

Board finalizes support staff contract



By Solomiya Syvyk
News Editor

After several months of deliberation, the Neshaminy Educational Support Professional Association (NESPA) approved a new four-year contract with the school district on Oct. 24. Negotiations and talks had been going on since May, as the previous agreement expired June 30. In order to minimize costs, the district referred to the primary idea of outsourcing, a process that is included in the finalized deal, which otherwise has largely remained the same compared to the former.

Following approximately 100 members of NESPA vocalizing their concerns and petitioning for their jobs at a school board meeting in June, the contract was approved on Oct.28 with a vote of 8 to 1.

“From a district perspective, the new contract will help alleviate some significant resources - close to \$1.5M in operation cost - that we can use for educational priorities while improving efficiency from a management perspective. From an employee viewpoint, we worked in concert to insure that as few as possible current employees were impacted by the changes, while providing incentives for those that are considering retirement,” school board member Mark Shubin said.

Up to 73 union jobs may be outsourced, with a total of 52 replaced from the categories of Transportation, Instructional, Custodial, and Non-Instructional Aides.

Every bargaining unit or NESPA

OUTSOURCING- Secretary Jacki Gimello and custodian Kevin Huckel (L to R) are members of NESPA, which recently negotiated a contract with the school board in which 73 jobs will be outsourced. Photo/ Solomiya Syvyk

See Outsourcing: pg 2

Dem. Wolf: victor among GOP red tide around nation

By Jackson Haines
Managing Editor

With his wife smiling behind him, governor-elect Tom Wolf approached the podium in Utz Stadium to thunderous applause. He flashed a big grin, clapped, and exclaimed “Wow, this is great!” For him, it was. Wolf, a democrat and businessman, was elected Pennsylvania governor over incumbent Tom Corbett by a nine percent margin (54 to 45), making Corbett the first governor in state history to lose re-election after his first term.

But for Tom Wolf’s party, the night of Nov. 4 proved to be a long one. Locally, Tommy Tomlinson, the Republican incumbent, defeated his democratic challenger Kimberly Rose for the state senate seat. Frank Farry, the 142nd district’s state representative, defended his position against democratic challenger Gina Kiley. They won by

wide margins, winning 62 percent and 64 percent of the vote, respectively.

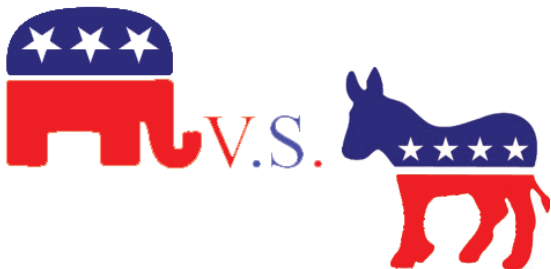
Nowhere was the red tide of the Republicans as evident as on the national stage. In Pennsylvania’s 8th district, the House of Representative seat went to incumbent Mike Fitzpatrick, the Republican candidate. This is the third consecutive time Fitzpatrick has won that race. Otherwise, the Grand Old Party Republicans strengthened their hold on the House of Representatives, with Republicans having a net gain of 10 seats (they won 11 new seats, and lost one).

Just as political pundits had predicted, the Senate was snatched by the Republicans. Closely watched races in Arkansas, Iowa, Georgia and Kansas went Republican. In North Carolina, a state that was expected to re-elect democrat Kay Hagan, Republican Thom Willis won by the smallest of Margins. West Virginia, too, went red.

After a long, brutal campaign, Senate Minority leader Mitch McConnell defeated his opponent, Allison Lundergan Grimes by a wide margin. With his party now on top, McConnell will likely become Senate Majority leader.

Republican candidates won the governorship in the traditionally Democratic states of Maryland, Massachusetts, and Illinois. Republican incumbents held off Democratic challenges in many other states.

With congressional control entirely held by the Republicans, pundits and observers are questioning what the president’s next move will be, and how he will relate with this new Washington. Obama had originally planned executive action on immigration, but postponed



Graphic/ Grace Marion

any decision on the matter until after the midterm elections. With that in mind, Obama is now expected to make his move. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell is expected to be Senate Majority Leader now. Whatever comes of this election, pundits believe, is sure to be a gridlocked dance, crafted with giving the respective parties their best shot at winning the White House in 2016.



Graphic/ Grace Marion

Student body misuses entertainment app

By Tim Cho
Student Life & Web Editor

“If you act like an adult, we will treat you like an adult. We eat, enjoy coffee and drink in the hallway, use iPod and phones at NHS (Neshaminy High School) because the students behave like adults. Today some did not act like adults,” said principal Robert McGee as he addressed the entire student body by public address announcement on Oct. 29 regarding recent abuse of a social media app.

This app, Yik Yak, allowing anonymous posts to be seen by anyone in a one and a half mile radius, has become an infamous name in Neshaminy. Days before Halloween, Neshaminy administrators were notified of cyberbullying on Yik Yak. Quickly taking action, administration sent an e-mail to parents informing them of the app and encouraged them to speak with their children about its consequences.

Students posted offensive and otherwise inappropriate comments under other students’ names, and the situation soon escalated. Comments targeted physical appearances, specific friends, and other vulnerable aspects of teenagers’ lives. Yik Yak has recently seen an uprising of negative uses of the app. The Guardian reported that, “Myriad threats of violence, sex crimes and hate crimes have

been reported, including a mass shooting threat and the circulation of a sex tape.”

Originally created as a news hub type of social media, it allowed people to post comments for others to see. However, Yik Yak has become a center of “word vomit,” said Kelsey Duff, 19-year-old sophomore at the University of San Francisco, to Forbes.

Nevertheless, once word of Yik Yak reached the administration of Neshaminy, they took immediate action. McGee’s first thought: “What is the quickest way to resolve a problem involving potentially over 2,500 teenagers? Ask the teenagers and parents to help solve it.” Teachers and parents were asked via e-mail to “flag” posts for removal,” as two “flags” will remove the post within a few minutes. Students were asked to act responsibly and remember that “today’s decisions affect tomorrow’s opportunity.”

Neshaminy then adopted a temporary suspension of cell phone privileges for the next day, and saw a decline of victimizing posts by Oct. 30. As an added precaution, Neshaminy contacted and worked with Yik Yak to create a “geofence,” a no-access zone for anyone attempting to connect to the app.

After stabilizing the high school’s atmosphere, Neshaminy began working with the Middle Town Police Department (MTPD) to investigate the initial cause of the inappropriate posting on Yik Yak. Not uncommon is the correspondence of

Neshaminy and the MTPD as, “NHS often consults with MTPD on issues. We have a great working relationship,” said McGee.

Parents have voiced their concerns as well. Stanley Esposito, Langhorne resident and parent of a Neshaminy student, expressed his worries to his own children. “My first thought was to see if

that “bullying can lead to many physical, mental, emotional and social health problems. It can decrease a person’s self-esteem. All of these harmful effects could limit a person’s ability to achieve in school, organized sports/clubs and socially with peers and family.”

Students have spoken out as well.

Whether to each other or on social media, many have frowned upon the anonymous postings. Christina Chen, junior, believes that, “Anonymity grants kids more power than they should have, and of course when presented with power, kids are gonna abuse it.”

Likewise, “Some people were quick to join because they believed it was actually anonymous, when in reality it was not,” said junior Cole

Tiemann. This false sense of anonymity was addressed by McGee as well, “Posts are not anonymous, they can be tracked with an IP [Internet Provider] Address back to the phone, to the Service Provider and then to the billing address of the phone.” While Neshaminy administration has blocked Yik Yak from the high school’s campus, Esposito believes, “Banning apps won’t matter to me because there will always be another app.” He believes the issue is not the social media apps themselves, but in how kids use them; teach kids how to responsibly use social media, not take those resources away. “The latest and greatest apps come and go. Our kids are here for the long haul.”



YIK YAK - Colleges and high schools around the country have had their students misuse an app through its anonymity feature to make bomb threats. The app has both enhanced violence and cyber bullying in the nation.
Photo/ www.albany.edu

my kids had the app. My daughter did not have it. My son grew tired of it and lost interest.”

Mirroring McGee’s “today’s decisions affects tomorrow’s opportunities,” Esposito “always emphasizes that their future could possibly ride on every post. I tell them if they would not want their family to see their post, don’t hit send.” He fears social media apps, like Yik Yak, will, “take over their lives. I fear that they will lose their people skills. It is very important to retain communication and verbal skills. I’m afraid their grammar and writing skills are taking a hit.” Grammar and writing skills are not the only aspects that are negatively impacted. Health and physical education teacher Amy Geruc believes

CB West: Hazing taken to extreme by players on football team

By Jess McClelland
Student Life Editor

Throughout the years, football hazing, the subjection to harassment or ridicule has become an issue. Some schools have reported that Senior Varsity players would make the Freshman Junior Varsity players run around in their underwear or do 50 more push-ups at practice, but the players at Central Bucks West High School took

also given new and involuntary haircuts. The players returned to the picnic looking unaffected.

