



# the Playwickian

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

## Same-sex marriage ban lifted in Pa.

By Eishna Ranganathan  
News Editor

On May 21, Judge John E. Jones III lifted the ban on same-sex marriage in Pennsylvania, placed in 1996, granting all couples legal authorization and official recognition of the alliance, making Pa. the nineteenth state to do so. In the case, called *Whitewood vs. Wolf*, the plaintiffs argued that excluding a specific type of couple directly contradicts the Constitution.

The case stated that Pennsylvania law violated the right of marriage to every citizen since it did not recognize same-sex marriage from other states or allow the union to occur within the state. Disallowing the marriage would prelude the couple from receiving certain legal and monetary rights. They argued that one couple could not be subordinate to the other due to sexual orientation.

If any appeal will be made by Gov. Tom Corbett's legal team, they have 30 days to finalize their decision, but the Republican decided to not take counteraction. This means that the verdict of the case holds effective and no appeal can be made by others, according to Witold Walczak, legal director of the American Civil Liberties' Union of Pennsylvania.

"Now that it's legalized before I have to marry is like a blessing. I don't have to worry about it, unlike just a few weeks ago, since I am gay. I felt really relieved since I don't have to fight for it when I am older," said Joey Joyce, sophomore and member of Spectrum, Neshaminy's gay-straight alliance.

Corbett does not approve of same-



**SAME-SEX MARRIAGE--** On May 20 supporters of same-sex marriage rallied at City Hall in Philadelphia to show their backing to overturn of the Defense of Marriage Act which prohibited certificates to homosexual couples, in the *Whitewood vs. Wolf* case at a U.S. District Court in Pa.

*Photo/Yong Kim/Philadelphia Daily News/MCT*

sex marriage due to his Roman Catholic background but decided not to mix his political and personal views on the issue: "I will ensure that my administration follows the provisions of Judge Jones' order with respect for all parties. It is my hope that as the important issue of

same-sex relationships continues to be addressed in our society, that all involved be treated with respect," he said.

Some other states like, Utah and Montana, continue to enforce the ban with strong support while others such as Idaho, Kentucky and Massachusetts still

have pending cases with couples waiting for resolve. Yet a few states like California and Maine have undone the ban and publicly allow all forms of marriage. IL has ratified same-sex marriage on June 1 as well.

See MARRIAGE: 2

## Boys' volleyball season ends in historic fashion

By Corey LaQuay  
Photography Editor



**VOLLEYBALL GAME** - In a lost match against Pennsbury on May 6, Captain Ryan Jamison spiked the ball with assistance from his teammates.

*Photo/JS Garber*

The Neshaminy boys' volleyball team has officially claimed their position as the best volleyball team in school history. After punching their ticket to the state quarterfinals, they have made it further than any other team in the program's history. After a 14-1 season, the boys' volleyball team refused to rest until a state championship was in their grasp.

This season was a collective effort by the 12 man roster – a team made up entirely of seniors. Heading into the final game of the regular season, the Neshaminy boys were undefeated. Having taken down Pennsbury, Council Rock

North and William Tennent, their sights were set on winning the Suburban One League.

The momentum that Neshaminy carried into the postseason was initially sparked by a huge tournament win in Dallastown. During this tournament, they took down highly acclaimed Chambersburg, Hempfield and Exeter to crown themselves as champions.

By the last game of the season, the boys' volleyball team was looking to cap off a 15-win undefeated season with a huge win against long-time rival, Pennsbury on May 6. With a win, they

would capture the Suburban One title. The squad entered the Falcon's nest feeling confident in their ability to secure a victory, hot off of a huge tournament win that past weekend. During their first meeting, Neshaminy beat Pennsbury in four sets, three games to one.

See VOLLEYBALL: 12



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Policy 600:

Board introduces new guidelines regarding publications, media

By Alli Kaufman  
Copy Editor

Recently the Neshaminy School Board proposed a revision to the district’s Policy 600 regarding Publications. While the current policy, approved in 1967, stands at four sentences, the revised policy reaches nine pages, covering topics from social media and technology to the controversial issue surrounding the use of Neshaminy’s mascot in the paper. The policy, which was proposed last month and revised before returning to the committee, includes guidelines for the publication of the Neshaminy yearbook and literary magazine in addition to the newspaper.

In regard to the Playwickian, the policy outlines the rights for student editors stating that they are “as free as editors of other newspapers,” in their ability to cover news stories and editorialize—the line is lifted from Section 12.9 of the Pennsylvania School Code. The policy states that the students do not in fact have the authority to “censor or prohibit the use of the term” and that when referring to the school’s mascot the term “shall not be construed as a racial or ethnic slur and is not intended by the Board of School Directors as a racial or ethnic slur”.

The policy states that newspaper’s website would be “dismantled immediately” and relocated to another site within the district firewall. Social media accounts would both be under control of the board, with limited public access to comments and “likes.” Additionally, the administration’s right to prior review was addressed, giving the principal at least 10 days to review the content of the paper before it prints.

Policy was also included pertaining to Social Media and student-teacher communication. All social media accounts bearing the name of the Neshaminy School District and representing the school or district is

subject to review by the advisors/administration and must follow the standards outlined in the policy. Further, teachers and staff are prohibited from communicating with students using personal email accounts, texting or social media without approval in order to protect the district from inappropriate communications. “This is as much about the protection of the staff as it is about the students,” said Superintendent Robert Copeland at the policy committee meeting May 27 with regard to that aspect of Policy 600.

At a two-hour meeting on Tuesday, May 27, the School Board sat down with the Playwickian editors and the public to discuss concerns with the proposed policy. District lawyer Mark Levin and the students’ legal representation attended the meeting and participated in the discussion. Issues were raised on all aspects and what started as discussion quickly became interrupted and shouting from finally causing committee chair, Irene Boyle, to step in and ask everyone to refrain from personal attacks.

Both the school board and the community agreed that the issue was yet to be resolved and further meetings between the editors and administrators would be necessary in order to reach some sort of compromise. The committee decided to table Policy 600 and make further revisions before voting on whether to approve it or not. No date has been set for the next policy meeting.



BOARD MEETING - Board Vice President Irene Boyle along with Assistant Superintendent Don Harm and school board member Mark Shubin review Policy 600 paperwork, which focuses on rules for print material and regulations regarding technological communications.

NEWS FLASH

May was Teacher Appreciation Month. On behalf of the Neshaminy School District, the Board of School Directors has recognized those teachers who exemplify what good teaching is all about. The awards were presented on May 21, 2014 at the Public Board Meeting.

Five teachers were nominated in the following categories by their peers:

**Gail Park** - English teacher: Leadership, Teach, Appreciate Category

**Matt Thompson** - Biology teacher: Innovation

**Suzi Drake** - English teacher: Community Partnerships

**Kelly Macauley** - Family and Consumer Science teacher: Community Partnerships

**Len Davis** - Algebra teacher: Spirit of Neshaminy



RECOGNITION - Neshaminy High School teachers received honorary awards for excelling in what they do for the Neshaminy community, serving as not only educators but mentors. Photo/Neshaminy Administration

MARRIAGE:

continued from 1

Several couples went to offices that immediately began issuing certificates to declare their wedding legal and those offices were open extended hours the following day for others who wanted to get their licenses as well.

“There’s not much of a point to fighting it since public sentiment is in favor. It is a stepping stone in overcoming differences that society tries to make, whether based on race or sexual preference,” Sean Daly, adviser of Spectrum said.

Even in Hollywood, several celebrities, or their families have admitted to being LGBT. Such confessions, which would have damaged a career decades ago, are now supported by many members of the public. Adam Lambert, Suze Ozman and Olympic medalist Tom Daley have all publically declared their homosexual preference.

Beyond PA, the question of raising the ban on same-sex marriage has affected the entire nation, with OR recently changing its laws as well. In only 10 months since the U.S. Supreme Court repealed sections of the federal Defense of Marriage Act, America has experienced an outbreak of controversy on the issue.

As a contemporary debate in society, and with primary elections in season, making politics a major deciding factor, this heated debate shows a continuing growing trend, leaving a lot of decisions yet to be made.

