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Connolly Memorial Garden: 8



Taylor Swift Album: 11

The Playwickian

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District discusses consolidation plans

By Solomiya Syvyk
News Editor

Over the summer, Neshaminy's school board has furthered and adjusted its consolidation plans. As of June 2014, with the help of Reynolds Construction Managers and Spiezle Architectural Group, a probable "Road Map" has been devised and approved. This outline includes the closing of Samuel Everitt Elementary School in Levittown, Oliver Heckman in Middletown and Lower Southampton Elementary in Langhorne.

A 900-student elementary school would be constructed at the Tawanka site in Lower Southampton on Brownsville Rd. This new project would avoid disruption to the students and faculty which was caused years prior during the renovation of the high school. The two-story building would include five hallways with eight classrooms in each, along with a parking lot allowing up to 140 parking spaces.

The approximated cost is about \$30 million. Act 39 energy saving improvements would be instated into several schools in the district and middle schools would carry fifth to eighth graders.



CLOSINGS- Seven years of research and decision making accumulated to a plan consisting of the closure of Samuel Everitt, Oliver Heckman and Lower Southampton elementary schools.

Photo/ JessMcClelland



From 2009, other plans were proposed although they were disposed of due to complexity, excessive cost and commotion. There are currently historically low bond borrowing rates allowing for the proposal to be placed into effect as soon as approval is gained. At the most recent school board meeting,

35 residents of the Neshaminy district rose and spoke against the plan, emphasizing its flawed organization.

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World faces unforeseen political, health crises

ISIS:

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria continues to drive back resistance in Syria. Amidst public executions, territorial expansion and relentless efforts to draw support, ISIS has drawn international attention as conflicts have escalated. President Barack Obama, on Sept. 22, addressed the United Nations regarding ISIS and explained the United States' position against them.

He reminded listeners that the war against terrorism is not a war against Islam. ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi called upon the support of Muslims world-wide, declaring the mission of ISIS to be to create an Islamic state in the Middle East.

In response, various critics, many being Muslims themselves, have discredited ISIS as nothing more than, "radical Muslims," as junior Emre Fisher said. Despite the success of ISIS, greater is the opposition towards them. Current

strategies include airstrikes, supporting resistance in Syria with money, military assets and continued discrediting their religiously-focused mission.

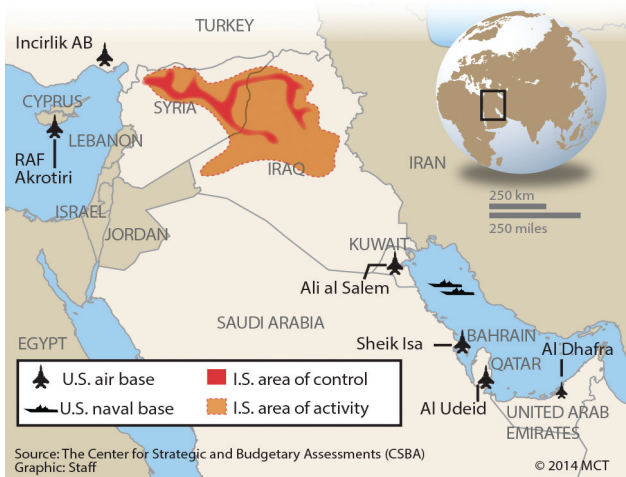
Ebola:

A patient located at Dallas Texas at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital was diagnosed and confirmed to have Ebola on Sept. 30.

On Oct. 8 Eric Thomas Duncan, the patient, died. Hospital officials stated in an ABC news article, "Mr. Duncan succumbed to an insidious disease, Ebola. He fought courageously in this battle. Our professionals, the doctors and nurses in the unit, as well as the entire Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital community, are also grieving his passing."

As a result, the United States is planning to take action against Ebola.

U.S. bases in Middle East



Graphic/ MCT Campus

Technology: New projectors, program added to District

By Eishna Ranganathan
News Editor

In a society where technology is becoming more commonplace, Neshaminy decided to introduce new programs and efficient equipment in order to join the modernization trend.

During late Aug., an official Neshaminy School District (NSD) app was created, in which users receive messages from school administrators, updates on major events such as Back to School Night and the ability to view live sports scores.

Users have access to a Directory in which every school’s phone number, address and teacher schedules are listed. Students can log-in and view their schedules, upcoming assignments and attendance. Other information such as library books checked out and busing placement is also available.

The Information Technology Dept. also plans to further investigate the limits to be put on devices students bring to school: “the ability to allow staff and students to [bring] their own devices (BYOD) is one that we are currently working on. Wireless throughout the building is the first part. Security and access is important to make sure students are protected while using the District

network,” Kathy Christie, IT Director of Neshaminy School District, said.

For seniors applying to college, the district started to use a database called Naviance. The Guidance Department made the decision after surveying neighboring schools in the area to find that they have been using the program for past graduating classes.

“[Naviance takes] three resources and combines them. Instead of using College Board for career exploration, mailing transcripts to universities and trying to find teachers for recommendations, students can access these features in one spot via the program,” guidance counselor, Casey Rodgers said.

For underclassman, Naviance includes a program for SAT practice with diagnostic tests for each subject – Reading, Writing and Math. Using the taker’s weaknesses, it sets up a schedule for practice to improve.

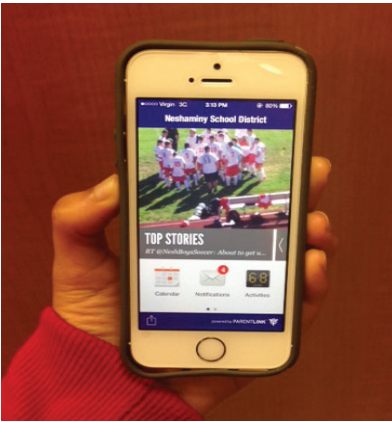
For mainly the math and English departments, the district introduced BrightLink 585Wi projectors by Epson to replace the Promethean SmartBoards.

“I came in and the SmartBoard was replaced by the projector. It has several new features, but we were never taught how to use them.” Amy Wilkinson, math teacher, said.

“The projectors were budgeted with Technology

funds and are purchased through National Purchasing Contracts that approved vendors participate in.” Christie said.

The new gadgets bought and companies partnered with, demonstrate the district’s utilization of equipment in an era which electronics dominate daily life. The new layout of Home Access, creation of a new app and primer of modernized projectors fuse education and technology in the classroom.



DISTRICT APP- Neshaminy took its place in the app store with creating an app in which students are able to connect with media.

Photo/ Eishna Ranganathan

Columbia student expresses concern for justice on campus

By Austin Bucci
Staff Writer

A Columbia University Senior has led her own fight against the school’s lack of action when she was vocal about her on-campus rape to administration. Emma Sulkowicz was forced to retell her tale to officers, campus security, and the dean repeatedly, only to be told that the violent act she described could not be possible.

EMMA SULKOWICZ- Student carries mattress around campus advocating need for action.

Photo/Facebook

Sulkowicz decided to speak out against what she believed was blatant injustice. She has made it not only

her personal statement, but her senior performance art thesis, to carry a mattress like the one she was raped on around to her classes until her rapist is taken off the premises. A large portion of the student body has banded together to support Sulkowicz through a vulnerable point in her life and her brave statement, even helping her carry her mattress through campus. Columbia sophomore Zach Heinemann replied, when asked about the impact Sulkowicz has had throughout the student body, “That’s part of what’s so wonderful about performance art is the power it has to reach people. Emma has been a strong activist on the topic for quite some time, but it wasn’t until she did this that it made such a huge stir.”