The reports began two months later. A student was reportedly punched in the face for refusing to receive a haircut. The older players began a game inspired by Comedy Central’s, Tosh.0. A new student was forced to touch another player inappropriately, while he

was fully clothed, and in front of the other players. That’s when the superintendent decided to suspend the football program until there were further investigations.

“It was messed up. No one should have to go through that “Our team would have actually stopped it. None of our seniors are like that,” said Matt Roccia, who plays on Junior Varsity as offensive tackle.

The homecoming game suspension impacted everyone in the CB community. Some

of the students felt that the punishment was too harsh; others figured it wasn’t harsh enough. “It’s a big tradition, this game. It definitely sends a message to the players,” Central Bucks Junior Ben Harris told Times Colonist.

The players who were involved have not been named, nor have the results of any investigation been released.. The entire coaching staff is required to take coaching education in July of 2016. “Hazing or anything else-- demeaning others--is unacceptable,” said Assistant Varsity coach, David Ferrara. “Hazing in general is wrong and has to be prevented.”



ALLEGATIONS - Administration discovered inappropriate tactics that senior football players used on new teammates, leading them to cancel the season.
Photo/ cbstd.org

it further than that.

The CB Schools’ superintendent, David Weitzel, canceled the remainder of the Junior Varsity and Varsity football games after reports of hazing, including the Varsity homecoming game against their rivals, Central Bucks East. Both of the teams’ coaches have also been suspended until further notice.

The incident occurred on Aug. 16 at a picnic after a scrimmage against Abington High School. Players left the picnic to go into the locker rooms, where the hazing took place. Kids were forced to walk through showers so talcum powder would stick as it was thrown at them; they were

Outsourcing: CONTINUED FROM 1

member will be offered a one-time retirement inducement that includes for each employee who accepts the offer, 17.5 percent of their 2014-2015 base salary, placed into their retirement account. The individuals must give notification by March 1 and retire by June 30 to receive the compensation. If members refuse to take the retirement plan, the school district is entitled to lay off the workers until the total of 52 is outsourced.

The 33-page agreement states that the newest bargaining unit members will be laid off first; this practice will be used for each category. The remaining 21 jobs are to be filled with contracted services if they become vacant for any reason in any of the four categories.

On account of the food service program, the district is able to subcontract the operation, although this due will not be exercised before June; a 90-day bargaining period was instated.

Two levels of employees were established as well on the basis of whether the individual began working before, on, or after June 30; the Pre-Ratification Grandfathered employees and Pre-Ratification New Hire Employees are on one tier, while the Post-Ratification New Hire Employees are on another.

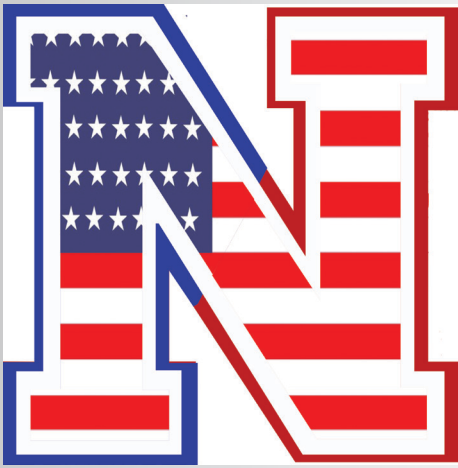
The latter is to receive considerably lower wages, medical-surgical and major

medical insurance for only themselves; if full coverage is wanted, the difference must be paid in premiums. Pre- and Post-Ratification New Hires will receive 75 percent of applicable benefits.

A part-time employee must work for at least 30 hours to receive the benefits, with the exception of those employed before June 30, 1993--for whom 25 hours of work will suffice to be eligible. “When people are out we have to cover their hallways. There are no substitute janitors. We also got a pay cut for Black Friday. We can’t work or take a vacation day. It’s a reduction in our overall salary. In the end, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer,” custodian Kevin Huckel, who is in his tenth year of work for Neshaminy, said.

“It is my sincere hope that our new governor will find a way to work with the legislature to fix the educational funding formula, provide relief for the pension challenge, and deal with special education funding so that we can stop being so focused

on cutting costs and start investing in our future. I would also like to encourage students that want to participate to generate ideas about how the district can improve efficiency and reduce operational costs. Send us an e-mail with your ideas,” Shubin added.



‘The Drowsy Chaperone’ under production

By **Nina Caruso and Tim Cho**
*Staff Writer,
Student Life & Web Editor*

Lights, costumes, action! After rigorous auditioning processes and intense callbacks, the cast list for the school musical, “The Drowsy Chaperone,” an interactive homage to American musicals of the Jazz Age, was released in October.

A team of local entertainment specialists collaborated on a judges’ panel, but the overall cast selection remained in the hands of the director, Jason Leigh. Leigh said, “It was a tough decision. We had to cut more than half of the talented actors and actresses in this production and it breaks my heart. We still have to put on the best production possible.”

Students will act, dance and sing their hearts out for two months to portray strong characters such as Main in Chair, who watches the show from his armchair and continuously tears down the “fourth wall” between the audience and Janet Van de Graaff, a showgirl who plans on giving up her career for married life.

Morgan McCormick, a senior taking on the role of the Drowsy

Chaperone, said “It’s a hilarious show; perfect for all ages. I love it!” The show is set to be performed in late January in the Theodore Kloos Auditorium.

With a cast list featuring many old-timers, “The Drowsy Chaperone” is bound to be another highly anticipated musical, not only because of the choice of production, but, “especially because of the talent,” as Daniel Booda, sophomore and Student Director, said.

The Main in Chair (played by Forrest Filiano and Patrick Singer), a Broadway fanatic, begins the musical by listening to a recording of a musical comedy, also known as The Drowsy Chaperone, and the musical transforms into the comedy itself, all narrated by the Man in Chair

Talented participants, ranging from McCormick, Brian Thomas, Allison Wiatrowski, Joseph Lisowski, to Filiano and Singer, Rebecca Allen, Emre Fisher, Hunter Kelly and Megan Walsh, will surely contribute their individual abilities to their roles to produce an unique and memorable musical.

An intriguing aspect of “The Drowsy Chaperone” is the show-within-a-show element, where the musical itself is about the Man in Chair listening and narrating a musical. This allows the Man in Chair to serve as a middle man, caught between

the real life audience and the recording he is listening to.

This unusual, yet exciting, concept will be adapted and performed by the successful Neshaminy actors and actresses for audiences of any age.

Cast List Preview

- Adolpho**
Robert Clark, Senior
Joseph Lisowski, Senior
- Man in Chair**
Forrest Filiano, Junior
Patrick Singer, Junior
- The Drowsy Chaperone**
Brian Davis, Senior
Emre Fisher, Junior
- Janet Van De Graaf**
Allison Wiatrowski, Senior
Rebecca Allen, Junior
- Mrs. Tottendale**
Julie Hemmingway, Senior
Megan Walsh, Sophomore



PREPERATIONS--Every rehearsal is just as important as the big night.
Photo/Jessica McClelland

Senior strives for highest honor Years’ worth of effort pays off

By **Monica Dinh**
Entertainment Editor

After a 12 year career in both the Cub scouts and Boy Scouts, Senior Luke Hellyer is set to achieve the honor of Eagle Scout, the highest attainable rank in the Boy Scout’s program of the Boy Scouts of America, is no easy feat to pursue. To achieve the rank of an Eagle Scout Hellyer first earned six other ranks including Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star and Life.

In addition a Scout must amass 21 different merit badges ranging in a variety of



VOLUNTEER--Luke Hellyer, after seven years as a Boy Scout, aims to earn the Eagle Scout Rank.
Photo/Monica Dinh

topics from sports to crafts and sciences to business. Hellyer attended meetings weekly and completed many community service hours yearly, while also holding a troop leadership position for six months.

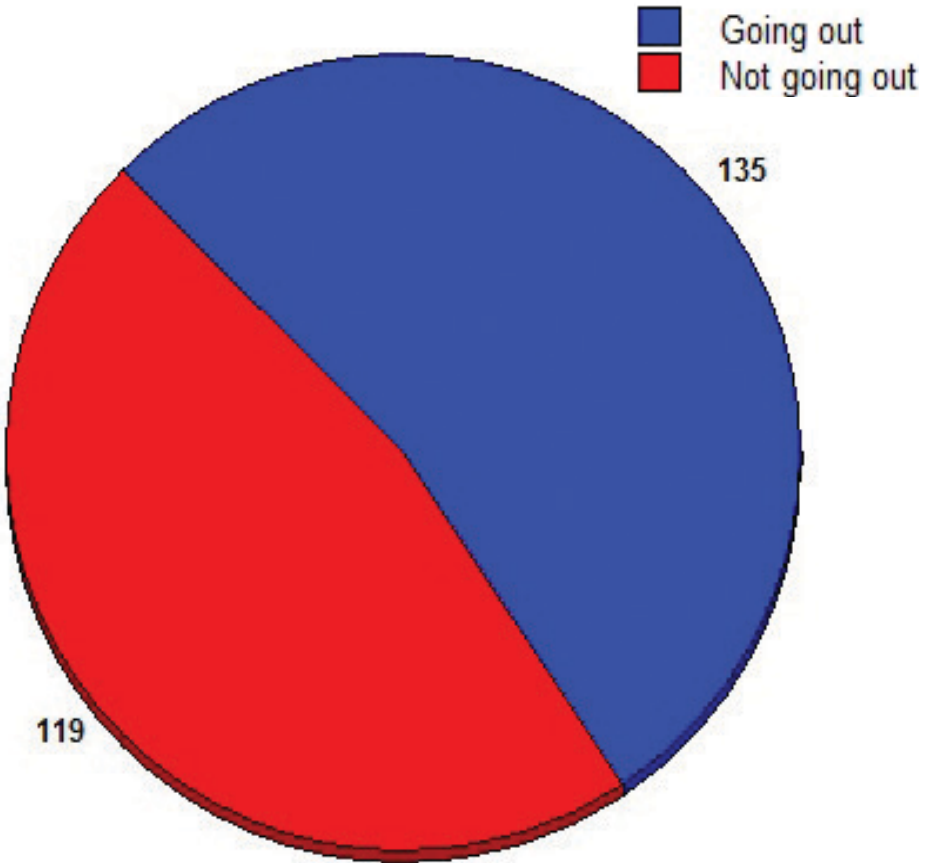
Recently Hellyer completed his Eagle Scout Project. “Completing my project has definitely been my greatest achievement as a Boy Scout so far,” Hellyer said.

