management Association. Baseline surveys of student-driver seatbelt use were conducted at every public and private high school in Bucks County in September, Neshaminy discovered that a total of 85 percent of seniors wore seatbelts.

Those surveys were conducted without prior notification to student body or administration in order to ensure the most accurate data sampling. Each school’s results were forwarded to the administration with an invitation to participate in the challenge; Neshaminy High School accepted.

Another head count will be taken in April at a random time and the same thing will occur -the school with the greatest increase in students will receive the cash price.

To publicize the challenge the members of the club have created posters that contain catchy phrases for seniors to participate such as “Click it or Tick-it.” There is also a PowerPoint running on the TVs in the halls. These TVs display facts about wearing a seatbelt such as “teens have the lowest seatbelt use of any group.” In addition, fliers have been put on cars and went and members held signs at the end of the school day on April 10 asking “Are you wearing your belt today?” The members of the club are also wearing specially made t-shirts that focus on the challenge. If anyone stops to question them, they explain what the contest is about.

“I always buckle up, all the time. I feel insecure if I don’t. Buckling up is so essential to driving and one of the most basic rules of the road,” senior assistant principal Lynn Knotts said.

“It avoids injury. I had a friend who had their neck messed up. Even if it is a short ride, you never know what is going to happen,” junior Jackie Connelly said, who recently received her permit, “I will try to wear a belt often as I can because of that personal experience.”

Members of the Service Learning Club also have important input on the situation.

“It’s such a simple way to help win money, while at the same time perhaps saving a few lives along the way,” freshman Brooke Visco said, who is a member of Service Learning Club.

Club member freshman Shelly Davidson, “it’s especially important for seniors in high school since they are inexperienced drivers and have a higher chance of getting into accidents and it would prevent severe wounds.”

“Awareness is key. Awareness is life. And life is pretty important. That’s why everyone, not just seniors, should buckle up as it is a key aspect of safe driving on the road. This challenge is one of the stepping stones in preventing crashes,” advisor of Service Learning Club, Kelly Macauley said.

# New series diving right on into reality television

Eva Fisher  
Staff Writer

“Splash” is a reality series about celebrity diving which recently made its debut on the ABC network. The show is centered on celebrities chosen to compete against other celebrities in a diving competition.

The show consists of stars in various states of fitness and careers. The contestant lineup includes Keisha Knight Pullman, former actress on “The Cosby Show”, comedian Louis Anderson, Detroit Lions defender Ndamukong Suh, Baywatch star Nicole Eggert, and many others including basketball player Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. “I believe ‘Splash’ has a great cast that varies in all categories. The cast combined with the great coach, Greg Louganis, really makes the show a great hit,” said producer J.D. Roth.

The coach for these inexperienced divers



The New TV Show ‘Splash!’ made its debut to ABC Network channel on Mar. 19.  
Photo/Courtesy of wikipedia.org

is Greg Louganis. Louganis is an American Olympic diver who has won gold medals at both the 1984 and 1988 Olympic games. Louganis is the only male diver in Olympic history to sweep the diving events in consecutive Olympic games.

“I like how the judges have actually been in the Olympics themselves, but I think maybe they should have three judges instead of two,” said freshman Madi DeVenuto.

The celebrities perform each week in front of the panel of judges and a live audience in an Olympic-size diving pool. Each week two judges, London Olympic U.S. Gold medalist David Boudia and Australian Olympic athlete and USA Dive team director Steve Foley will critique the contestants’ dives. The two lowest scores will go head to head in a dive-off to determine who will go home.

The celebrities will look fear in the face as they leap off the 10-meter high dive, or higher, to complete flips, twists and spins into the depths of the pool below. Not only do they have to dive separately but they also have synchronized partner dives.

“I really like the show ‘Splash.’ I think it’s really interesting to see how stars react when they are put in situations that create fear,” said freshman Hailey Davis. The show has had its ups and downs along with celebrity Kendra Wilkinson quitting and star Chuy Bravo getting injured diving. Overall the show consists of amazing and thrilling dives, making people wonder if they could do something like that.

# Ceramics student molds the path for her future



By Gillian McGoldrick  
Entertainment Editor

Here at “Neshaminy Paradise,” the art programs stretch from the dramatic arts to basket weaving. . Like all of the classes students take during their high school education, these classes are very influential to the formation of the artsy teens’ into their adult personalities. Senior Kathy Celis has been taking advantage of one course since freshman year: Ceramics.

Celis started a trial of ceramics in Advanced Art at the start of her high school career. But she had not realized her talent and love for the wheel until her good friend and fellow senior, Brittany Sheenan, talked her into taking the class. “Brittany was always in ceramics classes and we always wanted to be in a class together,” Celis said. Ceramics teacher Hara Zefran was another factor playing into Celis’ decision to take the class. “I was always in Ms. Zefran’s room and I wanted to have her as a teacher,” Celis added.

Celis takes the ceramics class twice a day, and has high hopes of continuing the classes in the future. “I definitely plan on taking a few credits for ceramics at Bucks County Community College next year, and after I transfer to King’s College,” Celis said.

The difference between Celis’ work and other’s? “Her meticulousness for striving for perfection,” Zefran said.

Celis’ work will be featured in the District Art Show at the close of the year, which she is working aggressively to reach deadlines on projects until then. “Kathy is one of the all-around hardest workers I know,” fellow classmate and ceramics artist, Jeanie Murray, said.

The class covers the spectrum of all ceramics: from pottery to jewelry making,



Senior Kathy Celis shapes a pot in her Ceramics 2 class.