French program losing popularity among student body

By Gillian McGoldrick  
Editor in Chief and Entertainment Editor

There is no discussion whether if learning a second language is significant in the modern world. As the population grows and more people are expanding their vehicles of communication in other languages past English, the door that has been left open for many



FRENCH CLASS - Tracey Phelan teaches second period French 1 and will teach AP French next year. There are only three French 1 classes in comparison to nine Spanish 1 classes for the 2014-2015 school year. Photo/Eishna Ranganathan

opportunities is beginning to shut as the majority of Americans stick to their knowing of only one language.

For the 2014-2015 year, there will be 14 French classes offered as opposed to 45 Spanish classes. This may be for many misconceptions, because French is not spoken often around the tri-state area.

However, French is spoken in countries listed on the top 15 fastest growing economies, while Spanish is not spoken in any of them, according to the CIA World Fact Book. As more and more students take Spanish, the French program is diminishing. Instead of adding more languages and keeping up with surrounding districts that offer three or more languages, Neshaminy is beginning to fall behind as it struggles to fill the seats for only two languages.

“There are students who have expressed interest in French, but they are told it’s not an important language,” French teacher Joanne Lanciano said.

Most students who have taken the French program stay with it until French 5, or will be taking AP French next year.

“No matter what the language, not starting any language instruction in the middle school has definitely hurt the program,” Lanciano said. “We used to be able to meet with the middle school students and show them why language is important and what they can expect to gain from French or Spanish.”

“I think this trend reflects the cuts in middle school as well as the rumor that Spanish is easier than French upheld by peers and parents,” French teacher Megan Cleary said.

Looking internationally, French is still relevant in many nations. It is recognized by the United Nations in policies, used in all ceremonies for the Olympics and is written on most luxury consumer goods found in America. French is also the second most useful language for business, according to Bloomsburg Rankings.

While Spanish has greater relevance to the school and area, the French program is beginning to be neglected during course selection at Neshaminy when students choose their classes.

Neighboring districts are working to expand their programs: for example, both Council Rock and Pennsbury offer Latin and German. The Neshaminy student body’s disregard of the French program is obvious in the upcoming school year.

Learning a foreign language teaches more than just grammar: it also teaches the very important skill of respecting and appreciating other cultures. But if the students continue to stack up the Spanish program, the French program may be forgotten and unbeloved by students.

“It’s sad the French program is shrinking,” Cleary said.



# The New Guys

President: Julia Tchourumoff

Vice-President: Ben Matzke

Secretary/Treasurer: Angela Sanson

Historian: Madison Dierolf



WELCOME--Neshaminy welcomes its new Student Council officers; Julia Tchourumoff, Ben Matzke, Angela Sanson and Maddison Dierolf are elected to continue the legacy of Student Council for one more year.

Picture/ Gillian McGoldrick

## Seniors' lasting legacy: Seniors' class officers leaves behind final thoughts, favorite memories

By Julianne Miller  
Circulation Editor

Leading the class of 2014 in their final year of high school, Shelby Lins, Ton Do-Nguyen, Kylie Dumke, Calli Vasilarikas and Arielle Artleth make up the 2013-2014 school year's Class Officers. Organizing events such as prom while still balancing their school work, these five students are always busy.



FAREWELL-- President Ton-DoNguyen shares his last bit of advice to Neshaminy.

Picture/ Gillian McGoldrick

Q: Best thing about being a class officer?  
A: Being the voice of the people

Q: What has being a class officer taught you?  
A: Leadership and responsibility.

Q: Advice for incoming freshmen?  
A: Get involved



FAREWELL-- Treasure Kylie Dumke leaves behind the memories she had at Neshaminy.

Picture/ Gillian McGoldrick



FAREWELL--Secretary Shelby Lins shares some of her pearls of wisdom.

Picture/ Gillian McGoldrick

“Hard work pays off.”

Q: Best thing about being a class officer?  
A: Starting new tradition.

Q:Best high school memory?  
A: Having the bus drive through the grass as a detour coming home from the Phillies trip in ninth grade.

Q: Advice for incoming freshmen?  
A: Explore.

Q: What has being a class officer taught you?  
A: To appreciate and accept the differences among us.

Q: Best high school memory?  
A: The proms.

Q: Advice for incoming freshmen?  
A: Have confidence.

“...the voice of the people.”

Q: Best thing about being a class officer?  
A: The feeling after planning a successful event. It felt great to know that all of the work and stress resulted in a good time for the senior class.

Q: Advice for incoming freshmen?  
A: Get involved! So many amazing things go on and there are so many great people at Neshaminy that you don't want to miss out on.



FAREWELL-- Historian Arielle Arleth gives her perspective on high school.

Picture/ Gillian McGoldrick

Q: Best high school memory?  
A: Before Homecoming driving the carts around.

Q: What has being a class officer taught you?  
A: Hard work pays off.

Q:What is something you won't miss about Neshaminy?  
A: Ending at 2:14 and starting at the crack of dawn.



FAREWELL--Vice President Calli Vasilarikas gives her advice.

Picture/ Gillian McGoldrick

## Reflections on the previous school year

### The first year: Billy Kraft

By Gauri Mangala  
Staff Writer

Q: What was the biggest change for you going from middle school to high school?  
A: In middle school, everything was tightly compacted and you had classes with the same group of people. But in high school, in each class you have a new group of people and some of them aren't even from your grade.

Q: What is one preconception that you had about high school that turned out to be false?  
A: Well, originally I thought that I would be able to stroll to my locker and take my time to class, but I've figured it out this that I can't do that. And I don't even use my locker due to the distance between my classes.

Q: What advice do you have for underclassmen and the freshman of next year?  
A: Take any opportunities that you can get. Also, put yourself out there and become an individual. Whatever people say about keeping your head down, scratch that and be yourself. Study your butt off for the best results possible.



ADVICE--Freshman Billy Kraft and senior Rachel Jones share two sides to the same story.

Pictures/ Gauri Mangala

### The last year: Rachel Jones

Q: What was the biggest change for you going from middle school to high school?  
A: All of a sudden there was a lot more responsibility! I was in charge of my own work for eight classes without any teacher checking up. I caught on to the speed quickly, though!

Q: What is one preconception that you had about high school that turned out to be false?  
A: I thought that the upperclassmen wouldn't even glance my way but they ended up being helpful and friendly!

Q: What advice do you have for underclassmen and the freshman of next year?  
A: Don't be a wimp, always try new things! High school is a completely unique experience. And never fall behind on classwork, ever.

Q: What are you most looking forward to about next year?  
A: I'm most excited for the new city and experiences in colleges. I can't wait to make new friends and haw new challenges to overcome! I am going to miss Mr. Lipton. He was an amazing director and friend to me these past four years.





# The Playwickian

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## Policy Statement

Published monthly, the student newspaper of Neshaminy High School is a public forum, with its student editorial board making all decisions concerning its contents. The 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.

### Contact

www.playwickian.com  
Neshaminy High School  
2001 Old Lincoln Highway  
Langhorne, PA 19047  
215-809-6670

# LOOK AT IT OUR WAY

## Board Policy 600 threatens student journalists

A free society begins the practice of liberty in its schools: the freedoms of speech and press cannot remain intact and unabridged outside of Neshaminy’s walls, if they are to be violated or otherwise inhibited within them.

On April 29, 2014, the policy committee of the Neshaminy School Board introduced a lengthy revision to Policy 600, the policy dealing with school publications. Though the policy, first written in 1967, was originally six sentences in length, it has been increased by the revisions to a total of nine pages.

With a swift hand, the editorial board of The Playwickian unanimously condemns the “improved” Policy 600. Although some progress has been achieved to defeat the proposition, it still lingers and poses a threat to The Playwickian and journalists at large. Policy 600, in its limiting of editorial rights, its vague allowance for censorship and its delegation of powers away from the students and into the hands of school officials, has been rendered worthy of condemnation. Moreover, in perhaps its most controversial provision, the policy asserts that student editors may not remove the mascot name from its pages, a practice the paper has operated under since its October 23, 2013 editorial decision.

Although it is a complex debate that involves topics ranging from etymology to student press rights, this topic rests upon the foundation of several truths: that, as student editors and not as state officials, the editors are exercising their editorial control and not governmental control; that the name of the mascot is defined as a racial slur and is therefore inherently offensive in its usage; that many segments of the policy and the body of text as a whole violate state, federal and constitutional mandates and provisions; that this policy is educationally counterintuitive, not just for this class of student journalists, but all others to follow.

Surely some revision was necessary to the policy: after all the 1967 policy dictated that publications could not at all reflect the school in a negative light. However, the content of the policy and the changes actually proposed are certainly problematic—to put it lightly.