During Neshaminy’s last football game of the season against Pennsbury, Hellyer held and coordinated a food drive benefiting the Penndel Food Pantry. At last count the Scout raised 150 pounds of food and about \$100 in donations.

“I feel surreal because I have worked so hard to get to this point. I haven’t fathomed how close I am until now,” Hellyer said about nearly earning the Eagle Scout ranking.

The Boy Scouts program has no doubt formed Hellyer into a charismatic, respectable young man. “As a Boy Scout one of the greatest things I learned is to always help others because it is the right thing to do,” Hellyer said.

Black Friday Participants



BLACK FRIDAY--Despite access to online shopping, over half of surveyed students plan on physically shopping at stores. Among those staying inside, common comments included Amazon, Ebay and other online shopping sites. Those who venture outside do it for the experience of shopping with friends and family. 254 students were surveyed in total; all four grades are represented in this survey.

Infographic/Timothy Cho

NATURAL FOODS STORE
131 Hulmeville Ave. • Penndel • PA 19047
OPEN: Mon Thru Fri: 10-6:30 • Sat: 10-5:30
Proudly Serving You Since 1985
Bulk • Nut Butters • Groceries • Gluten-free
Herbs • Supplements • Homeopathy
Body Care • Specialty Items
215-752-7268
www.naturalfoodsstore.com

Photo/ mctcampus.com

CROSSFIRE

Pennsbury policy makes zero percent impossible

Does a ‘no zero’ policy grading system, like Pennsbury’s, encourage struggling students to keep trying?



By Maddy Buffardi

High Schools nationwide as well as locally—as close as Pennsbury High School—have enacted a new rule regarding their grading systems. The rule will no longer allow students to receive a zero percent on assignments, even if they don’t hand them in.

This policy is being instituted in hopes of negating student tendency to “dig themselves into a hole.” Meaning, that once a student gets a zero he or she will be unable to pull their grades up to passing, since the zero plummets their average so drastically.

Detractors of this plan may say that students should not get credit for doing nothing, but it should be kept in mind that both a zero and a 50 percent are considered failing grades – one just gives more opportunity to come back from.

High school is stressful, and it is no secret that the course load is heavy. There will be times, for most students, that they simply miss an assignment. But this new grading system is acknowledging that these slip-ups happen and that the student should have the chance to redeem themselves and their grades.

Cases do occur where a student in their final year of high school will be failing a class, or classes, and it is to their knowledge that they do not have a possibility of passing and subsequently cannot graduate. In cases such as these it would be the hope that the student

“By implementing this system into schools you are not deterring the student body from learning, but rather giving them incentive to keep trying.”

pushes through and takes summer classes or even another year in order to graduate at some point. But, some students, with such an overwhelming sense of failure and inability to change will drop out of high school.

This grading system hopes to give students opportunities so that they do not feel that their only option is to drop out, and so that high school doesn’t make them feel helpless.

Some may feel that this is catering to the student who chooses to do the bare minimum to get by. But the system is not to take away from what students who excel in school do, but rather to make high school seem possible for some who may have felt that it wasn’t.

“I feel like giving a student a 50 as opposed to a zero is a fair system. Sometimes, just one zero sinks your grade to the point of not being able to bring it up, especially if there isn’t many assignments for that marking period. I agree with the system.”

senior and AP student K a i t i e A n d r e w s said.

There are times in which the American education system allows it’s students to fall through the cracks, often times the “average” student is catered to. Those who excel go unnoticed and those who struggle go unaided. Sometimes, if a student feels stupid; like they cannot understand or do a particular topic – they won’t. The new system hopes to not lose those who may have been failed by their schools.

By implementing this system into schools you are not deterring the student body from learning, but rather giving them incentive to keep trying. This plan is not to reward students for doing nothing, but rather to cater to all students – and to understand that there are some individuals who will give up when they feel like failures. Implementing this new system would be a step forward for our high school and would be beneficial to the student body.



By Alli Kaufman
Sports Editor

If an employee doesn’t show up for work should they still get half of their pay check? If a student skips school should they still get half of their diploma? The answer to both of these questions is very simply, and very obviously, no. So should a student get a 50 percent on an assignment they don’t do? Again, the answer would appear to be no.

Pennsbury High School, along with many other high schools around the country, no longer agree.

In a new policy that has been instated this year and approved by the Pennsbury Education Committee, students will now receive half credit on assignments they do not turn in. Students are now receiving 50 percent of the points for zero percent of the work

Superintendent of the Pennsbury School District, Dr. Kevin McHugh, thinks this policy is helping the students “Once they get a zero, they can’t climb out of that hole. [The students] then have no incentive to keep learning,” McHugh said in an interview with Levittown Now. Following McHugh’s argument that this policy is giving student’s an incentive to learn, where is there incentive to do their work? And to continue, what learning is really taking place with the implementation of this policy? In most districts and classrooms students may receive partial credit for work by turning it in late but in the Pennsbury School

“The policy allows students to graduate barely passing classes, making the district look better as a whole by raising their graduation statistics.”

District, and increasingly more schools, they don’t have to do anything it at all. The point of an assignment is to reteach or reinforce learning that takes place in the classroom, so by giving the students points for the assignments without having to do them there is no incentive to actually learn.

Pennsbury isn’t the only school implementing this policy. The Orange County School Board of Orlando, Fl. plans to vote on a similar policy for the 2014-2015 school year. As more schools explore this policy it may be only a matter of time before the Neshaminy School Board proposes a similar grading system. Implementing a system like this would be detrimental to the quality of education received by students.

“Rewarding laziness is asinine and will only make kids more entitled. It’s equivalent to participation trophies in little league,” Neshaminy senior and AP student Jasper Nelson said in response to this new policy. The policy is teaching students that they can get through life doing the bare minimum—and in the case of Pennsbury, the bare minimum is doing absolutely nothing.

The district is using this new policy to keep kids in school and to keep juniors and seniors from dropping out. The policy allows students to graduate barely passing classes, making the district look better as a whole by raising their graduation statistics. Regardless of the intent of the Pennsbury School District, what it really comes down to is the students and it would appear this policy is doing nothing to benefit the students except falsely inflating their GPAs.

Sure the schools can argue that a 50 percent is still a failing grade but a student only needs a 60 percent to pass. Allowing students to easily pass a class may help them superficially, but in the long term this policy is only hurting them—and hurting the quality of education received by students.

High expectations at school kill student interest

By Brynn MacDougall
Op-Ed Editor

Kids hate school. That is no mystery. What’s truly shocking is the reason and extent of the hatred.

This school positively radiates misery. Waking up at the crack of dawn, sometimes earlier, and going through the same monotonous routine for five days a week, almost every week does not inspire students, it wears them down.

Now, add physically draining sports, and mentally draining homework to the pile, add a part time job, PSAT/SAT test prep and the actual testing, out of school activities. Students can be easily overwhelmed. Instead of showing compassion and understanding, many adults tell teens that they are lazy for taking a break and have to work harder if they want to amount anything.

How can they try harder when they are just barely keeping their heads above water as it is?

When people Google “school is,” the top results are “a prison,” “too stressful,” and “pointless”. Popular search results for “school makes me want to” are “throw up,” “cut,” and “cry”. This is a clear signal that the school administrators and teachers are

holding students up to an unreasonable standard. It is incredibly difficult to balance schoolwork, extra-circulars, jobs, and their social lives. The pressure to achieve good grades and remain socially active is nothing short of suffocating and has leads many students to develop depression and/or stress disorders.