Photo/ Gillian McGoldrick

but pottery is Celis’ forte. “I love being on the wheel because I find it very relaxing and soothing,” Celis said. “I would greatly suggest you take the class,” Celis said. “If you’re contemplating taking it, take my word for it and just do it.”

# Tyler, the Creator breaks barriers in new album

By Corey LaQuay  
Copy Editor

In a culture that praises artists who write lyrics about their successes, their overwhelmingly stressful lifestyle as multi-million dollar artists, and accept the fame and the fortune with open arms, comes Tyler. Notoriously dubbed as the leader of Odd Future, Tyler, the Creator is the ring leader of a collective group who are representative of their roots as southern California skaters: witty, magnetic, and downright crazy. Different from the vast majority of artists, Tyler prides himself as remaining true to himself, as he has in his recent releases and his most recent album, “Wolf.”

Behind the cookie-cutter beats, is a complex story line that explores two of his alter-egos, Sam and Wolf. The album begins with an introduction in which his alter ego shrink, acting as camp counselor, introduces Sam and

Wolf and welcomes them to the summer camp, “Camp Flog Gnaw.” Immediately after their brief introduction, there is a strong conflict between the two and Sam quickly makes it understood that if they mind their own business, that they will mind theirs. He threatens Wolf and warns him to stay out of their way.

Throughout the album, the story line between the two develops in-between tastes of Tyler’s efforts to portray issues with society using his witty sense of humor and dark lyricism. Tracks such as “Jamba”, “Domo 23”, “Slater” and “Tamale” all explore his style of sociocultural expression. Other tracks, such as “Colossus”, discuss Tyler’s struggles with fame and accepting his fans despite their sometimes obsessive and psychopathic demeanor, similar to Eminem’s “Stan.”

Tyler, the Creator exposes some of his deeper feelings of loneliness and depression. Speaking of his grandmother’s death, or a non-existent

father figure, or how he feels “as lonely as the crackers super models eat,” he reveals something other than the dark character that he has created. Critics see Tyler as a one-dimensional artist who uses aggressive language and subject matter in order to communicate these apparent ideals that he portrays, but in reality, he’s more than just a one sided artist who has a real sense of emotions.

Where Wolf lacks in production value, is made up with creativity and easy listening. Tyler’s emotional roller coaster from track to track, is a direct reflection of his hyperactive imagination and bipolar personality, which creates a very interesting album to listen to.

Since his last album, “Goblin,” Tyler, the Creator’s new album has broken barriers through the new tracks on his album, “Wolf.”

Photo/Courtesy pitchfork.com

is complete, however, without his sociological rants peppered with tastes of his more aggressive side.

Tyler’s “Wolf” deserves a four out of five turkey rating. At a conclusive glance, Tyler, the Creator successfully created an artful portrayal of who he is as a musician. In today’s music scene, remaining true to your roots and honing in on an original sound is something that is seldom done in the industry. With each and every release, he’s done this very well. “Wolf” is an instant classic and is worth an insightful listen to fully comprehend what Tyler is attempting to communicate with listeners.





## Uncle Bill's Country Market

*Always fresh!*

**215-949-3040**  
**215-949-3130 (fax)**



*Always friendly!*

**55 Highland Park Place**  
**Levittown, PA 19056**

# Date Night is Back!

## THE COMEDY WORKS

**LIVE STAND-UP COMEDY SHOWS  
NEW COMEDIANS EVERY WEEKEND**

### FEATURING

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT SHOWS AT 9:30 PM  
SPECIAL LOW PRICE SNACK MENU  
ADMISSION OPEN TO JUNIOR & SENIOR STUDENTS  
HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE  
FREE PARKING**

STUDENTS MUST PRESENT PROPER STUDENT ID  
NON-ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS  
NO DRINK OR FOOD MINIMUMS REQUIRED DURING SHOW  
SHOWS MAY CONTAIN ADULT LANGUAGE OR CONTENT

**\$5 OFF ADMISSION FOR 2 WITH STUDENT ID  
BETWEEN MAY & SEPTEMBER 2013**

**SEE THE BEST FROM NEW YORK,  
LOS ANGELES AND PHILADELPHIA**

*ONLY 15 MINUTES DOWN RT. 413 FROM YOUR HOME!  
JUST MINUTES OFF OF I-95(RT. 413 - BRISTOL - EXIT 40)*

Located inside  
**Georgine's Restaurant**

1320 Newport Rd. Bristol, Pa. 19007

For Reservations or Information Call

**215-741-1661**

**[www.comedyworksbristol.com](http://www.comedyworksbristol.com)**

**[www.facebook.com/comedyworksbristol](http://www.facebook.com/comedyworksbristol)**

# HISTORY of PROM

'60s



'70s



'80s



Ah, Prom season has arrived again. The smell of hairspray, fresh spray tans and anxious boys and girls is in the air. Prom is now a quintessential part of a young girl's life but it was not always this way. High School proms date back to the 1900s. Proms started as simple formal gatherings but have escalated to very extravagant affairs over the decades. When proms first originated, girls did not buy brand new lavish dresses for prom but instead wore a nicer dress that they already owned. With the progression of the times came the improvement of the automobile which lead to fancier means of transportation to proms. As the years pass and times change the fashions of proms have evolved greatly. Today prom is an event that girls spend months looking forward to and planning. Every detail is thought out carefully in order to make for the perfect prom night. Girls stress over finding the perfect date, the transportation, the pictures, the hair, the make-up, the shoes and most importantly: the dress of their dreams.



'90s



2000s



2010s