In all practicality, legality and morality, the policy is wrong.

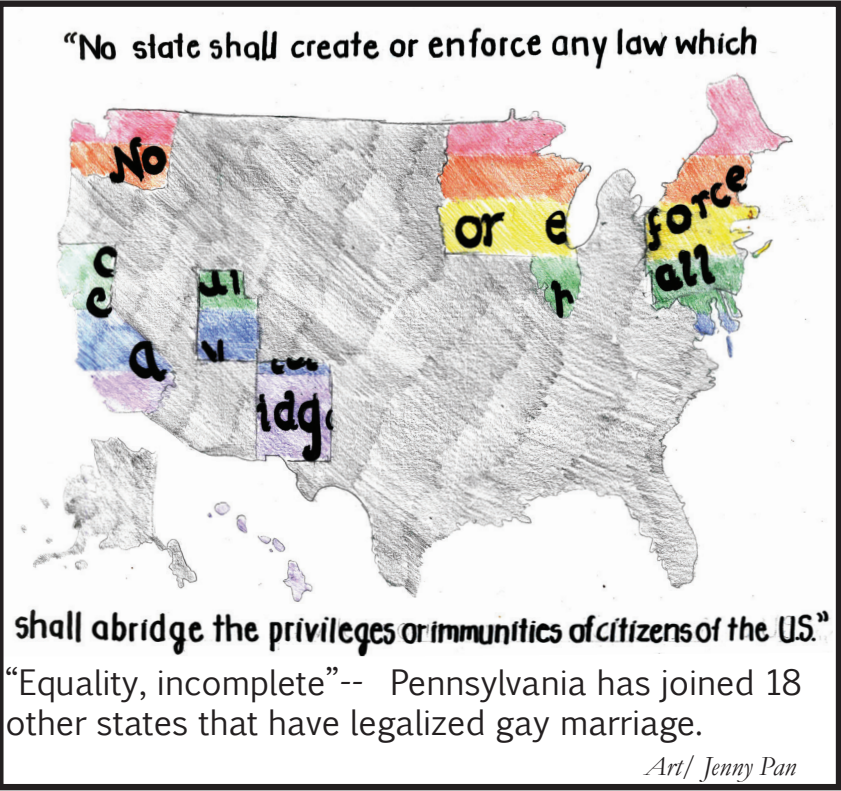
Several journalism education organizations have decried the policy, lest we forget that this policy not only affects the current editors, but all those that will follow. Editors 10 years down the road will be affected by this policy and will be bound by its restrictions. That group, we fear, will not have a realistic sense of journalistic practice;

worse, they will be cheated out of the educational privileges which they deserve. The policy officially enforces the restriction on our choice to ban and omit “the R-word,” as we have sometimes dubbed it; we find this policy to be a violation of not only of the editors right to control their paper. Policy 600 earns our strongest condemnation for its clause on the mascot issue, but it should invoke criticism from all proponents of public education everywhere, for the ultimate disservice it will do to the newspaper program at Neshaminy High School.



CONTROVERSY-- Board Policy 600 has come under criticism from media education groups and various lawyers, while others defend the provisions.

Photo reproduced with permission from The Spoke



“Equality, incomplete”-- Pennsylvania has joined 18 other states that have legalized gay marriage.

Art/ Jenny Pan

# EDITOR’S NOTE

A letter to the editor regarding use of the mascot’s name was sent to us. The editors wished to publish the letter with the word as “R-----,” but the school administration advised us that we must publish the entire word. In light of that we have decided not to publish the letter in this edition of The Playwickian. This white space represents our resolve to maintain our rights as editors and our determination to eliminate discrimination.



# Sexual Assault: blaming the victim controversy

By Maddy Buffardi  
Managing and Student Life Editor

One in four college women will be the victim of a sexual assault during their academic career, according to a study done by Kathleen Hirsch in 2000. This statistic is unsettling for most, but even more so for women in (or soon to be in) college – such as our own graduating class.

Controversy struck recently at Columbia University when students felt the school was not doing enough in handling sexual assault cases on campus, so an anonymous group wrote the names of four accused offenders in hopes to protect their fellow classmates.

Elliot Rodgers, a 22-year-old from Isla Vista California shot and killed 6 people and then himself on Friday, May 23. What made the tragedy all the more chilling and sparked a wave of feminism on social media was that before the killings Rodger posted a video to YouTube called ‘Elliot Rodger’s Retribution’.

In the video Rodger lays out his premeditated plan to take the lives of innocent women – what he feels is a justified action due to the fact that no women has ever shown him the love he felt he deserved, more specifically, no shown him any sort of physical affection.

The video is more than difficult to watch as Rodger goes into detail on how he feels that women have ruined his life and that – in his terms – slaughtering them is the only reasonable punishment for their negligence toward him.

Throughout the video, Rodger calls all females animals and expresses that he feels he deserved their physical affection. Aside from the disturbing video he posted, Rodger also published a 141-page manifesto entitled ‘My Twisted World’ where he, much like in the video, explains how women were the ultimate cause of his clear mental instability and that they, as a whole, should be punished.

It’s obvious that Rodger had a God-complex, since he did on more than one occasion refer to himself as such. Rodger’s is clearly an extreme case of misogyny and following the tragedy as well as certain responses, women all over the world felt the need to speak out.

On May 24, the hashtag #YesAllWomen started in a Twitter conversation involving writer Annie Cardi. Women all over then used the hashtag to share their stores of harassment and mistreatment, showing the world the importance of feminism and calling for action.

light.

The major problem in regards to sexual assault is the evident need to push the blame on the victims or cover the situation entirely.

Something that is important to remember is that no matter what the circumstances, a victim of sexual assault

as frequently as it is and cases should not go unjustified.

People who feel that women should be more prepared and take steps to prevent themselves from being raped are not, in most situations, being malicious. The fact of the matter is that this mentality is what society has been taught since anyone can remember. Most people that encourage precaution to women, such as walking in groups, or showing less skin are genuinely trying to help the problem.

The only way to help the issue is to help the public understand that it should never be the victim’s fault and that no matter what a woman does, wears, or says – she can still be a victim.

Neshaminy High School social worker, Joseph Werner, stressed the importance of safety to Neshaminy students who are leaving for college soon expressing that college does pose many unpredictable variables.

In talking about the recent controversies among college campuses Werner said, “I don’t think any college would turn their back on situations such as these.”

He encouraged that rather than taking all information on the subject at face value, anyone looking into this proposed negligence should really consider who is taking the studies, what colleges are being targeted and if perhaps there is another agenda for accusing such negligence.

But, according to the Centers for Disease Control, 19 percent of undergraduate women experience attempted or completed rape since starting college. This statistic is a nation-wide study that encompasses all colleges. Although Columbia University has recently been thrown into the spotlight, 95 percent of rapes that occurred on a college campus were not reported to law enforcement.

Sexual assault on college campuses is a severe problem that needs to be addressed. One way we can promote a safer move into college is by addressing sexual assault in high school health curriculum. Teaching teenagers -- at the appropriate age -- not to take advantage and to further implement that among friends is important and could most certainly change statistics among college campuses dramatically.



The millions of tweets with the tag ranged from – “Because ‘I have a boyfriend’ is more likely than ‘no’ to get a man to back off, because men have more respect for men.”

“Because in school women are taught how not to get raped rather than teaching men not to rape.”

“Because society would rather teach a woman to show less skin than teach a man to show more respect.”