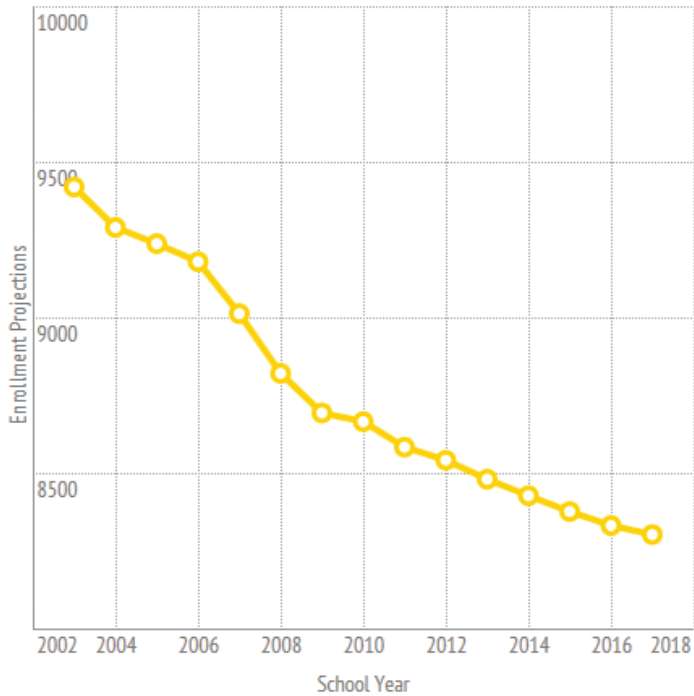
Denise Pope, senior lecturer at the Stanford Graduate School of Education conducted a study of how many students were stressed by their workloads. She found that 56 percent cited homework as a source of their stress.

“Everything is overwhelming...having nothing to do over the weekend other than homework. Even studying is stressful because you have to do it so often so you don’t get a bad grade,” said sophomore Mackenzie Crescenzo.

It is time for schools to cut back on the pressure and workload and try to make learning fun. Some teachers use Jeopardy style game to help students review in class for tests. Perhaps this should be implemented more often, potentially replacing review packets. Games are stimulating whereas packets tend to bore students and are easy to slack off on and usually don’t hold students interest.

Another solution is relating the subject being taught to current events. If there is a real life connection, students may feel more engaged.

Enrollment Projections



POPULATION — Enrollment for Neshaminy school district's schools has declined from 2002 with 9500 students and is expected to decline to under 8500 enrollments in 2018.

Graphic/Emily Fikshan

5th grade move sparks conflicting viewpoints

By Gauri Mangala
Features Editor

Debate continues on the move of Fifth Grade to Middle School in Neshaminy. On Tues., Oct. 28, long and strenuous debate as to whether or not the fifth graders of Neshaminy should be moved up to middle school has ended with a 6 to 3 vote of the school board members in favor of the move. However, this argument has not ceased. Members of the Neshaminy community continue to voice their opinions both for and against this change.

People for this change argue that the plan allows for money to be used elsewhere. For example, additional programs can be added, like reinstating a middle school level world language program back into the curriculum.

“Bringing fifth graders to the middle school will allow them to grow educationally. This change will affect fifth graders for the better. The middle schools offer more for the advanced learner and have much more support for

the child who struggles in school,” Raina Shoemaker, community member, said.

Some do oppose this change, stating that the move would negatively impact the wellbeing of young students. They argue that the fifth graders would not be able to develop both emotionally and mentally if they are placed in middle school too early.

“Fifth graders would not know how to handle situations like physical and verbal fights that students get into at that age,” Bree Wojnar, senior, said. “[They] would be corrupted by all of the terrible things that sixth-eighth graders do inside and outside of school.”

According to edweek.org, the transition to middle school is detrimental to a student’s academic success. This questions that if middle school is hard for kids in general, how will 10 year olds, who are already dealing with deciding who they are, deal with the pressures deal with it?

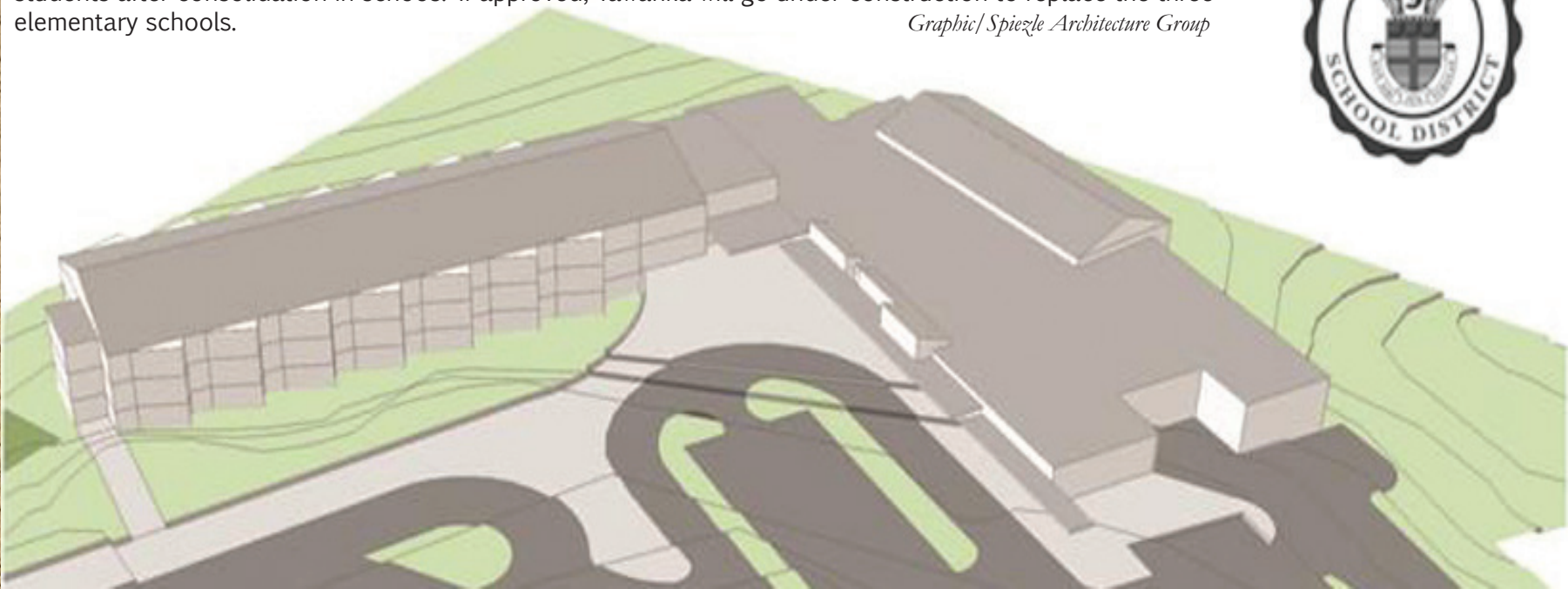
While, this decision to move the fifth graders has been finalized, the issue is still being discussed due to strong opinions that do need to be reevaluated in order to get everyone on board with this very real plan.

New Face of Neshaminy Middle Schools

Graphic/Grace Marion

NEW SCHOOL MODEL — A “super school” to be placed within Tawanka will take place of the overflow of students after consolidation in schools. If approved, Tawanka will go under construction to replace the three elementary schools.

Graphic/Spizgle Architecture Group



School board moves to close 3 schools, vote in December

By Ashley Reiss
Features Editor

Neshaminy School District is making drastic changes which are being met with a lot of controversy across the board. The school district has already approved a five to eight model for middle schools and has plans to change the number of elementary schools in the district.

The school board is also planning to shut down 3 elementary schools in the district; Oliver Heckman, Lower Southampton, and Samuel Everitt to make a joint elementary school at the site of Tawanka in Lower Southampton. “According to Neshaminy officials, consolidation could save the district an estimated \$2 million a year in operating costs and teaching positions,” Bucks Local News said.

“Our objective is to reallocate resources from our buildings back into the classroom and avoid potential programmatic cuts due to continued deficit spending by the district,” board member Mark Shubin said. However, it would cause more than 20 teaching positions to be removed and would also force elementary aged students to make a longer commute to and from school.

Although many residents, parents, and also the teacher union are opposed to the new idea of closing three elementary schools to make way for a new bigger one.

“I think the switch will not be beneficial because kids will now have to deal with longer bus rides and have to deal with an overwhelming atmosphere,” sophomore Corinne Bernatowicz said. The concern of kids bus rides, their

schools closing, and the concern of the new model of 5-8 in middle school was all voiced at a meetings held to discuss the new plans.

The school board on Oct 28 approved, by a vote of six to three, scheduling state mandate public hearings regarding building a new 800-student elementary school in lieu of act 34 which “is the process that the State of PA requires to inform the public around a large construction project.

This hearing is set up so that the public can voice their opinions and concerns prior to a dedicated vote on moving to the next step,” Shubin said. The first hearing will be held on Thurs Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. at Neshaminy High School, which will feature various topics on how the district will pay for the costs and testimony from the public.



SCHOOLS — Elementary schools (left to right) Lower Southampton, Oliver Heckman, and Samuel Everett Elementary Schools are the schools planned to be closed if last plan for consolidation of schools is finalized in December.

Photo/District Website

5th grade joins middle school in upcoming school year

By Gillian McGoldrick
Editor-in-Chief

School board members sounded off “Aye” on Oct. 23 to give new shape to middle schools in Neshaminy. With a vote of 6-3 in favor of change, fifth graders will now be learning in middle schools, beginning in the 2015-2016 school year.