When asked how he sees this issue progressing to justice Heinemann added, “While the problem definitely is getting better, it’s on a long, slow haul. The really sad part is that this isn’t really limited to just Columbia. It’s a

national problem, but when a national problem happens notably at such a widely known university...it becomes much more common knowledge than people realize,” This issue especially raises the question of whether it is right to speak out against the decisions of people of authority when those decisions make those it affects feel oppressed or undermined. Senior Jennifer Chamberlin is in agreement with Sulkowicz decision to speak out about an authoritative action she felt victimized her. “I feel what she did was very brave and noble, and I think it was necessary because what the school was doing wasn’t right. She technically didn’t break any school rules but managed to raise awareness about something very important to her, it’s really the way to do it,” Chamberlin said.

CONSOLIDATION: continued from 1

“I think it is important to point out that for any plan to be successful we will need the support of all the stakeholders in this process if and when it is passed. Ultimately this board is focused on the redistribution of resources from buildings into important educational programs like maintaining full day Kindergarten, improved professional development opportunities for our teachers, Technology investments, more college preparatory programs, more STEM education, better support services for children that need extra help, increased investment in early intervention, ongoing facility improvement, and the list goes on,” School Board Member Mark Shubin said. During the second public comment session, more than 35 members of the community vocalized their questions and opinions about the arrangement.

“It is not practical for the school district to consolidate three Elementary schools into one because it will be an inconvenience for many students to attend school on a regular basis at one central location. It needs to be taken into consideration that students live in different parts of the district,” senior Brian Thomas said.

A main concern was oriented around the impact of changing the environment for the children. “Total this District has spent over eight years of discussion and research, devoted over a hundred and thirty thousand dollar to professional studies, countless committees and meetings, exhaustive discussion by various internal and external professionals whom all came to similar conclusions.; parents generally have much more issues with change than kids. Change can always be difficult, to grow though you must embrace change and see it for the opportunities it can offer rather than the negatives of distraction,” School Board Member Stephen Pirritano said.

Besides the increase of the current yearly debt service from \$9.1 million to \$9.4 million and budget shortfalls, the school board aimed this project with accordance to efficiently renovate a portion of the district’s schools by creating an appropriate arrangement with the least possible cost to the taxpayers.

“We owe it to those that pay the bills to operate this district as efficiently as possible while providing a superior education for our children,” Pirritano said.

School Board Meetings:



Tues. Oct. 21: 6:30 p.m. - Board Ed. Development Committee Meeting
Wed. Oct. 22: 6:30 p.m. - Board Policies Committee Meeting
Thurs. Oct. 23: 7:00 p.m. - Board Facilities Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
Tues. Oct. 28: 7:00 p.m. -Public Board Meeting

Location:
Maple Point Middle School
2250 Langhorne Yardley Road
Langhorne, PA 19047

Rita's of Penndel
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Halloween returns to haunt Bucks County

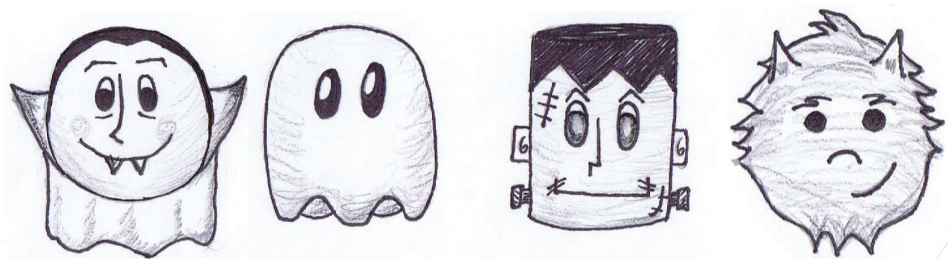
By Brianna Rayner
Staff Writer

It's a crisp, fall night. The smell of bonfire lingers through the air. Marshmallows and apple cider are being passed around. Then, suddenly the doorbell rings. Kids are outside full with cheer, and excited to go home and fill their little tummies with all the candy that can possibly fit. Goblins and goons lurking the streets of the neighborhood; there's nothing quite like Halloween.

To some people Halloween is basically trick or treating and costumes. What some people don't know is; "Halloween, also known as Allhalloween, All hallow's eve or All saints eve, is a yearly celebration, celebrated on Oct. 31 by a number of countries." "This time of the liturgical year is dedicated to the dead, including saints, martyrs, and faithful departed believers. Ireland is typically believed to be the birthplace of Halloween."

"Black and orange are typically associated with Halloween. Orange is a symbol of strength and endurance and, along with brown and gold, stands for the harvest and autumn. Black is typically a symbol of death and darkness and acts as a reminder that Halloween once was a festival that marked the boundaries between life and death."

People celebrate Halloween by trick or treating, carving pumpkins into jack-o'-lanterns, attending costume parties, lighting bonfires, decorating, apple bobbing and visiting haunted attractions. In various parts of the world, the Christian observances



HALLOWEEN - Halloween returns, with all of its festivities, candy and attractions.

Graphic/ Jessica McClelland

Cancer survivor inspires students Spreads awareness of Lukemia, Lymphoma

By Tim Cho
Student Life & Web Editor

In honor of Cancer Awareness Month, two Neshaminy students begun a fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Rebecca Choi and Amanda Reiser sold and hung balloons in the Hub before homeroom. Their friend, Julianna Smith, junior at Central Bucks East High School, lived with cancer for three years of her life, and now continues her life, cancer-free.

Smith, now an academically-successful student, active participant in extracurricular activities, and founder

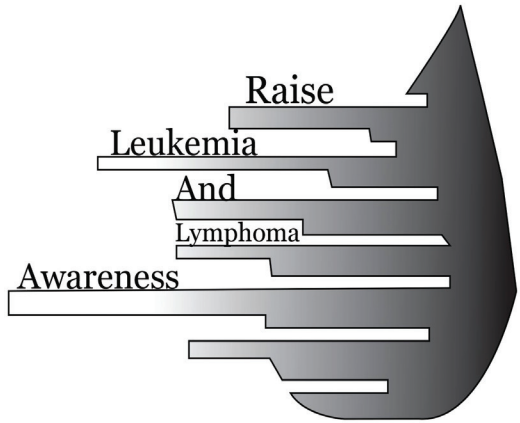
of her school's own club dedicated to cancer, has inspired Choi and Reiser to take initiative.

To honor Smith, Reiser and Choi, "wanted to give back to an organization that gave so much support to my [their] friend Julianna who battled leukemia when she was eight until she was 11." Over the course of the fundraiser, they raised over \$100 by the end.

The church they attend honors those who had or currently have cancer by holding an annual evening event, where members of the community carry balloons; red balloons reflect a supporter of those with cancer in their lives, gold is in memory of someone who passed away due to cancer, and white are for survivors.

"Everything happens for a reason, I wouldn't change anything, it taught me a lot about who I am, all of the support I have, and that god always has a plan even when things look bad. No matter what, you have it better than someone else."

Leukemia and lymphoma are cancers that affect the blood and bone marrow, requiring donors and transplants. Survivors often live without complications and enjoy a healthful life.



AWARENESS - Two Neshaminy students spread awareness of two cancer diseases

Graphic/ Jerri Holderer

of All Hallows' Eve include attending church services and lighting candles on the grave of the dead. They also had the tradition of replacing meat with vegetarian foods, including the consumption of apples, colcannon, cider, potato pancakes and soul cakes. Great haunted attractions to check out near you:

- Six Flags:** Fright Fest in Jackson New Jersey
- Dorney Park:** Halloween Haunt in Allentown Pennsylvania
- Shady Brook:** Horrorfest in Morrisville Pennsylvania
- Bates Motel and Hayride** in Glen Mills Pennsylvania
- Eastern State Penitentiary:** Terror behind the Walls in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Neshaminy students dance their way to center stage

By Sloane Horton
Staff Writer

Neshaminy High School's Dance Team held audition for *So You Think Neshaminy Can Dance* in the auditorium, searching for Neshaminy's best dancer. After the audition a number of participants were chosen to move on to the final show, which will be held on Oct. 22.