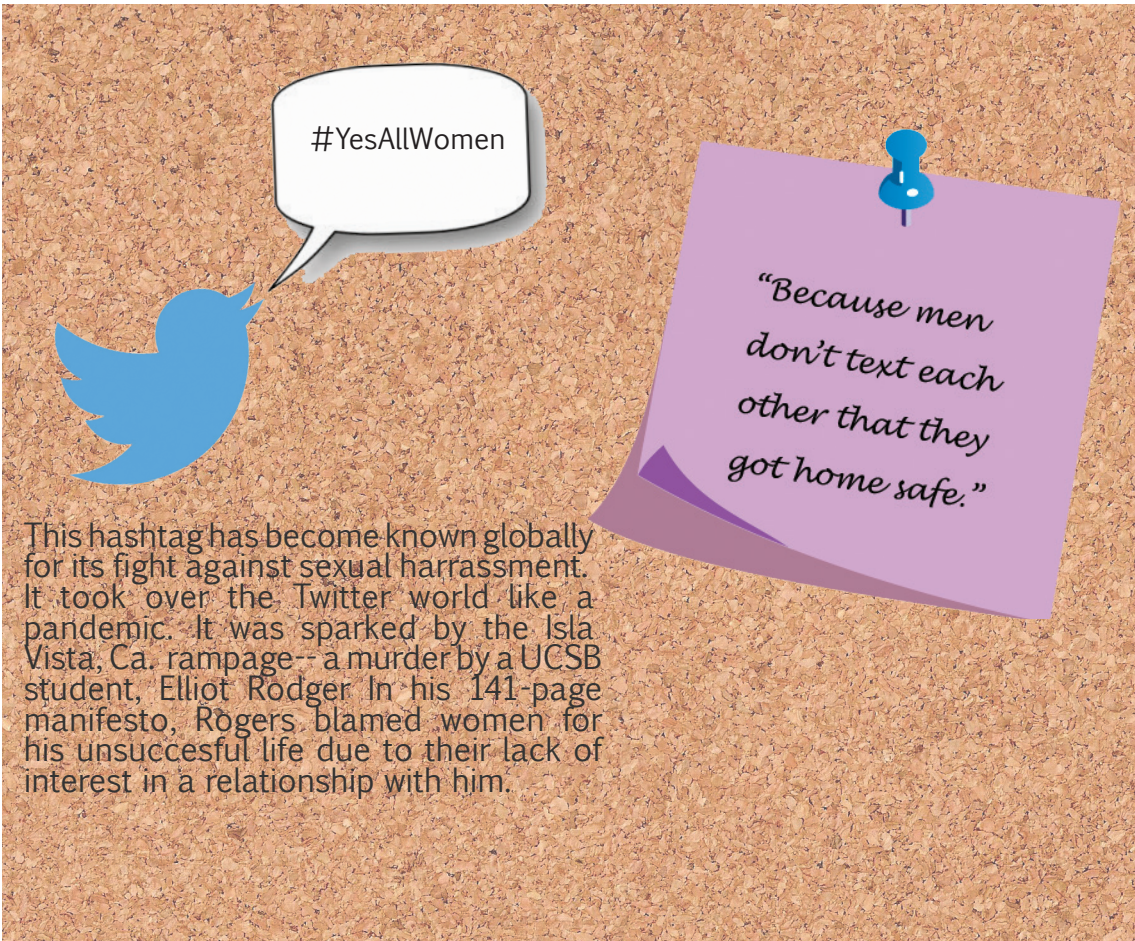
The #YesAllWomen movement proved to be an easy way to use social media as a way for women to stand together and protect themselves in a new

cannot be blamed for what happened to them. It is disheartening that schools would rather teach how to not get raped then to teach people how to simply not rape. This is not to say that it can simply be taught and then the problem will be eradicated; it is also not to say that all people will rape unless told not to, many men as well as women understand that rape is a heinous and inexcusable act.

What needs to be changed is the mentality that sexual assault will happen and women, more specifically, need to expect and prepare themselves for it. Sexual assault should not be happening



MINNEAPOLIS-- Two women work on a poster for a march against sexual assault victim-blaming attitudes about rape.  
*Photo reproduced with permission/ McClatchy Tribune*





PEOPLE GO TO COLLEGE  
TO GET A JOB. OTHERS  
GO OUT TO CHANGE  
THE WORLD.

# Success without a college degree

**By Shannon Byrne**  
*Special Features Editor*

In today’s day and age it’s a common misconception that in order to be successful in life you need a college degree of some sort. However, some of the most successful inventors, entrepreneurs, actors, and TV personalities do not have college degrees.

Nowadays, people go to college to obtain a degree in a useful subject and get a comfortable and well-paying job in said subject, so they can live happy and comfortable lives. This is not by any means a bad thing, but it is not always that easy or convenient for others.

For example, Bill Gates, he dropped out of Harvard College, along with his business partner Paul Allen to create Microsoft. He has now been named richest person in the world by Forbes Magazine 27 times. He accomplished all of this without a college degree. Now, granted, he earned an honorary doctorate from Harvard College in 2007.

Beloved Hollywood actors like Johnny Depp and Tom Hanks do not have college degrees. Depp dropped out of high school to become a movie star and Tom Hanks dropped out of college to intern at the Great Lakes Theater Festival.

Television personalities Ellen DeGeneres and Rachel Ray do not have college degrees. DeGeneres only attended the University of New Orleans for one year before dropping out and working a seri9es of odd jobs trying to make it as a comedian. Ray, despite her culinary prowess, has no formal culinary training. She now has several cooking shows on the Food Network along with a talk show on NBC and her very own magazine.

World-renowned Hollywood director Steven Spielberg was denied admittance to film school and eventually dropped out of California State University in Long Beach. He went on to co-found DreamWorks Pictures and eventually earned an honorary degree from USC in 1994.

Steve Jobs founded Apple all with only one semester of formal education and no degree. Mark Zuckerberg created Facebook at Harvard and further developed the enterprise the summer after he dropped out of Harvard. He is now the youngest person to ever appear on Forbes’s billionaire list.

The trick to being successful is not a college degree. A degree definitely helps, but knowing what you want and having the courage and determination to pursue one’s dreams is a sure way to success, with or without a degree.

So, with just a little creativity and determination anyone, even the most uneducated of people, can become successful.

*Success Without a Degree*  
successful businesses founded with no formal education



# Students committed to United States Armed Services, honored



RECRUITED -- Neshaminy High School students pose with Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick and State Representative Frank Farry along with military service-men and women after celebrating their commitment to serving in the Armed Forces. Photo/Corey LaQuay

**By Shealyn Miles**  
*Special Features Editor*

On May 23, 2014, the community gathered in the Neshaminy High School hub to honor those students committed to future employment in the armed services. Family, friends, students, teachers and administrators came to show their support, in addition to military leaders and local congressmen.

The ceremony kicked off with the singing of the national anthem and “God Bless America” by the select choir under the direction of Jason Leigh.

Opening remarks followed. Assistant principal Tom Magdelinkas spoke about his experience, witnessing the recruitment process for the marine corps which, he claimed, was no easy feat.

“The decision was not made easily or taken lightly,” Magdelinkas said, regarding the commitment to a branch in the military.

Congressmen Mike Fitzpatrick gave a speech as well, expressing his loyalty to the military men and women. “I and my staff will continue to serve you,” Fitzpatrick said.

Fitzpatrick also reminded the students of how difficult it is to be a parent or guardian in that situation, who showed an interest in the military.

“Chains have to be durable and lasting,” Penniman said, and added, “We have found these students worthy to be part of that chain.” Students were then given a chain link as a symbolic reminder of the responsibility that they hold.

Penniman also announced his relocation plans and his replacement Staff Srg. Cook.

With closing remarks, Principal Rob McGee put the next chapter of these students’ lives into perspective.

“Next year, most students will be considered college kids. You will be considered men and women who serve our country,” -- Neshaminy Principal Rob McGee

“Next year, most students will be considered college kids. You will be considered men and women who serve our country,” McGee said.

The Neshaminy student body and The Playwickian wish students the best of luck in their future endeavors and thank them for their service and their incontrovertible courage.