The idea for this new school structure came about to help solve the declining enrollment in Neshaminy school district. Students in the fifth grade will be physically blockaded from students in grades 6-8, according to Neshaminy school district’s website. Fifth-grade Students will also be monitored in the hallways and escorted to classes for first couple weeks of school until it is no longer necessary and the students are familiar with the schools.

Teachers and faculty were asked to join a 5-8 Work Group to prepare the best possible model to display to the school board. This group of 30 parents, administrators, and teachers met once or twice a month for about six months in preparation. “From the beginning it was made clear that our decision was not ‘yes’ or ‘no,’” Neshaminy teacher and work group member, Joseph Pimble, said. “The question was ‘How do we move forward in the best way possible for the students should the board vote ‘yes’?”

This 5-8 Work Group, through their many meetings, visited different schools with the 5-8 model. These schools included local and highly-esteemed districts such as Upper Dublin and Upper Merion school districts. The classrooms will still also be similar to that of the classic fifth grade room. There will be block schedules alike to the 6-8 schedules.

Many parents and students within the district have been weary about the moving of students up to the middle school. Worries included earlier start time for the children, and also of bullying by the age gap of the classes.

“Peers may think they’re superior. There shouldn’t be major bullying problems. They would not have assistance if they get lost because upper classmen won’t help them,” Alex Israeli, eighth graders, said.

Despite parents’ worries, bullying prevention programs such as “No Place For Hate” and “Rachel’s Challenge” are already established within the middle schools to ensure an outlet of support for any bullied student.

As fifth graders move up to the middle schools, a new installation of full-day kindergarten will be featured to form a K-4 elementary school model. These changes are to begin in the 2015-2016 year and were passed with a vote of 6-3 in favor of the new configuration.

Logistics for how exactly the new middle school model will work are still in the working stages. But the moving of fifth graders has been finalized. This will be the case until Mar. 2015, when the affected staff will be notified and staffing/scheduling is completed at the middle-school level.

According to the District website, school officials are currently choosing between options when deciding if the fifth graders will have recess at the middle school.

Other consolidation talks to solve issue of declining enrollment are still continuing and will be voted on in Dec. This will include conversation about the closing of elementary schools within neighborhoods of the district.

Cancer support group: Straight Talk About Cancer

By **Stephanie Harvey**
Business & Promotions Editor

To help students that have to deal with cancer every day and to help those who understand the personal impact of the disease, and to unite them, Neshaminy science teacher, Lisa Krieger, started a support group called Straight Talk About Cancer (STAC).

Straight Talk About Cancer meets once a month during school. The group is available to all students whose lives are affected by cancer, whether they have the

disease themselves or they know someone with it. The group provides a comfortable environment so that students can discuss their experiences with other people who understand what they are going through.

“Our overall goal is to offer a safe and comfortable place where students can express their feelings in a confidential setting, gain information about cancer and build relationships with others experiencing similar situations,” said Krieger.

Most importantly, the group shows students that they are not alone in their struggle. Sometimes, students feel like no one else knows what they are going through, that they are the only ones experiencing problems like theirs.

Krieger said, “Cancer is not something we talk about every day in class or in the hallways, so a student can feel isolated without the support of others.”

STAC provides a welcome relief for students like these, because within the group are other individuals who understand their struggle with cancer.

In addition to STAC, there are many other groups at Neshaminy that are available to all students that include, but are not limited to, anger management, stress management, teen pregnancy, and healthy relationships. The Student Assistance Program (SAP) is run by teachers and guidance counselors “to help remove any barriers to learning including academic and behavioral.”

Any student interested in learning more about these group or are interested in joining these helpful support groups can contact either Krieger at lisakrieger@neshaminy.



SUPPORT--Science teacher Lisa Krieger, starts a Straight Talk About Cancer support group to talk to any students who have cancer in their lives. Meets once a month.

Graphic/ Jessica McClelland



Run the Lights

November 21
7:00-9:00 PM
Shady Brook Farm

Neshaminy High School Holiday Vocal Concert

November 24
7:00 PM

Thanksgiving Holiday

November 24-28

Varsity Ice Hockey VS Pennsbury @ Grundy

November 26
7:00 PM

My Daily Constitution

December 2
6:00-8:00 PM
Langhorne Library

Annual art, writing competition returns to Neshaminy

By **Grace Marion**
Staff Writer

Each Year Scholastic Inc. hosts a nationwide competition for the artistically and linguistically inclined.

This competition is open to 7-12 graders enrolled in public, private, or home schooling. The program has been credited with identifying early talent in generations of America’s cultural icons, including Truman Capote (1932), Richard Avedon (1941), Andy Warhol (1945), Sylvia Plath (1947), Robert Redford (1954) and Zac Posen (1998), all of which won one of the awards affiliated with the program.

Many students are reluctant to enter this contest because they do not know how to prepare themselves. “To prepare for such contests they could use their own projects that they’ve developed in class and take them a step further to fulfill the contest requirements,” said Art teacher, Cheryl Soltis. For artists and writers not enrolled in related classes, this may be an issue.

“Read. If you want to be a writer, obviously you’re going to write as often as you can and as much as you can but a lot of people overlook the reading aspect of that.” said English teacher, Daniel Luongo.

Since first established in 1923 the Scholastic Art and Writing awards have awarded young artists with scholarships and exhibition. Teens can enter in any or 28 categories for such a chance. In 2012 two Neshaminy students won 2nd place awards known as ‘The Silver Keys’ in photography.

English and art departments alike of schools across the country encourage students to work to compete in this competition. Past recipients from Neshaminy include Steph Skrot, Kin Timbone, Molly MacDonald, Virginia Anselmi, Emily Later, Gina Kay, and Maddy MacDonald. ”I think it is definitely a good idea for high school age students to enter contests like this because it’s important for them to get their portfolio work developed and then see how it compares to their peers,” commented Soltis.

an excerpt from Stepping on Butterflies

He was a nail biter. He bit until his fingers were raw and bleeding. He bit to the bone. He bit to the core.

The morning news was on at 10PM—he DVRed it and let it play all day. He turned up the volume to the body length TV until it was so loud he could only hear the tinny static and the faint, repetitive beat of police sirens. He didn’t go to work today. He wasn’t interested in the news.

He felt the eyes like polished guns. The weatherwoman was talking about the drought moving through Pasadena, California, but he saw her glance her eyes towards him every once in a while. He sat thinking about why he moved to the desert. He sat thinking about why he was there. This wasn’t his house. Those weren’t his sleeping kids.

He shaved his widow’s peak and let his sharp jaw be flooded by rivers of untamed hair. He had dull teeth and a sharp tongue that cut deep without ever making a scratch. He had eyes like a bored king.

With his winter glare, he bit to the core with platinum teeth. He bathed in liquid gold. He drank arsenic.

The police siren outside kept beat like a drum. It didn’t go away. It never went away. It beat until forever. Never stopping. Never losing time.

The news anchor said something about excessive heat warnings for Pasadena area of California. She was looking right at him. Her nude lips formed ohs like the woman in the house. It wasn’t his wife. Those kids weren’t sleeping.

The drought in California killed nearly as much as he did. He dipped his bullets in Monarch butterflies. If he shot someone, the arsenic would kill them before the bullet would. He knew that. He loved that. He needed that.

The police sirens beat loudly outside. It made the sidewalk shake. It made the robin eggs crack. There was no moaning. Only the rattle of the speakers being overworked and a megaphone blaring orders.

The only light in the room was the TV woman’s bone white smile. It was bright. It made his blue eyes go dry.

The landline started to ring. It wasn’t his phone. He didn’t pick it up.

The house smelled like thick chocolate cookies. She smelt like strawberries. The kids smelled like Clorox. He smelt like mangled bodies.

He closed the blinds everywhere and sat on the mircofiber couch for hours. He watched the morning news.

It was bright outside the house. The cheap cloth blind was off white. It switched from red to blue and back. The siren didn’t stop. Neither did the megaphone. Neither did the eyes.

The air the house was stale. He needed air. He was drowning the mist. He walked to the white door and undid the two deadbolt locks.



FABULOUS--Senior Austin Philip doesn’t take no for an asnwer.

Sketch/ Austin Philip

by Austin Philip



SELFIE--When Spencer Potts isn’t writing, he’s posting selfies to Tumblr.

Photo/ Spencer Potts

Creative Corner

an excerpt from Not a Zombie Story

What they’re doing with that woman really puts your stomach through some mental gymnastics, and your stomach twists like it did in Bio class, the dissection lab is in front of you and unfolding faster than Yik Yak, violating the flesh.

“Listen guys I’m telling you, I’m still alive, not even dead or undead or any of that stuff.”

Your sister bought it when that hunk told her he loved her, you bought it when your parents said they loved you unconditionally, hell, America bought it when BP said they were sorry, but there are some things that aren’t bought. Listening so very intently to you, they take you with them to their home again. Like when you came out freshman year, they don’t believe you or your mind when you trace back and forth, maybe you are a zombie, maybe that’s why you don’t leave.