It will be an interesting event, considering this is new to Neshaminy. "It's a dance showcase for any dancer to come show everyone what they got!" said Courtney Miller (Dance team manager).

It gives student a chance to show off their talent in front of their school friends, which they may have never done before.

The Neshaminy High School dance team has put this event together in hopes for a big turnout.

Melissa Bauerle, adviser of the Dance Team, is also an experienced dancer, starting since the age of five. *So You Think Neshaminy Can Dance* brings together students of dance backgrounds, "I like the connections that the kids make between each other," Bauerle said.

There will be gift baskets and baked good that will be sold at the show on Oct. 22 to benefit the dance team. All proceeds will help them to fund their trip to Florida in Dec.

Come out and support the dance team and watch the dancers of Neshaminy High school show off their talents and shine up on the stage.

The dance team will get the opportunity to watch all of the dancers and choose who will get to move on to the final show. As the dancers get called up one by one, they will perform a dance in the style of their choice and give it their all in hopes to impress the members of the dance team.

One dancer, junior Kahlil Simpson, performed a hip hop routine and, "auditioned to win."

Dancers that advance to the final round will be asked to perform their solo at the show that will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 22 in the auditorium.

All students are invited to come out and watch this event and watch their fellow Neshaminy student be announced as the first place winner.

Unlike the auditions where the dance team picked who would advance to the finals, at the show there will be judges to decide who deserves the victory. Not only is *So You Think Neshaminy Can Dance* about the students, it will involve a captivating faculty performance by some of the teachers here at Neshaminy High School.



DANCE - Neshaminy students show off their dance moves for a good cause on Oct. 22.

Photo/ Jessica McClelland

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Publication policy:

The following is an excerpt from Policy 600 which the Playwickian staff must follow. The excerpt is not representative of Policy 600 in its entirety.The Playwickian has been directed to publish this excerpt of the Policy in its masthead. The staff feels this section of the policy is also important to be featured in the masthead: “It is the intent of the Board of School Directors of the School District that School District publications be considered government speech for purposes of the First Amendment and to the extent permitted by the First Amendment.”

Playwickian Policy: The policy of the Playwickian which shall be published as part of the masthead of the newspaper shall be as follows:

“Policy. Subject to applicable law and the terms, conditions and limitations set forth in Policy 600 of the Board of School Directors of the Neshaminy School District and this policy statement, it is the policy of School District that student journalists shall have the right to determine the content of the Playwickian. Except for advertisements, all content

Publishing under Policy 600



The controversy surrounding Policy 600 is a divisive one, but if there is one truth everyone can agree on it is this-- the School Board of Directors should serve to improve the Neshaminy educational experience, and all polices created by them should seek to achieve this aim. That is not the case with Policy 600, the broad, overreaching board policy governing the district’s student publications. Much has been said about the illegality of the policy, and this conversation often brings about arguments over the legal roles of administrators.

Though the Editorial Board believes Policy 600 includes clauses which breach state and constitutional law, we also see a great need to focus on the educational purpose of this policy. Policy 600 has not only failed to help the school publications program, it has hurt it. The educational value of Neshaminy has decreased due to its passage, and dozens of students have seen the strength of their respective programs—Yearbook, the Playwickian, and the Howler—weakened.

Coming into this school year, a great

question remained unanswered—how exactly would a newspaper operate under this sort of policy? We question how a board could pass a policy amidst criticism from professional journalism groups, like the Society of Professional Journalists, who addressed Board President Scott Congdon in a letter saying “[Policy 600] was failing your students,” and would leave students “ unprepared for college and uncompetitive in the work force.” So how exactly is Policy 600 doing this, now that it is in full effect, and The Playwickian is making a paper under it? Our new set of guidelines is a hindrance to success.

The Playwickian is now government speech. What the policy fails to clarify is what this means. The writing of students may be the property of the district; it may not be. The writing of The Playwickian may be more susceptible to censorship; it may not be. Are there certain topics which government speech may not be able to talk about —like religion? If student editors are representatives of the government, than do they have to concur with the

viewpoint of the government? Are they compelled to do so? Does it mean that editorial action qualifies as censorship, since we are state actors? There could be unforeseen consequences to declaring student speech as being the speech of the government.

We cannot speak for the Board on why these restrictions were included and passed. The Playwickian does not know what will happen under this policy, or what effects it will truly have in the long term. The short term effects have thus far been detrimental to our programs, and our education. We say we are unsure of the future; but we are sure of one thing—that The Playwickian will continue on its mission: to achieve the highest level of journalistic quality and professionalism, to encourage thinking, to educate its members in lessons of writing, respect, and life in the process, and to guarantee a renewed freedom of student expression.

The unsigned editorial represents the unanimous view of the Editorial Board.

Kevin Strouse: congressional candidate looks promising for Eighth District

By Jackson Haines
Managing Editor

There comes a point where political discord reaches a level at which it ceases to be productive debate, and turns into obstructionist interference. The voters of Pennsylvania’s Eighth District now have the choice to re-elect their sitting congressman, Mike Fitzpatrick (R), or to choose a new face, Kevin Strouse (D). This choice is not just a choice between two men; it is a choice between two sets of ideals, and two accordingly different visions of the future. A voter may choose between Fitzpatrick’s future—one of budget cuts, congressional waste, and educational woes—or a Strouse future, with a better educational system, environmental protection, and the middle class being held in a position of higher esteem.

By all means, both candidates are good men, and both have been committed to their families and their communities. It is purely a political difference that separates the two. If we look at the issue that most 18 year olds are concerned about, it is college. Pennsylvania’s public college prices are astronomical compared to other states, and college in general is becoming an increasingly unattainable dream for middle- and lower-class families. So when Fitzpatrick was given the option to keep down student loan interest rates this year, what did he do? He voted against low-interest rates.

While of course this isn’t a fix-all option, and more reform is needed to fix

the college system, this shows a general disconnect between Fitzpatrick’s party and young people. While it is true he wrote the “Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act,” his steps don’t go as far as Strouse’s in terms of aid. Strouse is a strong advocate of the affordability of education for the middle- and lower- classes and a champion of federal assistance to students, something often threatened by Republicans.

A fairly new threat is now posed on Pennsylvania. Hydraulic Fracturing is a process by which a mixture of hundreds of unknown chemicals are short in a mixture of sand and water down into the ground to help crack the earth deep below and retrieve natural gas. It may or may not cause environmental effects; there is evidence supporting both sides. What is true, however, is that “fracking” is exempt from the Clean Air Act, Clean Drinking Act, and Safe Water Act. Fitzpatrick championed “energy independence” by means of natural gas. To achieve this, he suggested removing “red tape.” Yet if fracking is exempt from the major environmental laws, how much more red tape is there to cut? Energy Independence is something America should strive for, yes-- but energy companies and polluters must not be allowed to run amok. Fitzpatrick doesn’t champion the rights of a community to know what chemicals are being shot into its land, nor does he support the closing of loopholes that allow for less environmental safety Strouse supports better regulation of the fracking industry, including the closing of said loopholes that allow frackers special

privilege and secrecy in running arguably detrimental practices.

But fracking isn’t *all* bad; it simply needs regulation to protect the environment, and the public interest. Strouse, in this case, is also a proponent of the new Tom Wolf-supported initiative to tax gas drillers and use the revenue to help fund the public education system. Pennsylvania is the only state that doesn’t do this already; where Fitzpatrick is creating a drillers haven, he should be creating an educational haven.