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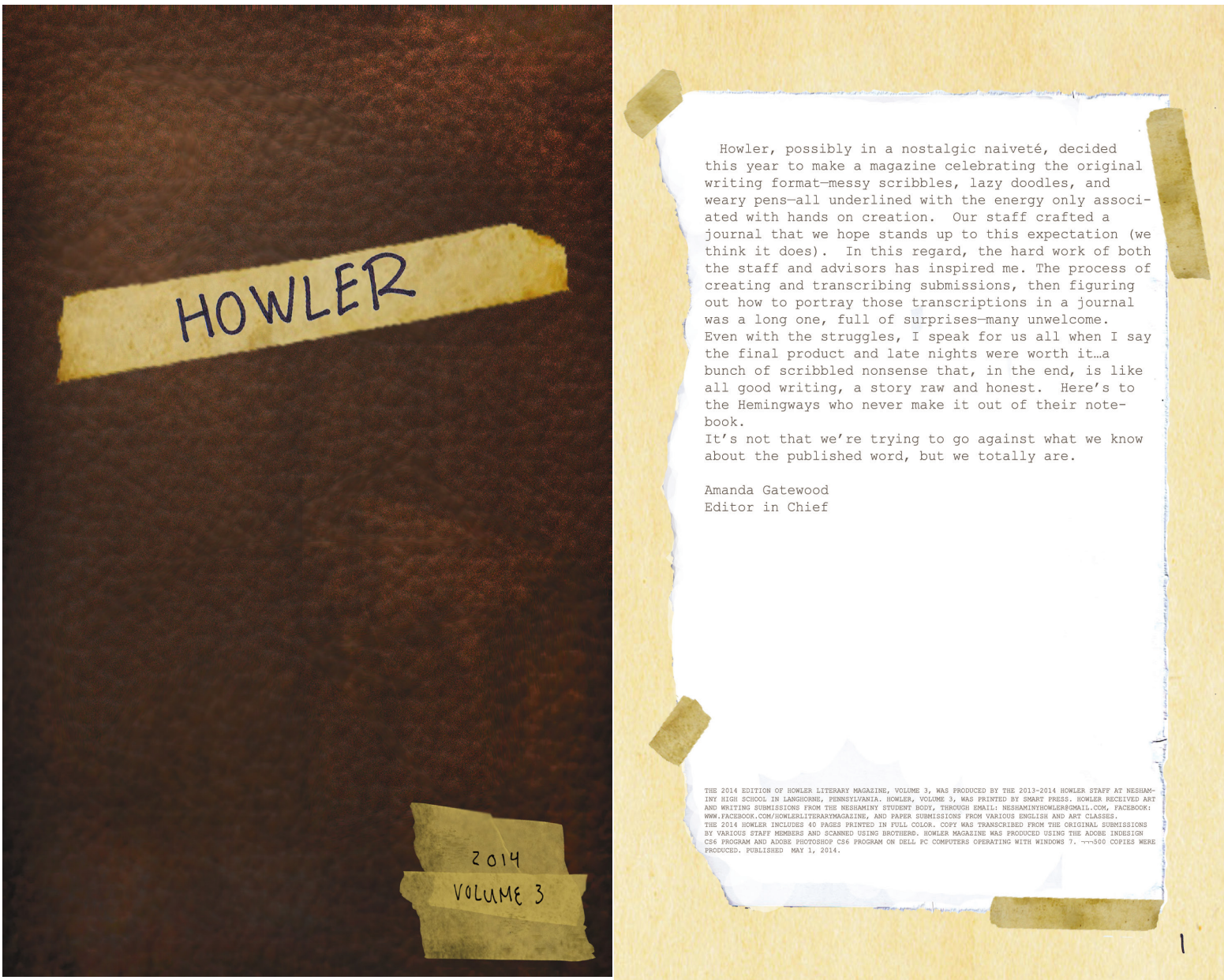
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# Spring Training: How Neshaminy athletes prepare for gametime

Eishna Ranganathan  
News Editor

As part of its co-curricular program, Neshaminy has offered various sports so students can participate in both the academic and athletic areas, and to enhance its standing within the neighboring sports league. Each season, whether it is fall, winter or spring, brings with it a different challenge to the athlete. The different types of games have a wide range of training programs to prepare the team.

The girls' and boys' bowling team are run by Gale Donohue and Mark Dunfee respectively; it is classified as a winter sport. In the pre-season, potential bowlers are encouraged to join a league at centers like the Brunswick Zone to

upkeep practicing. During the season, practices are four days a week at Penndel Lanes, with transportation provided by Neshaminy buses.

Warm-ups include a basic stretching of the arms and legs. The team focuses on spare shooting and 7-10 splits.

Occasionally they will play Baker games in which bowlers alternate throughout the rounds.

Bowlers need to be able to adapt to the changing lane conditions in a single game due to oiling since it affects the technique with which they curve the ball. The first and third games have drastic differences.

"Bowling is a game of the mind; you shouldn't lose confidence easily and focus on doing your best. Focus is key. It is not

as physical, but it is still a sport. We had SOLs, regional and states with trophies awarded," senior Megan Fantini, captain of the girls' team said.

Tennis requires more physical endurance, as players need to have fast-paced thinking combined with high-speed movement. During pre and post season, players are urged to take private practice lessons, although intramurals are offered during the fall and summer. On-season practices are everyday until five p.m. and involve challenge matches with a specific line-up order.

These games help point out an individual's strengths and weaknesses. Occasionally the players will do sprints for quick motion over short distances, a main component in the game. "There are two main parts to the game: being able to hit the ball properly and mentally being about to construct the point during the play. Your entire mind and body is used in play – a full cardiac and brain workout," Bill Bech, Varsity Tennis coach said.

The girls' and boys' swim team work in conjunction with each other during practices, using Poquessing Middle School's pool as their main venue. Head Coach Brian Suter, with Dana Puskas and Michael Richards divide the swimmers into six lanes. Practices are five days a weeks and early morning during Thanksgiving and Winter breaks as well. Swimmers can also come during morning practices before school starts.

Each day the coaches design a series of different sets that the entire team has to swim; each lane has different time requirements to meet. There are four strokes each swimmer needs to practice. Warm-ups and warm-downs follow each practice, along with dry-lands, during which they work-out by basic exercises to stay in shape.

"We are all one big family since each of us can help each other build a better swimmer by making it through all the hardships of practice and encouraging others during the meets to perform our best," junior Helen Shektermann said.

Track and field emphasizes the individual more than the team. The participants need to focus on running fast, even the shot-putter and javelin thrower.

"It is a sport based on speed, quickness and agility. Distance runners have a different type of fast. It is highly based on the question 'how fast for how long?' The main drive for everyone is self-improvement, wanting to get better and the competition," Syd White, Head Coach of Boys' Track said.

Training should ideally continue year rounds, involving all aspects of working out including weight lifting, ply metrics, and slow, but long runs. The sole difference between cross-country and track is that the first

involves one three mile race with hills and obstacles, the other has several events involving hurdles, shot-put, high-jump, discus and pole vault. The main distinction between male and female training in track is that girls need to work on strengthening fragile body parts, such as the hips, in order to not be hurt.

Margie Taylor, the Head Coach of the Girls' Track team works with a select group of girls during the summer who compete in the Junior and National Olympics. The beginning of the spring season stresses training and the later part have two or three meets a week. Depending on the event the runner specializes (200m vs 800m) in, the routine changes.

"In addition to spring, we highly encourage the girls to come out in the winter as well for their best performance. We are able to have 2 hard endurance/speed practices a week and 2 skills/speed practices with a meet on Friday," Taylor said. "The girls have to mentally believe in themselves and that they can achieve their goals and cannot let the stress of an event get to them."

Each sport at Neshaminy has different series of steps it takes in order to achieve victory, which the student body often overlooks. The uniqueness of each game requires the athlete to use different resources and techniques for proper conditioning. No sport outdoes another as each requires a strong work ethic and unique exercise regiment.

***"It is a sport based on speed, quickness and agility. Distance runners have a different type of fast. It is highly based on the question 'how fast for how long?' The main drive for everyone is self-improvement, wanting to get better and the competition," Syd White, Boys' Track Head Coach***

## Baseball season ends in Disappointment, high hopes for next year

Reed Hennessy  
Sports Editor

"It's the program's hope that team members grow from this experience and utilize these memories in the future," head coach of the varsity baseball team Chris Tenaglia said. The Neshaminy baseball program produced disappointing results this past season.

Finishing out the season with an overall record of ten wins and eight losses, and a league record of eight wins and six losses, the varsity Neshaminy baseball squad had a fairly uninspiring season. "We had opportunities throughout the year that we didn't take advantage of," assistant coach James Kelly said.

Initially the season had started out great, winning the first five games of the season; hopes were high as the varsity squad was rolling over their opponents. However, on Apr. 14 Neshaminy faced off against Council Rock South and lost four to two. This loss marked the beginning of a six game losing streak

"We started getting mad at each other and not working well, we went from winning and enjoying the game to losing and not working well together," senior infielder Ryan Sheplock said. Graduating this year, along with various other team leaders, 2014 was a developing year for the junior and sophomore team members.

"We need to continue developing our team concepts. We have a strong nucleus coming back and some younger players that we anticipate good things from," Kelly said.

Players like junior outfielder RJ Boop, junior catcher Kyle Skeels and junior infielder Kenny Lehman. All of whom will be returning next year as team leaders, replacing their former leaders Cole Creighton and Ryan Sheplock.