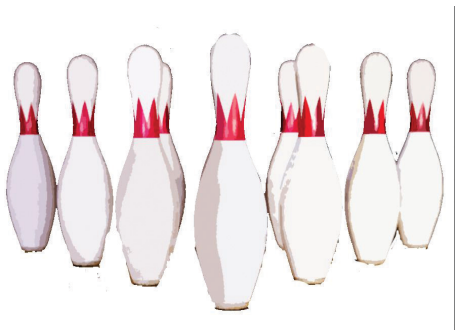
You survived through hell and now you find yourself straightening aisles, hanging up dirty linens, and shaving yourself and the guys in the nights, but troubled teens with half-baked minds have no use for knick-knacks and interior design kinks, you could settle on chips, salsa, and some nice organs.

A series of moans and grunts and mindless chatter follow as they charge for the food. You don’t feel that hungry, certainly not like they do, but maybe that’s like an STD check type of thing, congrats, you don’t have syphilis or zombieism. They might not even feel the hunger either, there are possibilities, maybe the human they’re killing isn’t tasty to them, and maybe they don’t like the chips you give them. But that idea is stupid and you know it, those chips are delicious to you and any living being. Stalk their prey and join with them, this is for real.

by Spencer David Potts

Get published! Submit to Neshaminy’s Literary Magazine through beccachoi15@gmail.com, neshaminyhowler@gmail.com, or playwickian@gmail.com

Bowling team preps for new season



Graphic/ Grace Marion

By Natalie Pietrowski
Sports Editor

Cooler weather only means one thing for Neshaminy sports: the winter season is heating up. Girls’ bowling is aiming high this year with goals of winning the Suburban One League title as well as qualifying for states.

“We have the greatest potential ever to achieve this”, senior captain Kaeli McMaster said. Last year the team placed third overall at the Snowroller Tournament in Lancaster.

McMaster bowled a 678 top series to capture the title of “Top Girls’ Bowler” while senior Rebeccah Edeleman finished with a 570 series score. Sophomore Breanna Morris scored a 403 overall. “I was extremely nervous but I knew the team would support me.” Morris said.

Captian McMaster plans to emphasize new drills during practice that will help with accuracy.

The team also holds off-season practices for the athletes to polish their skills. “It helps the bowlers get to know each other and get used to lane conditions” Head coach Gale Donahue said “As a team we need to stay strong all the

way through to the end and keep our heads in the game,” McMaster said. She hopes to focus on improving as a team and not just individually.

The girls will tackle Norristown High School in their first meet at home on Dec. 3.

Boys’ bowling is also back for action this winter after last year’s winning season. The team had a league record of 35-13 recording its only losses against Pennsbury and William Tennent. The boys’ placed fourth in the SnowBall classic and eighth in the state championships last year. They are hoping for an even better season this year.

“We can make states this year” head coach Mark Dunfee said. “We’re returning as a full team.”

David Moffit and Captain AJ Wolstenholme will be returning to the team this year as seniors with many underclassmen. Wolstenholme and Moffit are expected to be key players this winter, after bowling perfect 300 point games last year.

“We need to make sure our fundamentals are sound,” Dunfee said. The boys’ will compete in their first game against Norristown in early December.

Swimming: High hopes for juniors

By Kyle DiFrank
Staff Writer

The boys and girls from Neshaminy’s swim team have been training rigorously and preparing for the upcoming season. The girls, led by captains Helen Shekhterman, Lizzy Miller, Angela Le and Taryn Harvey, are working hard to improve from last season. “The girls’ team has been growing in size ever since my freshman year and as a result we have been winning more and more meets. We have a lot of prospective athletes this season, such as Monica Lesson in the backstroke and Sam Ruppert in the butterfly; all contributing their time in order to make this the best season yet.” Miller said.

Last year, Miller finished third overall in the 200 yard freestyle and fourth overall in the 100 yard backstroke in the SOL national conference championships. Shekhterman and Miller were both part of the 200 yard freestyle relay that broke the school record and finished second overall in the SOL national conference championships. Even though the girls posted terrific seasons last year, they are working hard to improve.

The boys’ team lost several swimmers to graduation. Steve Keashon, Rob Giannini and Bobby Winther, all very talented swimmers, graduated last year. Captains Jason Bento and Sadik Canca will attempt to lead the team to success this season. “Our team has been putting a tremendous amount of work in the offseason, so I think we have a lot of potential” said Canca. Canca showed high praise for his teammates, especially junior David Kneiss. “Dave is loaded with potential” said Canca. Kneiss, although not a captain, is one of the best swimmers on the team. Last year, Kneiss was on the school’s record-breaking medley relay. Last year, Kneiss also finished in fifth place overall in the 100 yard freestyle in the SOL national conference championships. With a lot of contribution from talented juniors and strong leadership from team captains, they are confident this will be a successful season.



Graphic/ Grace Marion

Neshaminy ice hockey’s slapshot season start-up

By Mark Hullings and Grace Marion
Staff Writer and Graphics Editor

With the winter season approaching, Neshaminy’s Ice Hockey team is looking forward to an icy season. The Junior Varsity had their first game on November 5, followed by Neshaminy’s Varsity team on the 6, both playing Souderton High School.

Neshaminy won 2–1 taking a total of 25 shots on goal, while their opponent, Souderton, took only 15. Neshaminy’s first goal came from Ian Dixon with an assist from Adam Dugan in the second period. The second came from Nick Foster with assists from Ian Dixon and Chris Wojnar during the final period to round off Neshaminy’s win. Though Souderton did put up a fight tallying one up against the home team late in the third period.



Graphic/ Grace Marion

The varsity team is scheduled to play 18 games this season, 10 of which will be held at their home rink, Grundy Ice Rink. The Junior Varsity team has 16 scheduled games.

“The Suburban High School Hockey League is comprised of 23 High School Hockey Clubs. Although any number of the High School Clubs may face opponents on the Grundy ice, known as non-league games, Neshaminy, Pennsbury, Truman and Holy Ghost call Grundy Arena home,” Aid Grundy Arena press release.

This year the Varsity team will be coached by Dan VanBuskirk, Steven Lee, and Nick Sweeney. While Junior Varsity will consist of coaches such as Dave Dugan Sr. and Dave Dugan Jr. Playoffs for the season will continue through February for the National Division.

Although the ice hockey is not officially a PIAA sport , students are still encouraged to go out and support their team. The team will take on Neshaminy’s rival Pennsbury High School at Grundy Ice Rink on Nov. 26.

Featured Four: Neshaminy athletes excel in sports



SOCCKER--Jack McCourt landed a spot on the varsity squad as a freshman.

Photo/Natalie Pietrowski

JACK MCCOURT SOCCER

The McCourt name is not one unknown to the Neshaminy Boys Soccer Team. Following in the footsteps of his older brother and senior James McCourt, Jack McCourt began his first year of high school playing with the upperclassmen.

Starting Varsity as only a freshman, McCourt wasn’t just an addition to the team but a key player, leading the team to their third consecutive Suburban One League Championship title.

In the final league game of the season, McCourt scored the winning goal against Pennsbury and securing Neshaminy’s win of 2-1 on Oct. 9.



WRESTLING-- Kayla Biddick is the only female wrestler on the roster. She won the Folk Style State Championship this year.

Photo/Liam Krimmel

KAYLA BIDDICK WRESTLING

Junior-Varsity Wrestler Kayla Biddick is the only Neshaminy female wrestler on the team and the only one to win a wrestling state championship title.

“I train all year round, between being on the mats and working out. Wining the folk style championship was amazing”. Biddick said.

“I don’t get the same respect as a wrestler. I get looked at as a girl which makes me work harder to prove that I am as good as they are”, Biddick said.

Biddick certainly works harder, proving herself by winning the 2014 Folk style Girls state champion during her junior year.



TENNIS--Cheyenne Oswald finished her senior season with a smash, winning the SOL singles title.

Photo/Liam Krimmel

CHEYENNE OSWALD TENNIS

Senior Cheyenne Oswald may seem to be a simple varsity track and field athlete, but she is more than that.

Oswald recently won the Suburban One League National conference singles for Tennis and was recognized as one of the best high school tennis players.

Oswald has big dreams for next season and even hopes to continue playing in college next year.

“I’ve been playing for eight years with my dad so I would love to play in college,”Oswald said.



CROSS-COUNTRY-- Eric Chapman was the first runner from Neshaminy to make states in seven years.

Photo/ Liam Krimmel

ERIC CHAPMAN CROSS COUNTRY

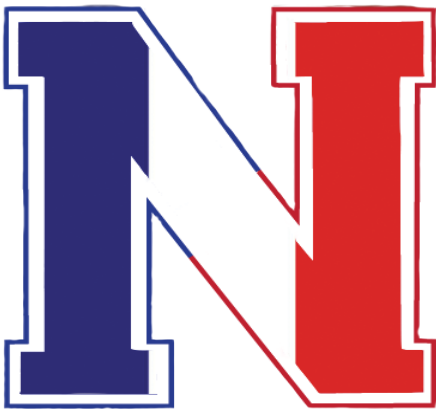
Eric Chapman, varsity runner and senior captain has been leading Neshaminy High School’s Cross Country team for four straight years and has become the first Neshaminy runner in seven years to qualify for the PIAA Cross Country state championship in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

From running 16:50 minutes his freshmen year to finishing his senior career with a time of 16:15 in the 5000-meter run and bringing home six invitational medals this past season, Chapman has great potential in the College level.