Fitzpatrick is a member of the Republican portion of the House, and as such, has become a part of an obstructionist movement that supported a government shutdown, shot down large amounts of legislation, and heightened political tension beyond the threshold of toleration. Whether a voter agrees with Obamacare or not, can it not be agreed upon that by the 54th time its repeal, delay, or partial defunding is called for, things have gotten excessive?

This group has done this as a means of hopeless obstruction—and by wasting time like this, his party is in turn wasting tax dollars. Today’s voters are tired of congressional turmoil. It is this group, to which Fitzpatrick belongs, that has given Congress such a low approval rating. Why elect more of the same? Something new is required, and Storuse fits the part.

The People of District 8 stand at a crossroads. One path has been tried and failed; while the other one is unproven. It may be risky to try something new, but sometimes trying something new-- in this case, someone new-- pays off.

shall be prepared by students, subject to editing by others.

Students: (a) strive to produce media based upon professional standards of accuracy, objectivity and fairness; (b) review material to improve sentence structure, grammar, spelling and punctuation; (c) check and verify all facts and verify the accuracy of all quotations; and (d) in the case of editorials or letters to the editor concerning controversial issues, determine the need for rebuttal comments and opinions and provide space therefore if appropriate. As examples,

and not limitations on the proper authority of school officials, the following types of expression will not be approved for publication: (a) material that is obscene; (b) the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value; (c) indecent or vulgar language is not obscene; (d) material that violates the legal or constitutional rights of others; (e) material that will cause a material and substantial disruption of school activities; and (f) any other material that the school authorities reasonably believe should be prohibited.

Within the terms, conditions and limitations of Policy 600 and this policy statement, students are free to express opinions. Specifically, a student may criticize school policy or the performance of teachers, administrators, school officials and other school employees.

The viewpoints expressed by anyone in this paper shall not be deemed to be the viewpoin of the School District, any official or employee of the School District, or any student other than the student or students who expressed the viewpoint.

CROSSFIRE

Do school dress codes perpetuate sexism by having sometimes gender specific criteria or are they fair to both boy and girl students and necessary for a learning environment?

Dress code needs modifications, or fine as is?



By Maddy Buffardi
Op-Ed Editor

School dress codes drastically over-sexualize young women while making it seemingly impossible for young men to dress indecently. In the beginning of the school year, announcements were made reminding the students – more specifically the female students – that although the weather is still warm we need to cover up. One announcement went something along the lines of, “Girls, we know it’s still hot out but remember to dress appropriately. No tank tops. No crop-tops. No short-shorts. And to be fair, boys, no short-shorts either.”

Clearly speaking lightly about the topic, and clearly an attempt at humor, but the announcement spoke volumes in regards to how school dress codes are demeaning to women. It seems that only women can violate the dress code and only women can “distract” with their attire.

The word distracting when attributed to a female’s attire is insulting to both parties. In saying that, we are saying that women are responsible for male responses, and in turn that males cannot control themselves.

Often we hear that an outfit is “unladylike” but never have we heard that a boys outfit is “ungentlemanly-like.” Which begs the question, why is it that a woman’s value can fluctuate depending on how much skin she chooses to cover on any given day, but a man’s cannot?

School dress codes play a part in the societal trend of body-shaming toward women as well as contributing to the manifestations of rape-culture. In the Neshaminy dress code it is vaguely stated that, “common sense will prevail.” Which could be translated to, girls should know how much skin is too much skin, girls should know when their outfit may distract their heterosexual male peers, and girls

should know when they are being unprofessional and unladylike.

It should also be noted that the section of the school dress code which is directed toward the female students is seven lines long and gives a detailed explanation of the discipline that will ensue if the student refuses to change or has multiple offenses.

The section directed to males however is a mere 3 lines long and gives no mention of what will happen if a boy refuses to change or wears something deemed inappropriate more than once. Granted, this may be because it was mentioned in the paragraph prior but it may also be because it is much harder for a male student to violate the dress code than a female. and alludes to the notion that a female student will be insubordinate and refuse to put on something more conservative, while a male will more than likely comply.

The section directed to females lists a number of body parts which should not be exposed in a school setting – shoulder, chests, back, midsections,

and thighs. While the section directed at males lists one – shoulders. So why are a woman’s thighs more offensive than a man’s, or a woman’s back or any other part of a woman for that matter.

This article is not to call for the removal of school dress codes in their entirety, or to suggest that the students should be permitted to come to school completely naked.

But to suggest that school dress codes, as they are currently, perpetuate an ongoing patriarchal society which suppresses and shames women for the bodies they were born with – as well as attributing animal-like tendencies to men who can apparently not control themselves.

Finally, the notion that ‘if girls don’t want dress codes directed at them, then they shouldn’t dress so inappropriately’ is taking steps backwards toward progressing out of a society which victim-blames women.

If the schools ‘ motto’ is, “today’s decisions influence tomorrows opportunities,” maybe we should make the decision to stop being so terrified of the bodies in which we will live our entire lives. Maybe we should make the decision to go against social norms which oppress, blame, and objectify young women. And then possibly the opportunity will be a society safer for women and much less male dominated.



By Nic Hoffman
Archivist and Copy Editor

The school dress code, although perhaps poorly phrased, does not in any way discriminate against female students.

Some point to the student handbook, specifically to two paragraphs. The “Girls” paragraph, as some may label it, states one sentence about the female code and then two sentences about general dress problems that are commonly seen with the female population. It concludes with four sentences of procedures about replacing inappropriate attire. The “Boys” paragraph follows the same format, albeit in only three sentences. These paragraphs, however, discriminate more against males than females. The sentence about female attire states that “Girls’ tops are to have a one-inch wide strap (minimum) on each shoulder.” The male regulation is stricter, stating that “Boys are not permitted to wear muscle shirts at any time during the school day.” Although girls are restricted by the width of their straps, boys are prohibited from tank tops at all.

The list beneath this section in the student handbook explains the paragraphs. This list includes inappropriate attire and, among hats, hoods, bandanas, and chains, two lines relating to gender-specific attire. One line reads “Tank Tops/Sleeveless Shirts (Gentlemen).” Below it reads a line “Tops with less than a 1-inch strap on each shoulder (Ladies).” These are all in compliance with what is read in the above paragraphs.

The continuation of the “Girls” paragraph reads that necklines should be conservative and that backs and midsections must be covered, restrictions that are then reaffirmed in the list of inappropriate attire, and are not assigned a gender in that list, making it clear that although it is directed to girls, it applies to all students. The points towards the girls are a result of the fact

that more often girls are the ones to have the violations of this nature. In the paragraph directed at the boys, it states how “Any clothing identified as gang attire is not permitted.” This is generally a problem that applies to the male population, but is still a general rule. Just as a female student wearing gang apparel would be asked to change, a male exposing his neckline, back, or midsection would be asked to change. The school is entirely allowed to try to fix this problem by reminding students what violation they commonly break. Just as a teacher who notices a group of boys consistently arriving late and reminds them that their lateness is a violation, the paragraphs referring to each gender are simply nice reminders to help students, and are logical as they address the common breaches in the code by each gender. Further, as the female attire problem is more noticeable in the early school year and late school year, the announcements made at those times directed towards the women are simply in good intention, not meant to demean a specific gender.