Next season the varsity squad must work as a unit, the seven-game-slump that resulted in missing participation in district one championship's this year. Not only does the team need to work on team cooperation, one major problem that was most detrimental to the team was that players had become ineligible.

While this past season may have overall resulted in disappointment the parting seniors look back on their Neshaminy baseball experience with nothing but reverence. "Tenaglia was without a doubt a great coach, playing baseball at Neshaminy is something I'll never forget," Sheplock said.

Tennent on Apr. 10. Without a doubt next year Neshaminy will be a team to watch. The majority of the team will be composed of seniors who will be able to effectively work together and take the team into Suburban One League playoffs next year.



Head Coach Chris Tenaglia conferences Neshaminy is something I'll never forget," Sheplock said. Tennent on Apr. 10. Without a doubt next year Neshaminy will be a team to watch. The majority of the team will be composed of seniors who will be able to effectively work together and take the team into Suburban One League playoffs next year.



Photos/ Corey Laquay



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Neshaminy alumnus shares his journey

Journalist and videographer tells about his voyages around the world

**By Emily Scott**  
*Business and Op-Ed Editor*

“Hold on; let me go walk my dog. I hate being stuck inside while I’m on the phone.”

To Andy Laub –Neshaminy Class of 2005 - there is a lot more to this world than just the internet, social media and every other device that is constantly



ADVENTURE-- Class of 2005 graduate Andy Laub, nicknamed “Camel,”is the team leader on the set of his television project, As It Happens TV. The project takes viewers through Laub’s many adventures from the Pacific Crest Trail to the Continental Divide Trail. Photo reproduced with permission/Asithappens.tv

Senior artist to take skills into teaching field

**By Heather White**  
*Archivist and Copy Editor*

Senior Alanna Parker is an amazing talent here at Neshaminy High School. Although she loves all different types of art, her favorite is definitely drawing.

“Art is a great outlet for me to just escape,” Parker said, “I love creating something, working hard on it, and having it turn out how I imagined it and to be proud of it afterwards even if it isn’t perfect or the most beautiful.”

Throughout her high school career, Parker has received many honors. Last year, she won the Neshaminy High School Art Award. She also had five pieces in the 2013 District Art Show, including three drawings, a metal and glass candle holder, and a ceramic plate.

This year, Parker’s artwork

glued to us.

After graduating, Laub attended Emerson College in Boston for journalism. In his junior year at Emerson, Laub developed an interest in broadcasting. He became the news director at Emerson.

“Junior year is when I really discovered my interest for film. I had an internship my

last semester with Discovery Channel,” Laub said.

This internship is exactly where Laub was intrigued by adventure television. Adventure television is the simple idea of capturing real journeys and stories that occur in the nature of this world.

Laub was involved in cross country at Neshaminy, where he says he found his love for the outdoors. “I went on lots of trips in high school to the Delaware River. General recreation became a great passion of mine,” Laub said.

Laub was dissatisfied with these simple adventures and decided to set off on a hike of the Appalachian Trail to Maine. “I had worked with Discovery Channel, National Geographic, Food Network, but it still wasn’t exactly what I wanted,” Laub said.

No one was interested in hiking the Appalachian, so he began the trek alone. By the third night of the trail, he was ready to turn around. His romantic ideas of the cold, snow and being alone failed him, which is when—by some crazy act of fate—he met Ian.

Ian was another solo hiker on the Appalachian Trail. “I am also hiking to Maine!” set their friendship up and they decided to spend the rest of their adventure together. Laub was completely unaware that this stranger would go on to become a partner of his on a very influential project.

For two adventure-enthusiasts, their experiences could only get more wild and dangerous from there on.

“The Pacific Crest Trail was next for us,” Laub said. The Pacific Crest Trail is a 2,650 mile trail from the Mexico border to Canada; an extremely difficult trail to venture on. The nature patterns and temperatures changed dramatically throughout the trip. It runs through deserts in southern California and travels the high crests of the Sierra and Cascade Mountains in California, Oregon and Washington.

“There is absolutely no preparation for this kind of adventure. You can’t really predict what you’re going to

face,” Laub said.

Setting out on this unpredictable adventure, they could only become experts on provisioning. It was just Andy, Ian and a camera. This was the beginning of As It Happens TV, Laub’s adventure television project.

The winter prior to Andy and Ian’s trip was the Sierras largest winter in 50 years, something that would serve to be an added danger to the duos adventure.

“We pretty much hiked without a trail because the snow covered it,” Laub said.

The river crossings on the trail were an additional, life-threatening danger. Due to the increased amount of snow, the rivers swelled making them almost impossible to cross.

“There were no bridges. We heard stories of people that were swept downstream. We were aware that we’d be risking our lives,” Laub said. These dangers

said. From stock brokers to “Trail Angels” there was no expectation for the type of people they would run into. It was a trade-off; they’d share their stories for a ride to continue their journey.

This adventure-inspiring film was rejected by Discovery Channel while Andy was working for their development team.

“They said they couldn’t predict the story and I said that’s the point of it, that’s adventure,” Laub said.

After this life-changing journey, Laub is far from finished with adventure television. Next on his to-do list is the Continental Divide trail. It is one of the most significant trail systems in the world; stretching over 3,000 miles between Mexico and Canada. It is a much more treacherous trail than Pacific Crest due to a lack of signs and it is almost a given to get lost along the way.



Andy Laub as he hikes along a snowy mountain trail, a scene that is often captured on his adventures through extremely difficult circumstances like frigid weather and rocky terrain. Photo reproduced with permission/Asithappens.tv

were only small feats of the bigger picture in the adventure on the Pacific Crest Trail.

The most important aspect of survival on the trail was making it to local towns to shower, stock up on food, and receive any other supplies needed for the hike. The only way to reach the towns in a respectable amount of time was hitchhiking.

“There’s always been a stigma around hitchhiking, but you really get to meet such an eclectic group of people,” Laub

These journeys that Laub embarks on serve a heart-warming purpose. “This is real adventure to inspire people to not forget about the world around us,” Laub said. As It Happens TV, a name that speaks for itself, is a work-in-progress that continues to grow with each journey that is captured. “If we can inspire others to connect with nature, there will be more people to protect it.”

Summer Reads

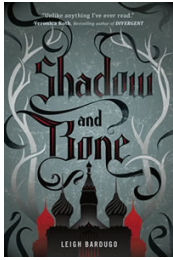
Teen Romance

**By Brianna Diodata**  
*Staff Writer*

Summer is here and with that comes a lot of down time. Whether it be on the beach or for long car rides, grab one of these entertaining novels to stimulate your mind. Here is a wide selection of various novels coming from many diverse genres including touching teen romances, fantasies taking readers out of the real world, dystopian novels which delve into imaginary societies, and gripping tales of historical fiction. With so many books and novels to choose from readers are assured adventurous times throughout these few summer months.

*“Eleanor and Park” by Rainbow Rowell*

Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two 16-year-old, star-crossed misfits who are smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but courageous and desperate enough to try. This novel really captures the awkwardness of teenage love. This book is for John Green fans, Stephanie Perkins fans and overall just fans of a stunning and emotional love story.



Fantasy

*“Shadow and Bone” by Leigh Bardugo*

Surrounded by enemies, the once-great nation of Ravka has been torn in two by the Shadow Fold, a swath of near impenetrable darkness crawling with monsters who feast on human flesh. Now its fate may rest on the shoulders of one lonely refugee. Alina Starkov has never been good at anything. But when her regiment is attacked on the Fold and her best friend is brutally injured, Alina reveals a dormant power that saves his life. a power that could be the key to setting her war-ravaged country free. Wrenched from everything she knows, Alina is whisked away to the royal court to be trained as a member of the Grisha, the magical elite led by the mysterious Darkling. The book ends with a shocking cliffhanger that will have some sprinting to Barnes and Noble to see what happens next.



# Summer festivals for good music

By Gillian McGoldrick  
Editor in Chief and  
Entertainment Editor

Summer, originally a time to relax the pupil’s mind, is now a time to fill ears with song. High school students across the country find themselves hitting as many concerts as possible in the two months of summer vacation allotted. Summer festivals make this very easy as they become more popular and up their lineups with popular bands and artists.

There are many summer music festivals within the tri-state area, including the Firefly music festival. This year, the Foo Fighters, Outkast, and Jack Johnson, will headline Firefly. Many other artists such as Arctic Monkeys, the Lumineers, Childish Gambino and Imagine Dragons will also be performing at this festival. Held in Dover, Del., the festival brought in over 30,000 people into the state from 48 states in 2013, according to Delaware Tourism. This year’s festival runs from June 19 to June 22. The tickets for this festival range from \$49 to \$109.