Chapman has made many accomplishments during his last season while running alongside his teammates.

French students experience Friday night lights

By Reed Hennessy
Editor in Chief



Graphic/Reed Hennessy

Every Friday night the habitual gathering of parents, football players, and students occurs, not only at Neshaminy High School, but across the country. This aspect of high schools in America may seem normal, but it is in fact a uniquely American aspect of high school. In other countries, specifically France, high school is strictly focused around academic stimulation and a positive learning environment.

“I can tell that this is very different from high school in France. We don’t have clubs or sport teams, or if we do, the stakes are less important and most people do not really care that much,” said Charlotte Gioia, a current graduate student at Rider University who is from France. Gioia, along with Mohamed Sassioui who is also from France and a graduate student at Rider, were in attendance on Oct. 24 when Neshaminy faced off against North Penn in a Friday night football match.

Not only were Gioia and Sassioui taken aback by the grand spectacle of a Friday night Neshaminy football game,

both were able to see their first football game ever in person. Unsure of exactly what to expect, Gioia and Sassioui entered the stadium on the cool Friday night excited to attend such an occasion.

In France, high school is centered solely on academics and high school sports do not exist at the same level they do in America. “If you want to be part of a sports team in France, you have to join a club outside of your school,” Gioia said.

Outside of seeing their first football game, the Gioia and Sassioui were also impressed with the marching bands, the large amount of people in attendance and being able to see up-close and personal the varsity football squad. Up until this point, Gioia and Sassioui only saw the sports culture in America through the movies, books and television shows that it has produced.

“I always loved watching movies related to football like Remember the Titans so I was very happy to be able to go on the sidelines and see a game Friday night,” Gioia said. Football is a very uniquely American institution, hoping to see a National Football League game before the end of the regular season Gioia and Sassioui could not believe that tens of thousands of people, millions of dollars, and the level of intensity that goes into a NFL game even exists. Gioia and Sassioui walked away from the game on Friday night with a newfound insight into American culture.

“Sports are not nearly as important in France as they are in the United States,” Gioia said.

Whether or not the huge amount of focus that is centered on sports in high school, especially football which can produce terrible injuries and can be detrimental to the academic success of a high school student, which is the purpose



EXCHANGE-- French college students (L-R) Charlotte Gioia and Mohamed Sassioui experience a Friday night football game at Neshaminy for the first time on Oct. 24.

Photo /Reed Hennessy

of a public education, to be educated, is proper can be left up to debate. But one thing is for certain though, Gioia and Sassioui walked away from the Friday night game with a newfound insight into American culture that, to them, was previously unknown.

Both graduate students at Rider University, Gioia and Sassioui are as interested in their respective courses of study as they are in the vast differences, and similarities between France and the United States. While the entire idea of a football stadium and game with hundreds of people in attendance is foreign, the

whole atmosphere and relationship between the students and adults was very familiar. Ultimately Gioia and Sassioui enjoyed the game against North Penn thoroughly, although Neshaminy lost, they were more amazed with the amount of people in attendance.

“When we arrived, I was amazed by all the people (as many kids as adults) all being there for the same thing. I did not know that high school football was the major Friday night event in America,” Gioia said reflecting on her experience seeing her first American high school football game.

Track team starts practicing indoors for winter season

By Jackson Haines and
Liam Krimmel
Managing Editor and Sports Editor

As the leaves begin-- and eventually cease-- to fall and the weather gets colder, the Neshaminy boys’ track team gears up for the Winter Season. Though the official season only began Nov. 17, athletes had been training for a month prior with an intramural program. Neshaminy High school’s intramural club for track is run by Coach Sean De Los Angeles for one month before the beginning of the indoor season. De Los Angeles served as an assistant coach for the Cross Country team, and will now be coaching the distance team for the winter. He hopes that the intramural workouts added a certain degree of fitness that will benefit the athletes.

The winter team hopes to improve on previous years. The traditionally strong sprinter contingent will be no different, with state medalist David Marrington, state qualifier Sean Conway, and senior Ben Matzke looking to make progress and take medals. Their 4x400, which also included returning-senior Anthony Murray, won the conference title in the spring. With all key athletes back, they hope to be very competitive.

Marrington hopes that his aspirations in the hurdles will be fulfilled, though he concedes that his strength is in the longer 300 meter hurdles, an event not run indoors. In the distance events, seniors Eric Chapman and Dustin Willing and freshman Rusty Kudyjch



TRACK-- Distance Coach De Los Angeles works with runners before a pre-season workout.

Photo/Liam Krimmel

hope to lead a much improved squad.

If the distance team builds on the improvement they experienced in cross country (especially that of state championship qualifier Eric Chapman), and the sprinting team delivers as they are expected to, White is hopeful that the team will excel.

The team does have a weakness in the field events, now that league champion pole-vaulter Will Dean has graduated. White hopes that he may recruit more throwers,jumpers, and vaulters to fill in the team’s needs. A little depth in the sprints and distance events would not hurt either.

Whatever their weaknesses and strengths may be, White believes this squad is much stronger than the squad last year.

for leading
by example.

PNC salutes The Playwickian editorial board members on receiving this great award. We believe in and are inspired by what you do every single day. Congratulations.

For information on how we may help you achieve your financial goals, call (215) 364-6306.
pnc.com



for the achiever in you™



ONE DIRECTION

HEATS UP

THE SCENE

By Maddy Rodak
Staff Writer

Yes, it's that times of year again: the leaves are falling, a cold wind blows, Thanksgiving is just around the corner . . . and so is a new One Direction album. Appropriately titled, the group's fourth album, 'FOUR', was released on Nov. 17.

'Steal My Girl', the first single off the album, dropped Sept. 29. The song, co-written by One Direction group members Louis Tomlinson and Liam Payne, offered a refreshing sneak peek for the fans. Columbia Records stated in a recent news release that the track features "cascading stadium piano chords."

Neshaminy student Rianne Urso, a fan of One Direction, said, "'Steal My Girl' is definitely one of my favorites. It reminds me of their first album, 'Up All Night', which I absolutely love."

Some songs featured on the new album

include 'Ready to Run', also co-written by Tomlinson and Payne, 'Where Do Broken Hearts Go', written by Harry Styles and '18', written by Ed Sheeran, a close friend of the group. On past albums, Sheeran wrote songs 'Little Things' and 'Moments', two of One Directions's hits.

Gabby Rodak, another fan of One Direction, said, "I'm so excited for this album! I know all of the songs will be amazing, even though I haven't heard them yet. They (One Direction) never disappoint."

Other song collaborators on 'FOUR' include Good Charlotte, McFly members Tom Fletcher, Danny Jones and Dougie Poynter, John Legend, Emeli Sandé, Kodakline and The 1975.

In a recent interview with Free Radio, Liam

Payne joked about the song-writing process. "You get to sit in a room, have fun with your mates, and then come out with something great. We do mess about the whole time, but we come out with something productive."

"I love how the boys (One Direction) have matured as artists," Urso said. "But I also love that they've kept some of my favorite elements from their earlier albums."

Though there have been rumors, One Direction shows no signs of breaking up. In fact, their new 'On the Road Again' tour, the fourth headline stadium tour for the group, kicks off in 2015. According to Forbes, the sales are already up 78% from their last tour, 'Where We Are'.

One Direction will arrive in Philadelphia on Sept. 1, 2015, and will be playing at Lincoln Financial Field.



Bar Louie brings back better burgers

By Becca Choi
Literary Editor

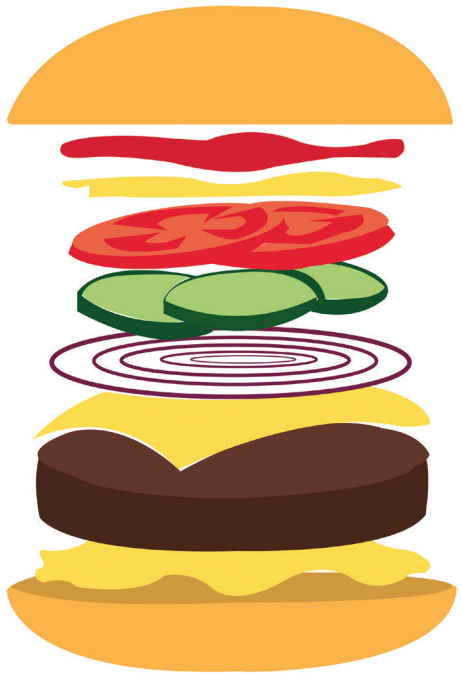
A casual sports-bar atmosphere leads into the main seating to create a classy but crowded corner of the restaurant. High booths are partitioned in a way that does not intrude on the openness. A variety of seating allows customers to choose their experience, small and intimate in the booths or open and social at the high-

tops, and concise menus contribute to the simplicity of decisions.