Although the school does have separate dress codes for each gender, the discrepancy is on one sole article of clothing and is not against females in any way, rather against men. The school need not consider society in its dress code, which is reasonably fair and equal, and it is not the responsibility of the

school to establish an environment in which men and women dress entirely the same. The dress code itself is equal, one point separating the two genders, a point so minute in comparison to the code as a whole that it is ignorable in the

grand scheme of things. They have no arguable restrictions specifically against women, and are as fair and equitable as possible. Important to note is that while the female population can wear any article of clothing the male population can wear, the reverse does not apply, due to the tank top discrepancy. One of the mottos of our school is that Today’s Decisions Influence Tomorrow’s Opportunities, and if the female population is upset about constant reminders about the dress code, their decision today to not breach the dress code will influence the reaction the school takes to address each gender.

“... we should make the decision to go against social norms which oppress, blame, and objectify young women. And then possibly the opportunity will be a society safer for women and much less male dominated.”
-Maddy Buffardi

“... if the female population is upset about constant reminders about the dress code, their decision today to not breach the dress code will influence the reaction the school takes to address each gender.”
-Nic Hoffman

College application process less stressful with help from teachers

By Stephanie Harvey
Business/Promotions Editor

The beginning of senior year is a crazy time for many seniors, thanks to the dreaded college application process. Not only do seniors have regular classes to worry about, but now they have extra forms and essays and most of all—deadlines. Worst of all, students receive very little in-school help with applications.

With all the stress of senior year on top of applying to colleges, students

can use all the guidance and support they can get when applying to colleges. Some English 12 teachers are doing just that, taking time out of the school year to help students write an essay that is arguably their most important essay they will ever write.

“The help from teachers can be that extra push for students to finish, or even start, their applications and submit them,” said senior, Puja Patel, who had the benefit of writing her college essays in English class. “You can also learn a lot from writing college essays in class, even

taking some of the skills with you.”

In addition to being beneficial to the students, this assignment is also beneficial to the teachers. “The college essay assignment provides teachers with a valuable way to get to know our students in the beginning of the year,” 12th grade English teacher, Kristen Casile said.

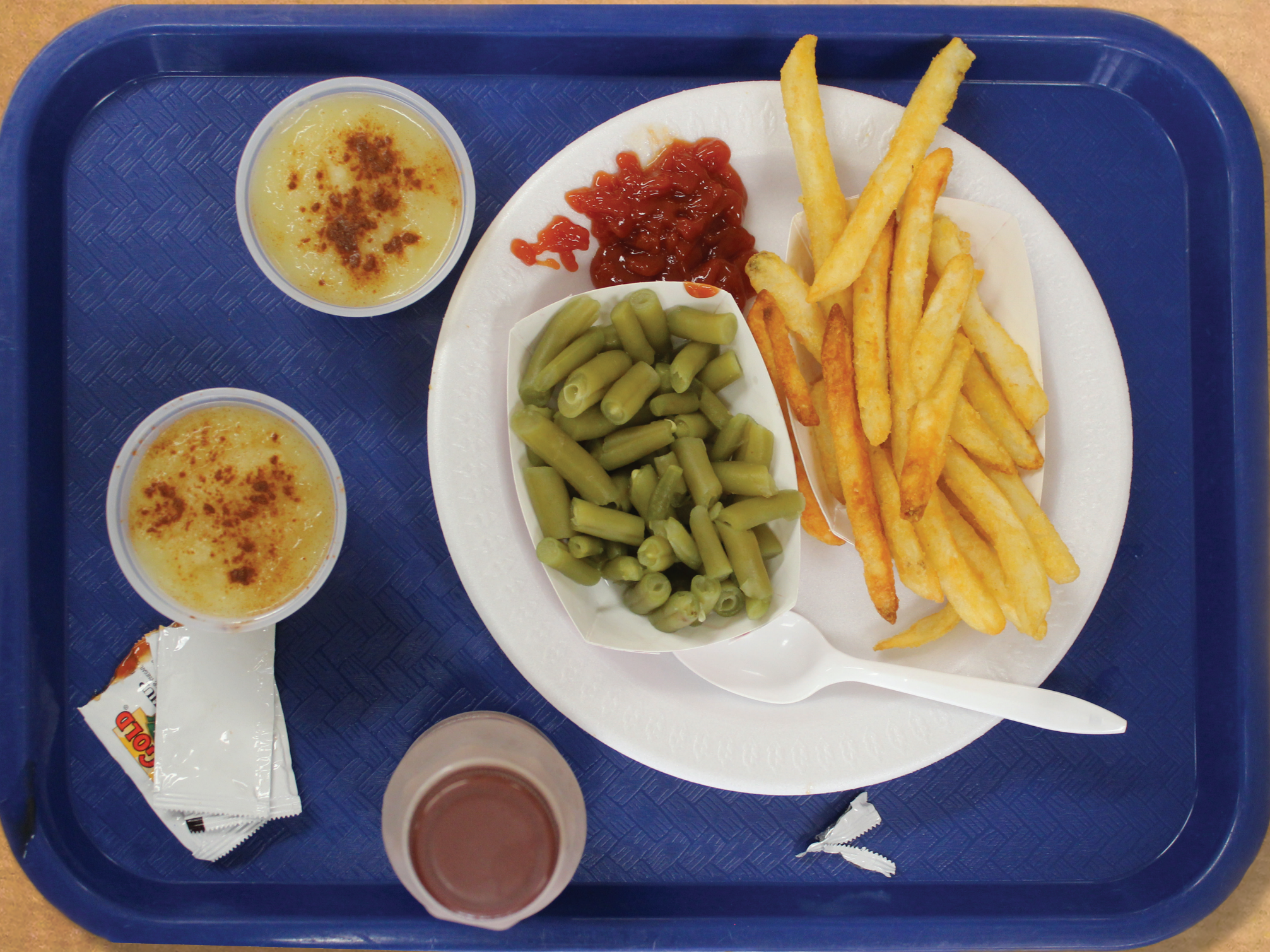
“Through these essays, we learn about our students’ interests, involvement in activities, and goals for the future.”

Even students who are not applying to colleges are helping English teachers “gain insight into [their] students’ writing

abilities. This essay provides [them] with a baseline in terms of writing, and helps teachers recognize the focus correction areas in order to guide instruction.”

Instead of hopelessly trying to balance schoolwork, applications, and everything else in a student’s life, their application now becomes their schoolwork, giving them one less thing to worry about. This begs the question, should it be required by all English teachers teaching 12 grade to require students to write their college essay in class instead of only select classes?

The New Lunchroom



Experienced chef talks on government diet decision

By Jessica McClelland
Student Life Editor

Since the 2014-2015 school years have started, the lunches have gone down-hill. Diet drinks, no snacks, and whole grain chicken nuggets. Joanne Saba, the chef here at Neshaminy, decided to give us her insight on the situation.

Q: How long have you been working at Neshaminy? As a lunch aid?
A: I’ve worked at Neshaminy for 19 years. I’ve been the chef for eight.

Q: Who made the decision to switch to a new lunch menu?
A: The Federal Government. The school had no say in what happens.

Q: Why did they choose to serve only diet and whole grain options and get rid of the old options completely?
A: From I was told, this year, they’re going to be putting in new regulations, and this year the regulation was no sugar. I asked about artificial sweeteners and they said they would be put into effect next year. The only thing we know about what is going on is with the drinks. The whole grain was from last year, but this year everything has to be whole grain.

Q: Where does the food come from? Who is the main distributor of the food?
A: We have several distributors. US Foods, Visor, and there’s a few other little distributors. We can go to our suppliers and tell them what we want but it has to have all of the government requirements.

Q: How do you personally feel about the idea of the new school lunch?
A: I think trying to teach kids how to eat healthier is a good idea but they could have gone about it a different way. I think high school kids should know how to eat by now. It should be in the elementary schools, it’s a good thing. But they didn’t give anyone a say in anything.