The atmosphere of Firefly is one of family – with everyone looking out for one another to ensure the best experience for all. On site, there are campgrounds and RV grounds for rent for people to stay close to the festival.

Another worthwhile music festival is Taste of Country. This year’s lineup includes Brad Paisley, Dierks Bentley, Thompson Square and many other rising country stars. The festival is set to take place in Hunter, N.Y. For tickets without camping, the three-day festival taking place from June 13 to June 15 costs \$160, or \$89-\$99 per day. The same kind of atmosphere is offered at the Taste of Country festival as that of



Firefly music festival is one of the many festivals taking place this summer. Summer festivals have been gaining popularity among Neshaminy students and are a great investment for life-long memories.

Photo/ Firefly Festival Official Website

Firefly: campgrounds are a recommended option to get the most out of the festival experience.

Vans Warped Tour will be back again on July 11 at the Susquehanna Bank Center. Although this is not a multi-day festival, it fills the day to the brim with concert after concert. We the Kings, The Ready Set, Mayday Parade and Of Mice and Men are some of the headlining bands this year at the festival. A ticket for this show is about \$60.

The biggest and closest music festival in the area is undoubtedly the Made in America festival. The festival is held on the Ben Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia. This year’s massive lineup includes Kanye West, Kings of Leon, Pharrel

Williams and many more popular artists. The festival is held from Aug. 30-31 and each day ticket costs \$117. This festival is not only being held in Philadelphia: there is also a Los Angeles Made in America festival happening this same weekend, including many other popular artists such as John Mayer, Imagine Dragons, Chance the Rapper and Kendrick Lamar. “The east coast lineup looks great,” senior music enthusiast and Kanye West lover, Elsher Abraham, said. “Although the west coast lineup is probably more pleasing to hip hop fans.”

Festivals are a great investment for music devotees. As festivals become more popular, their lineups become stronger.

## Netflix increases prices, customers indifferent

By Matt Cruz  
Staff Writer

As of May 9, Netflix is raising its movies internet prices \$1 per month for all of its new customers and giving the current subscribers a two year reprieve from the recently implemented higher rates.

What this change means is that anyone who is signing up for Netflix’s internet movie service will pay \$9 a month instead of the former price of \$8 a month. Those who still pay the previous price will continue to pay that price until May 2016. Over 36 million people nationwide will pay the original \$8 a month!

In addition, Netflix said it is introducing a new \$8 plan, which provides only standard-definition-quality video limited to only one screen at a time instead of being able to screen programs from two devices at once.

“I’m not huge fan of the price increase. I feel it’s not going to do much in terms of price increase,” said junior

Brendan Grady, “but I do appreciate the reprieve for its current members.”

This is the first time in nearly three years Netflix will raise its prices. According to CNN, Netflix Inc. said it will use the extra money from the price increase so it can expand further their vast library of television and movie selections. Also, it must raise prices to continue to create great original television shows such as “Orange is the New Black” and “House of Cards.”

“If it means more shows and movies will be available, then I’m all for it,” Senior Shaelynn Trapp said.

By delaying the price increase for current members, it will avoid the epidemic it last faced in 2011 when nearly 800,000 subscribers dropped Netflix because of its 60 percent price increase. These unsubscribers caused a drastic drop in Netflix’s stock with an astounding 80 percent decrease in just one calendar year. Due to the dismay of many of its investors, Netflix was able to lure back most of its customers and by doing so, lifted to record highs earlier this year. According



STREAMING-- Popular movie-and-television streaming site Netflix has increased the price of its services by \$1 for all new customers.

Graphic/Netflix.com

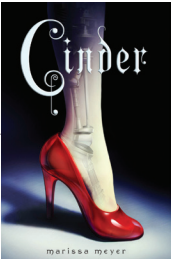
to a report from CNN, from the stock rose \$2.65 to \$324.31, a 122 percent rise in stocks in a matter of a few months.

Subscription prices will also be increased by the equivalent of about \$1 month in Netflix’s market outside of the U.S. The company ended March with nearly 13 million international customers in more than 40 countries.

### Dystopian

“Cinder” by Marissa Meyer

This fantastical and unique retelling of the beloved Cinderella story delves into the world of New Beijing, where humans and androids crowd the boisterous streets. And a deadly plague ravages the population. From space, a race of Lunar people watch, waiting to make their move. No one knows that Earth’s fate hinges on one cyborg Cinder, a second-class citizen with a mysterious past, reviled by her stepmother and blamed for her stepsister’s illness. But when her life becomes intertwined with the handsome Prince Kai’s, she suddenly finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle, and a forbidden attraction. Caught between duty and freedom, loyalty and betrayal, she must uncover secrets about her past in order to protect her world’s future.



### Historical Fiction

“Code Name Verity” by Elizabeth Wein

This is a gripping spy novel centered on the friendship of two young women in Britain during World War II Britain. When secret agent “Verity” is caught by the Gestapo, she promises to write down the details of her mission in hopes of prolonging her life and avoiding further torture. She weaves a narrative that recounts the history of her friendship with Maddie, who piloted their plane that crashed in Nazi-occupied France.

For different genres and book recommendations, see full article on [www.playwickian.com](http://www.playwickian.com)



## Influence of media in fashion world

By Monica Dinh  
Entertainment Editor

Runway shows, models, hair, makeup, exquisite clothing; these are all the main aspects of the fast paced fashion industry. Usually it is thought that designers like Karl Lagerfeld for Chanel, Alexander Wang, or the Mulleavy sisters over at Rodarte set the world’s trends, but at times there are other underlying influences. Designers are the ones who design the clothes that bloggers use, but bloggers can help draw attention to the designer’s work,” Shannon Francis, a former Neshaminy student, said.

Many years ago platforms for the fashion blogger were born. Some used Blogger, now run by Google, while others used Wordpress or their own domain. People like Bryan Boy, who has now been blogging for nearly 10 years, Leandra Medine of “The Man Repeller”, Susie Bubble, and many others are considered to be the beginnings of fashion blogging.

Since social media is extremely prominent in this day and age, fashion moves at a faster rate than it did years ago. Now bloggers have the means to write about new designers, review runway shows, analyze trends, and share photos of their personal outfits instantly.

Having the option to share their personal style and everyday “street style” with the world, bloggers play an enormous role in how society dresses. “Both designers and bloggers play a key role in what people wear, but I have to give the credit to where the inspiration stemmed from, which is the designers, although bloggers still have a pretty big influence” Francis said.

It can definitely be seen that bloggers have taken over the fashion industry nowadays and are now considered multifaceted people of sorts. At times a majority of bloggers not only post about fashion, but now about food, interior design, lifestyle, makeup, and adventure.

As for the future blogging is predicted to become more prominent and done by even more diverse groups of people.




Photo/ rosyeyedrookie.blogspot.com



Photo/ rosyeyedrookie.blogspot.com





Courtesy/ Wayne Jamison

**N**ESHAMINY ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

## Ryan Jamison: Volleyball captain enters collegiate level

**Julianne Miller**  
Circulation Editor

“He is the quintessential captain, when the team is down he picks them up, when the team needs a big play he provides one, and when the team needs to calm down he calms’ them down,” Volleyball assistant coach James Maloney said.

Jambot, Jam, RJam. No matter what you call him; Ryan Jamison is an animal, earning him a spot on Loyola University Chicago’s roster and a well-earned scholarship. Standing tall at 6’5”, weighing in at 165 pounds, with an impressive standing reach of 8’3” and a primary outside hitter, Jamison began playing Volleyball in ninth grade after his older brother introduced him to the game.

“My spark for volleyball was that it’s really team based and the sport really tests your mental toughness to play a whole match with a positive attitude,” Jamison said. Every day, he anticipated practice, as it gave him a way of relieving stress from school while also being able to team up with his best friends.

“We had a season to remember as we made history winning the league, runners up in the district and the biggest was going to states for the first time in 17 years for the program,” Jamison said. The Neshaminy volleyball team had an outstanding season, with an overall standing of 17-3, ending the year as number three in the state amongst AAA teams. Jamison certainly helped lead the team to their many wins by exceeding any and all expectations while swinging outside.