Bar Louie's employees come off rude and unapproachable with a bad sense of time; however, their lack of personality is made up for by the unique personality of the establishment itself. Charismatic chalked phrases over the bar advise the customers that "no good story ever started with someone eating a salad." In-style music isn't so quiet that it's left unheard, but isn't so loud as to drown out conversations. "It didn't suck. That's all I can say," said Neshaminy senior Tyler Tu.

Slow and impolite service did not detract from the excellent quality of food served. Tater tots drowned in queso, topped with bacon and spicy veggies, may be the greatest culinary discovery known to man. Their Blue Louie burger

alongside these loaded tater tots was a pleasant mouthful. "I mean they



Graphic/Monica Dinh

had great tots," said Tu.

The bar is the center of attention, visually pleasing and appropriate for the setting. Bar Louie is not a family friendly restaurant, but for a more mature audience.

With the potential of a flourishing restaurant and bar, their Bensalem location across from the Neshaminy Mall might doom their business. The awkward spot next to Home Depot housed a Ruby Tuesday and a Marlin and Rays before Bar Louie.



SCRUMPTIOUS--Majestically made, this fried egg burger eats up the customer. Photo/Becca Choi



Chilly weather blows in new trends

By Monica Dinh
Entertainment Editor

With cold weather just around the corner, people are gearing up with transitional pieces, wool capes, midi skirts and cozy, temperature friendly attire.



ALL BUNDLED UP-- Model Cara Delevigne struts down the runway in a cozy cape. Photo/vogue.com

One huge transitional trend this winter comes in the juxtaposition of socks and sandals. While a somewhat tricky trend to pair heathered socks with Birkenstocks or sporty slides, one must remember this is no new idea. People of all ages have worn socks with Adidas sandals frequently; and Burberry Prorsum sent models down the runway in neutral socks and statement sandals for their spring 2010 collection, as did Marc Jacobs in 2006.

Tips on wearing socks and sandals are to leave some skin showing between the bottom of pant legs and the top of socks. Consumers can experiment with different patterned socks as well as with different sandal structures. All in all feet will stay warm this winter with this transitional trend.

Sleek and tailored cape coats are quickly taking over. Various designers sent out capes this season including The Row, Yves Saint Laurent and Ralph Lauren.



FANCY FOOTWEAR--Birkenstocks and high tops pair to be a perfect match. Photo/freepress.com

The

American

Music

Awards



By Leanne Khov
Staff Writer

As the 42 American Music Award approaches this November, fans have excitedly taken their chances to cast their votes for the nominees they endorse. The world’s most popular fan-voted show includes nominees such as Beyoncé, One Direction, Katy Perry and Eminem. Artists will be honored in genres of Pop/Rock, Country, Rap/Hip-Hop, Soul/R&B, Alternative Rock, Adult Contemporary, Latin, Contemporary Inspirational, Electronic Dance Music, as well as categories for Top Soundtrack, New Artist of the Year Presented by Kohl’s, Artist of the Year and Single of the Year.

Hosting and performing this year’s show is American rapper Pitbull. “World, who would have thought Pitbull hosting the AMAs two years in a row,” said Pitbull in a statement. “The harder I work, the luckier I get. Thank you ABC and Dick Clark Productions for the amazing opportunity -- more than anything let’s get ready to have fun,” said Pitbull.

Artists such as Sam Smith, 5 Seconds of Summer, Imagine Dragons, Taylor Swift and many other performers are also set to take the stage during this night. According to AMA nominations, Iggy Azalea tops the list of nominees in six different categories with John Legend, Katy Perry, and Pharrell Williams at five nominations and Lorde at four.

Fans can vote for their favorite artists on the AMAvote website as well as Twitter. The winners of the 2014 American Music Award will be announced live from the Nokia Theatre L.A. Live on Sunday, Nov. 23 (8:00-11:00 p.m., ET/PT) on ABC.

Artist of the issue

Senior cinematographer prepares for future career

By Molly McIntyre
Circulation Editor

Senior Jack Haston has been a long time cinematographer in and outside of the classroom. His talents extend beyond film where he also specializes in editing for multiple video companies. Haston enjoys shooting sports, especially school football games, where he is always on the sidelines capturing the moments of each play. Haston allows his talent to shine in many ways; from taking part in producing the morning announcements to filming multiple school sports, as well as events outside of Neshaminy.


Q: How long have you been filming?
A: I’ve been filming for about six years now.

Q: What type of filming do you specialize in?
A: The main thing I film is sports but I also do weddings, live events and music videos.

Q: What schools are looking to apply to for film?
A: My first pick for schools would be the University of the Arts but I am also looking at Emerson and the University of Texas.

Q: Do you do other works aside from filming?
A: I am an editor for a couple video production companies in the area along with being a freelance editor.

Q: What is your favorite product that has come from filming?
A: When I look back, I think the most fun I have had on a video shoot was my first gig ever where I got to film The Monochrome Set band. It was pretty cool being on



ALMOST FAMOUS-- Haston exudes talent and concentration while in action.

Photo/Emily Fithian

HIGH SCHOOL SNACK ATTACK AT CAL TORT

Get a **5.99 Burrito Deal** OR **Free Chips & Queso** from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm Mon–Fri all school year!



Langhorne Square Shopping Ctr
1295 East Lincoln Highway
Levittown, PA 19056
215-949-0404



Must show High School ID with purchase. Valid at Langhorne location only between 2:30–4:30 Mon–Fri. One offer per transaction. Purchase necessary when redeeming chips and queso offer. Exp 6/19/15.

Flaming Lips album ‘more than gets by’

By Tom Collins
Staff Writer

Over the years, there has been a seemingly endless stream of tribute albums to the Beatles, each with increasingly less interesting covers of the group’s greatest hits. Just when all hope seemed to be lost, psychedelic rockers The Flaming Lips took the simple tribute album format to an entirely new level on “With A Little Help From My Fwends,” released on Oct. 27.

“With A Little Help From My Fwends” is a song for song recreation of the Beatles’ influential 1967 album, “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band.” Rather than simply copying every song, the band rearranged them, performing them in their own distinct psychedelic style

Similar to the 2009 album “The Flaming Lips and Stardeath and White Dwarfs with Henry Rollins and Peaches Doing The Dark Side of the Moon,” their new album “With A Little Help From My Fwends” also features Stardeath and the White Dwarfs, and a number of new guests, including Dr. Dog, My Morning Jacket, J Mascis, Grace Potter, and most interestingly, Miley Cyrus, and a long list of others, from the famous to the obscure.

Highlights of the record include the opening track, “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band”, which features My Morning Jacket and J Mascis, “Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds” which features

Miley Cyrus, “When I’m Sixty-Four” which features Pitchwafuzz and Def Rain, and what is the climax and final track of the original album and this recreation, “A Day in the Life”, which also features Miley Cyrus.

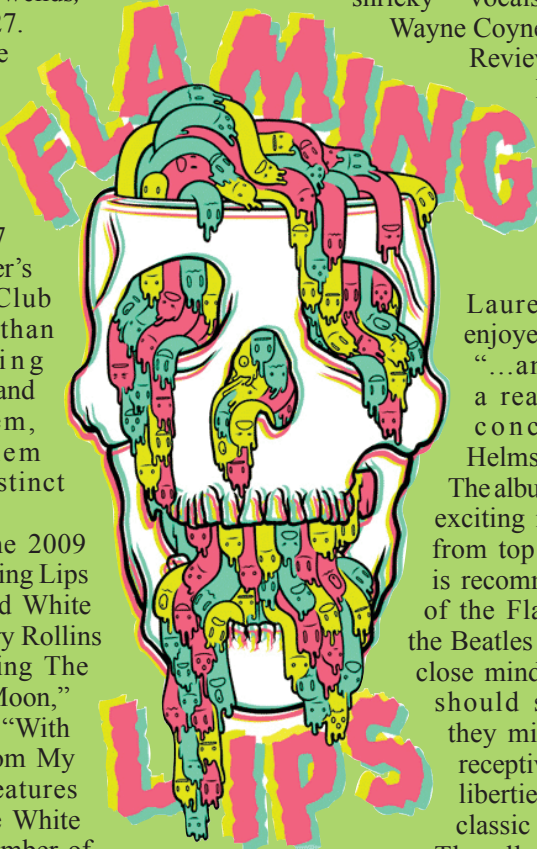
In true Flaming Lips fashion, the album is full of lush, psychedelic soundscapes, fuzzed out guitar, tight, pounding drums and bass, and high pitched—but not shrieky—vocals from front man Wayne Coyne.

Reviews for the album have generally been positive, and some students at Neshaminy have weighed in as well. Senior Lauren Helms both enjoyed the album.

“...and I think it’s a really interesting concept,” added Helms.

The album is a refreshing, exciting musical journey from top to bottom, and is recommended for fans of the Flaming Lips and the Beatles alike. However, close minded Beatles fans should steer clear, as they might not be very receptive of the creative liberties taken on these classic tracks.

The album is available in independent record stores and chain retailers, as well as all online music services. CD and digital copies are priced at \$10, and double LPs are around \$25. All profits are being donated to The Bella Foundation, a charity in Oklahoma City which provides free veterinary care to pet owners who are in need.



Graphic/flaminglips.com