Q: What would you change about the meal plans for the students?
A: I would try to put it back to some of the old things. I don’t think chicken nuggets should be whole grain. There are no snacks at all and I think they should change that. Wawa should try to cut down on sugar, instead of just having diet.

Q: Any other comments?
A: I just try to do the best I can. It’s not the school’s fault; The government over steps us. If we told them that we didn’t want their money, then we could do what we want, but that obviously can’t happen.



FOODIE-- Joanne Saba pictured above smiling, was up to answering questions about the new school switch from the old cafeteria food to the healthier options mandated by the federal government.

Photo/Jess McClelland

Students’ Opinions on New School Lunch Options

District comments on Neshaminy lunch

By Gillian McGoldrick
Editor In Chief

Many students at Neshaminy are up in arms about the removal of many of their favorite drinks and snack items from the snack stand offered during lunches. But the school district has reasoning behind these drastic changes: the Department of Agriculture (DOA) requires all public schools in America to follow a new list of heavy criteria for each food product that can be offered in the snack stand, or otherwise known as à la carte items.

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 is the source that prompted these changes. For every five years, the DOA goes further into a different phase, with the ultimate goal of allowing students to have the healthiest and most nutritious meals possible offered to them. A specific fat content and calorie number are set that each offered snack must fall in between, according to Neshaminy Food Services director, Marie Wallace.

In a phone interview, Wallace said, “When school meals were first initiated, it was started because men were not physically ready for war. Now, we are in the same place because of obesity.” This is not the only reasoning behind the changes in meals and food guidelines, “It is also to introduce new foods that may not be offered at home,” Wallace said.

One of the biggest changes made to foods offered during lunches is that all foods containing breads or grain must have at least a 50 percent whole grain content. “Manufacturers will be working on whole grain products,” Wallace said. “If you give them (snacks) a little time, I think they could be really good.” Although there is hope for more palatable options, this change has caused upset among many students, including senior Rebecca Lee. “It shouldn’t be necessary that all foods offered in the cafeteria must be whole grain,” Lee said. “I should be able to choose for myself and create healthy eating habits on my own.”

According to Wallace, foods that do not follow the guidelines are not allowed to be offered until one half hour after school is over.

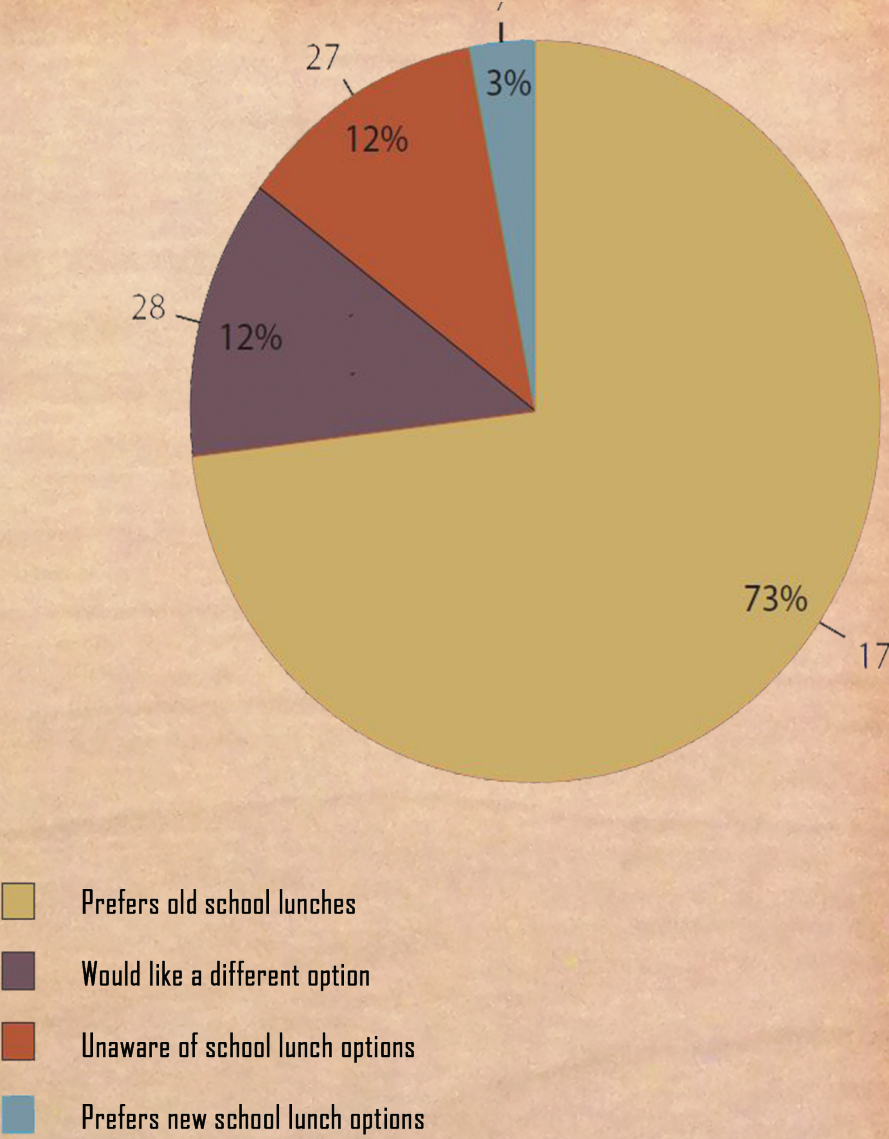
Per each school level, there are specific requirements necessary for each student to have in their diet. High school students are required to have seven cups of fruits and seven cups of vegetables each week, for a total of one

cup of each every day. Students at the high school level are allowed to have no-or-low calorie and caffeinated beverages, on top of 100 percent fruit-and-vegetable juices. Students in middle and elementary schools are only allowed water or 100 percent fruit-and-vegetable juices. This helps remove a significant amount of sugar from student’s diets, district-wide.

Each snack and beverage is to be tested by an Alliance for a Healthier Generation’s “Smart Snack Product Calculator.” The district must manually test each product in this calculator to ensure that each food meets the necessary guidelines before they can offer them to students for purchase. For example, one Strawberry Frosted Poptart is 190 calories, falling under the 200 calorie maximum set by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Act. Also, this snack meets the requirements for having less than ten percent saturated fats, less than 35 percent sugar, and falls under the max for sodium levels (in milligrams).

Students are so unhappy with the meals that a student has even begun a petition to change meals back to how they were prior to the 2014-2015 school year. Senior Tim Walter began a petition with over 500 signatures, all objecting to the changes made to the snack stand this year.

“I think if people are patient, products will improve and the selection will grow,” Wallace said. “We are not here to punish students.”



DISGUST-- 232 students of the Neshaminy High School student body was surveyed regarding the new school lunch program, put in place by the government. More than 70 percent of the school body we surveyed preferred the old school option, while only three percent agree with the news lunch options of diet drinks and whole grain.

Poll/ Emily Fithian

Time-honored tradition ends, whole wheat era begins

By Alli Kaufman
Sports Editor

It was 6th period and I hadn’t eaten breakfast. My stomach growled all through English and the students around me shot me dirty looks as they frantically tried to finish their timed writings. “Just 30 more minutes,” I thought to myself as I imagined the lunch waiting for me down in the cafeteria. I had gone all summer—three achingly long months—without a Neshaminy M&M cookie and in just one short half hour I would have my first of the school year along with my plain bagel and Wawa iced tea.

It was 12:32, the bell rang, and I ran. I sprinted through the hallways elbowing every man, woman, child, and freshman out of my way to get to my lunch. Okay so I didn’t actually run because that is such a freshman thing to do but I power walked (and definitely elbowed) my way down the endless stairs until finally I was within reach of my cookie.