Jamison has plans for the summer with his club team, Yorktowne Volleyball, as they travel to Houston, Texas at the end of June to play against some of the best teams in the country. In the midst of his busy schedule, he will be taking a month off to work and spend time with friends and family before leaving for college.

This past season was an incredible season for Jamison and the Neshaminy volleyball squad. Achieving great success, making it to the State Quarterfinals and ranked third in the state the volleyball team was only stopped by the number one team Central York.

In August, Jamison will be a proud student at Loyola University Chicago where he will be playing Division One volleyball. Loyola recently won the national championship for volleyball and is the number one team in the nation. “I have a lot to look forward too,” Jamison said.

Jamison will without a doubt lead the Loyola Ramblers to a successful season. Jamison has left a lasting legacy during his time on the Neshaminy volleyball program, and has helped to set a standard for future teams. It has been quite the ride for Jamison, but his volleyball career is just getting started.

# VOLLEYBALL: Successful season leads to states

Continued from 1  
By Corey Laquay  
Photography Editor

Unfortunately, their efforts were no match for Pennsbury who came back to take the fifth set 15 to 11 after trading wins back and forth. With the loss, Neshaminy dropped their first game all season resulting in a tie in the Suburban One standings. The awe and excitement of a sole title win slipped the grasps of Neshaminy and were now in the hands of both teams.

“It was an incredible night and an amazing fight by both teams. Pennsbury was able to capitalize on our mistakes. Hats off to them,” head coach Kevin Roode said.

Despite the loss, the boys’ volleyball team entered the post season with the number three seed and a bye for the first round of the District One playoffs. Souderton entered Neshaminy’s gym for the second round of playoffs after a win against Abington. It was Neshaminy’s first game of the playoffs, and they took care of business, defeating Souderton in four games after dropping one set.

The boys’ volleyball team entered the next round of the District One playoffs with confidence. Neshaminy rolled over Pennridge in a three-game sweep. Neshaminy won the first set 25 to 20, and took the next two 25 to 17 and 25 to 22. “We served really well that game. It’s been something we’ve struggled with all year, and we effectively capitalized on our mistakes,” said Roode. The boys’ volleyball team was headed to the state playoffs for the first time since 1997.

On the other side of the bracket, Central Bucks West defeated North Penn to make it to the district final where they would face off against Neshaminy on May 22. Until that point, Neshaminy had not faced a more difficult opponent. It was their first true test.

Despite shocking everyone with a win in the first and fourth sets, Neshaminy tragically ran out of steam in the fifth and final set to 15 after losing games two and three. It was an exhausting finish to a two-hour game. This heartbreaking loss earned them runner up in the district, but their run at the state title was in no way impacted.

Pennridge and the District One Champions, Central Bucks West also punched their tickets to states. Pennridge defeated North Penn in a consolation match to earn them a spot in the state tournament as well.

In the first round of the state playoffs, Neshaminy squared off against Emmaus at Abington High School on May 28. The boys’ volleyball team swept Emmaus three games to none, winning the first two sets 25 to 18 and 25 to 22, and capping off the match with a dominant 25 to 13 victory to take the win overall.

With the win, Neshaminy advanced to the state quarterfinals, where they would face the number one team in the state, Central York.

Both Central York and Neshaminy met at Exeter High School in Reading on May 28 to determine if Central York really deserved their place atop the state rankings, and whether or not Neshaminy would be able to prove them wrong. Neither team was prepared to give up.

After a difficult 25 to 21 loss in the first set,

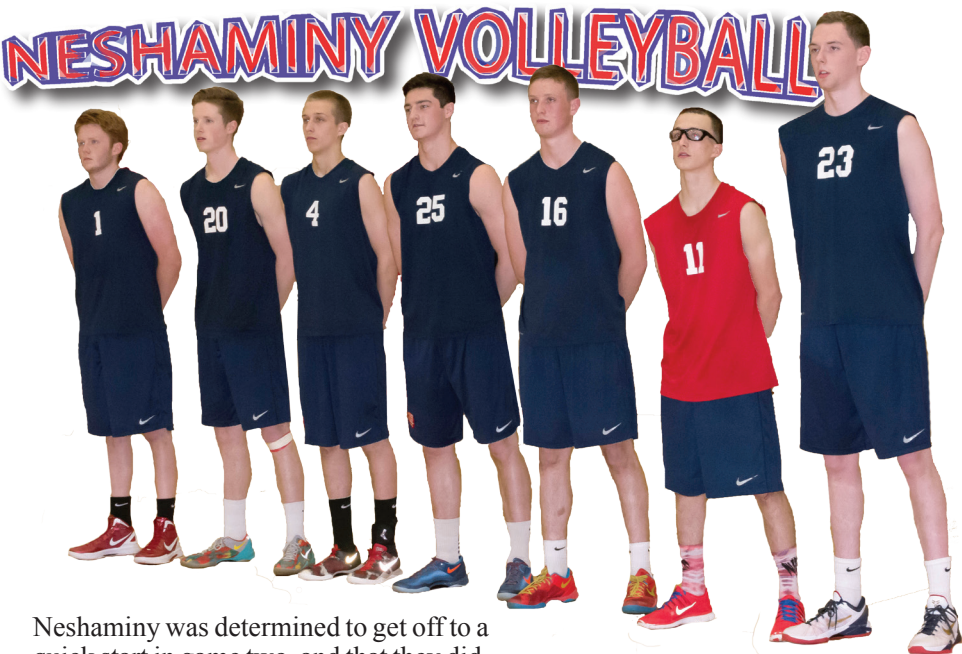


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Neshaminy was determined to get off to a quick start in game two, and that they did. They took a commanding seven to two lead after hosting a block party in which they put up four consecutive blocks, followed by a team captain Jamison kill.

“We really came out with a ton of energy during that game and played physical volleyball,” said Jamison. Unfortunately, Central York scored four of the next five points to take an eight to six lead, then scored seven straight after a Neshaminy time-out. The score now stood 13 to eight Central York. Neshaminy dropped the second set 25 to 14.

The third game started out to Neshaminy’s advantage, taking an early four to three lead, but Central York pushed ahead. After a Central York block, the score was 12 to nine. Neshaminy refused to give up, pushing the score back to 20 to 15.

It wasn’t enough to stop the powerhouse Central York squad. They pushed the next five points and went on to take the third and final set, earning them the victory overall and ending Neshaminy’s storybook season.

“Central York really played well at the net and stayed disciplined on their blocks. They weren’t overpowering, but it was enough to slow down our momentum and keep us in check,” Roode said.

“They’re a really good team. They’re definitely the best team we’ve played all year, and they made us battle,” Jamison said. “They took it to us when we were down. We couldn’t slide out of that one rotation, which killed us.”

It was a bittersweet ending to what was ultimately the best season in Neshaminy volleyball history. People were skeptical of their 12-man roster composed entirely of seniors and whether or not the lack of experience would affect

their contention. All of Neshaminy’s players have played volleyball for only four years, some starters only playing for one year prior to this season.

From the very beginning, Neshaminy had a chip on their shoulder and something to prove. Last season ended in a very disappointing fashion after losing in the second round of the district playoffs. This season, it was states or bust.

In years prior, the volleyball team has been somewhat of an oversight at Neshaminy High School. This year was different. “The lank squad” created a cult following of loyal fans that came out to nearly every game, and the team did not disappoint.

14 and one, Dallastown Invitational champions, Suburban One League champions, Runners-up in District One, state quarterfinalists and ranked third overall in the state. Not a bad year at all for Neshaminy volleyball.

“I’m so proud of these guys and how far they’ve come since the beginning of this season. It’s a shame how our season had to end, but it’s been a pleasure to see them grow together as a team and improve as players. I wish them the best of luck in the future,” said Roode.

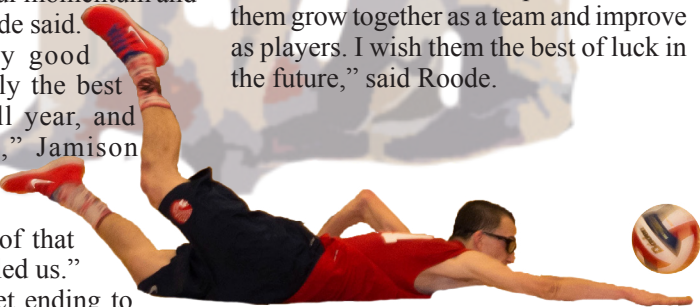


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