Anyone can tell you what the snack line in the cafeteria looks like—a winding, endless trail of sad and hungry teenagers but on this day it was empty. It was fate.

Before I knew it I was ordering and putting in my 5 digit code (you know the one you remember until

you are right about to pay and then the lunch lady has to look up your number and everyone behind you gets super annoyed? That one).

“Can you just put it in a bag for me?” I said to the lunch lady, not bothering to look at the perfect meal I was about to eat.

I headed back to my table on the other side of the cafeteria, sat down, and was momentarily distracted by an interesting conversation my table was talking about.

So it was full 3 minutes after I bought my lunch that I finally opened it and I discovered what I had was not in fact the delicious cookie and bagel I had imagined but 2 lumps of whole wheat, one showing slight evidence of a single M&M.

My lunch and appetite were ruined.

“WHAT IS THIS?” I shrieked, thinking there must have been a mistake in the cafeteria and someone severely messed up all of the cookies because although I paid for a cookie, what I had certainly didn’t look like a cookie, didn’t smell like a cookie and as I was about to discover, didn’t taste like a cookie.



“Oh the cafeteria is completely whole wheat now, you didn’t hear?” another student informed me.

I hadn’t heard. And I wasn’t a fan. However, being open minded, I decided I would give this sad little cookie a try. The whole wheat to M&M ratio was considerably off and I needed my entire iced tea just to swallow the first bite down.

I left the cafeteria that day mourning the loss of my lunch and mourning the loss of Neshaminy’s M&M cookie reputation.

I decided a cookie should never be whole wheat.

Graphic/Monica Dinh

Former Neshaminy custodian honored with new memorial



By Jess McClelland
Student Life Editor

Throughout his life, Jack Connolly was a beloved father, uncle, brother and janitor to Neshaminy High School. On May 29, at 70 years old, Connolly unfortunately passed away from pancreatic cancer. "He was a beautiful man," hall-aid Rita Budman said. "He did a lot of wonderful things for a lot of people. We all loved him and miss him a lot."

Connolly always wanted to do something for the school and had an idea to build a garden, but that was before he got sick, so he couldn't proceed with this idea. However, his nephew, Chris Kuneck, who is also a janitor at Neshaminy, decided to carry out his uncle's plan.

Kuneck started building the garden in memory of his uncle. The garden, which is out front of the school when you first

MEMORIAL - Former Neshaminy custodian Jack Connolly was honored with a peaceful garden.

Photo/ Chris Kuneck

drive in, includes benches, plants, a stone walk way, and will have a plaque for his uncle. "It was Jack's idea of the garden before he was diagnosed, and he passed away before he could carry it out, so I decided to," said Kuneck.

To go along with the garden, Kuneck also decided to do something else in memory of his uncle: He founded a scholarship for support staff kids. "I'm putting up \$200, and his daughter Jennifer is putting up \$300. There are no limits to the college either. The money could help out with tuition or books," said Kuneck.

Even though Connolly has passed, a beautiful garden and helpful scholarship will remain for years to come.

Fall happenings

College Financial Aid Night
Oct. 16

Varsity Boys' Soccer Home Game
Oct. 15

Varsity Field Hockey Home Game
Oct. 17

Reading Olympics Meeting
Oct. 20

So You Think Neshaminy Can Dance
Oct. 22

Kaleidoscope of Bands
Oct. 25

Varsity Football against Pennsbury
Oct. 31

Community inspiration : Senior Riley Gillespie, charity founder, activist

By Kyle DiFrank
Staff Writer

Riley Gillespie, senior and standout student, is heavily involved in charities and volunteer work. Riley's involvement in Alex's Lemonade Stand through running an annual car show for the organization over the years has been outstanding.



Q: How long have you been involved in Alex's Lemonade Stand?

A: I just hosted my ninth annual Alex's Lemonade Stand and Car Show at Maple Point.

Q: How much money have you raised for Alex's Lemonade Stand over the years?

A: In just one day, we raised \$14,000. This brings my nine year total to \$107,000.

Q: Are you involved in any other charities or volunteer work?

A: Yes, I'm also a volunteer firefighter for the Langhorne-Middletown Fire Company. November will mark a year that I've been involved with the fire company and then I will be a full member of the company. I have also volunteered with the Make-A-Wish Foundation in Florida

at their facility. I did this at their facility, "Give Kids the World."

Q: What are some of your other hobbies or interests?

A: My favorite sport is baseball and I love going to Pittsburgh to watch the Pirates games. I also enjoy basketball, golf, and fishing. Fishing is my favorite leisure activity and I fished very often during the summer. I also enjoy playing the piano, trumpet, violin, and guitar. Once I graduated from the fire school, I will be learning Arabic in my free time.

Q: If you were stranded on an island and could only bring three things with you, what would you bring?

A: I would bring my fishing pole, tackle box, and a nice pair of shades.

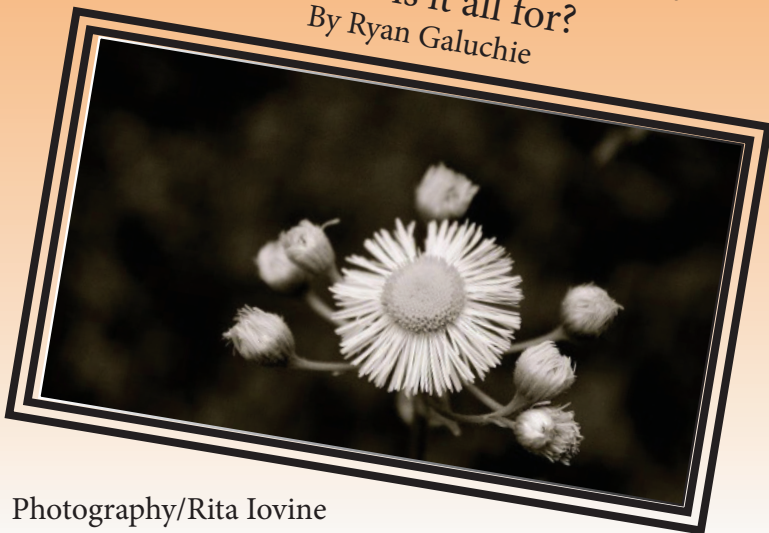
CREATIVE CORNER

The lonely spider
Hopes new friends fly to his web
And stay for the night
By Ryan Galuchie



Sketch/Grace Marion

Generous flower
The sweet oxygen you make
who is it all for?
By Ryan Galuchie



Photography/Rita Iovine

Boy turns to man
Says "I don't know if I
can
Go through my life as
you have"
Man turns back to boy
Says "son don't be coy,"
You know who I am,
I'm you as a man"

By Nic Hoffman

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NIGHT *

*Costume party on Thursday, Oct. 30 at 6 p.m. in the Art Gallery. Contact any Howler member for more information

To submit to "Creative Corner" please e-mail your pieces, artwork, and photography to Becca Choi and Matt Cruz at playwickian@gmail.com.

Join the Howler Creative Writing Club! Stop in G209 on Thursdays after school or see Adviser Christopher Dicicco. Send work to neshaminyhowler@gmail.com to Editor Becca Choi.

Neshaminy fall sports fighting for winning records

By Grace Marion
Staff Writer

TENNIS (GIRLS’)

Neshaminy girl’s tennis team looks forward to a doubles tournament in mid-October after team captain Cheyenne Oswald won her bracket in the SOL singles. In their Cape May tournament they placed fourth; Oswald placing first in singles bracket one, and

Emily Kohler placing first in single’s bracket three. Girl’s tennis has completed their 5th consecutive winning season this year.

FOOTBALL

Having conquered Council Rock South, and Abington: Neshaminy Varsity football team looks forward to the continuation of what looks like it could turn out as a winning season. “The best storyline of the year is D’Andre Pollard, an incredible talent who is going to Villanova next year,” Assistant Head Coach Steve Wilmot said.



FOOTBALL-- The Neshaminy defense lines up against the Council Rock South offense in a 49 to 15 win on Sept.12
Photo/ Grace Marion

Mental illness prominent in NFL



JOVAN BELCHER--former linebacker of Kansas City Chiefs, was diagnosed with BPD in 2010, after killing his wife and then himself.
Photo/MCT Campus

By Liam Krimmel
Sports Editor

Can NFL Players playing on the field become diagnosed with mental illnesses like Borderline Personality Disorder or Extrasensory perception (ESP), which is perception occurring independently of sight, hearing, or one of the other human senses? People who have ESP are claimed to be psychic, but people who are diagnosed with BPD are said to have long-term patterns of unstable or chaotic emotions.

According to a study published in the current research in social psychology in 2010, more individuals are much more likely to agree that ESP has widespread popular support with that of consensus, regardless of actual scientific consensus. The results of the experiment had psychologists worried about players in the NFL who are constantly getting hit, tackled, or getting very severe head trauma.

Players like Ray Rice, running back for the Baltimore ravens, and infamously known for striking his wife in an elevator, is an example for why psychologists are worried about NFL athletes and mental illness issues. Rice was later suspended from the NFL Due to his aggressive behavior.

Another player who suffered from mental illnesses as well as gambling problems was Kenny McKinley, wide receiver for the Denver broncos. McKinley was found dead on Sept. 20, 2010, from a self-inflected gunshot wound.

According to the Arapachoe County sheriff’s department, depression over debt, injury and his post-playing career were the main factors for his suicide.

The most talked about player who suffered from BPD, is Kansas City chiefs’ linebacker Jovan Belcher. Belcher killed his wife Kasandra Perkins and then committed suicide as his coaches looked on. With his coaches trying to stop him, Belcher shot himself in the head with the same handgun he used on his wife.

According to a study from 2010 by John Hart Jr., a neurologist at the University of Texas in Dallas, current NFL athletes aren’t the only ones that could be facing with mental illnesses; retired NFL athletes are more likely to have memory problems and depression than non-athletes of the same age. These deficits may come from damage in certain bundles of white matter in the brain.

Hart’s research had influenced athletic policies and treatment guidelines which later on played a role in court. U.S District judge Anita Brody granted preliminary approval to a landmark deal that would compensate thousands of former NFL players for head trauma and concussion-related claims.

Due to changing policies in the NFL, the organization issued new lists like the Non-football injury list and the physically unable to perform list, which prevented players from playing in games or attending practices if they had physical or mental injuries. With these policies in act, the NFL hopes to prevent players from becoming mentally or physically unstable.

FIELD HOCKEY

With 10 wins since late August the Neshaminy Varsity Field Hockey team is playing a decent season. The team also secured a win against Council Rock South on Oct. 7. Goals from; Casey McDonald, Maria Palmieri, Kenzie Turchi , Christen Pennington, Maria Palmieri, Mia Sexton with assists by; Turchi, McDonald, Emily Curran, Pennington, Marlena Koellner, and Maria Palmieri.

SOCCER (BOYS’)

The Neshaminy Boys’ Soccer team is off to an amazing start. Having played 13 teams into October and still remaining undefeated they are well on their way to playoffs.

SOCCER (GIRLS’)

Neshaminy is 2-1-3 after winning against William Tennent in the SOL national conference. The Sol conference ended 3-1 with goals from; Riley Nyhus , Jackie Ziegler , Gabby Farrell with assists from Alyssa Antonelly and Alyssa Tobin.

GOLF

With a 7-0-6 season running as of yet the Neshaminy golf team looks forward to ending the season with a winning record. Their lowest score of

the season was 0, against Bensalem.

CROSS COUNTRY (GIRLS’)

“The Steel City invitational was only the Varsity team. All of us crushed our times, and all seven of us medaled or placed in the top 25,” varsity Runner, Kabrina Weaver said, after a glorifying meet. Cross Country is running a great season with strong runners including Weaver, Kelsey Charlton, Rebecca Lehman and Natalie Pietrowski.



CROSS COUNTRY (BOYS’)

The Boys’ Cross Country team had solid wins against Abington and William Tennent, and triumphed in an upset victory over Council Rock South. In invtationals, the team has had many medalists in comparison to last year. Captain Eric Chapman and Coach Syd White are leading the team into what runners hope will be a winning season. Stand out runners include Rusty Kujdych (fr.) , Eric Chapman (sr.) and Dustin Willing (sr.).

VOLLEYBALL

The Neshaminy Girls’ Volleyball team is caught in a 6-0-6 tied season. Their wins where recorded against Bensalem, Harry S.Truman,



VOLLEYBALL--Neshaminy girls’ JV team played a great game Sept. 30 against Bensalem on their home court.
Photo/ Grace Marion

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SPORTORIAL

NFL refuses to acknowledge domestic violence among players

By Matt Cruz
Literary Editor

The past month has been a black eye for the NFL. Vikings running back, Adrian Peterson, one of the leagues premier players, is currently on the NFL's exempt list until the conclusion of the trial regarding the "discipline" of his 4-year-old. Peterson was indicted on Sept. 12 for the beating of his son . Peterson's court date in Montgomery County is scheduled for Oct. 8.



Graphic/MCT Campus

Former Steelers and current Cardinals running back, Jonathan Dwyer was indicted as recently as Sept. 29. Police say Dwyer broke his wife's nose with a vicious head-butt during a July 21 argument and

engaged in a dispute the following day in which he punched his wife and threw a shoe at his then-17-month-old son, who wasn't injured.

These are just two examples that contribute to the madhouse that has been the NFL in the past few months.

The issue that has been the headliner is the Ray Rice situation and the NFL's complete and total mishandling of the situation.

Back in February, Rice had a dispute with his then fiancé in a Revel Casino in Atlantic City. They got into a physical

confrontation and Rice ended up punching his fiancé in the face in a Revel elevator. He then dragged her out, barley conscious.

A video was released soon after showing the gruesome reality of what had taken place.

A few weeks later, with Rice already having his press conference, being released from the Ravens and having entered couples counseling, the NFL had to make a decision on what to do.

NFL Commissioner, Roger Goodell made a decision late July 24. Rice had received a 2 game suspension from the league. That's it. A measly 2 game suspension.

Women's rights organizations, analysts, and the press (including this writer) were appalled. The NFL dropped the ball on this one but that's not even the worst part of the situation.

A few weeks ago, as the situation was starting to calm down, TMZ released a full video showing exactly what happened in the elevator. The NFL said it did not see the video from the elevator until it was released by TMZ. The league said it requested all information from the incident from police, but the elevator video was "not made available to us," according to league sources.

Goodell continued denying the allegations saying they never had knowledge of the video.

On Sept. 10, according to an unknown source from the Associated Press said that the NFL was sent the elevator video in April. The source said he had a 12-second voice mail from an NFL office number confirming the video arrived. The NFL quickly refuted the report and said it had "no knowledge" of ever receiving the video.

Obviously this has caused a stir around the league and the media as well. "Goodell has clearly lost his way and

the players and public no longer have any confidence in him," said Sports Illustrated's executive editor of SI.com, BJ Schecter.

"His press conference was a debacle and this period will forever stain his

legacy."

As new developments will continue to be unearthed in this case, one thing is for certain; domestic violence has become a real issue and has no place in society let alone professional sports.

New leadership promises sucessful soccer season

By Natalie Pietrowski
Sports Editor

The magic numbers 25 and 0 took the Neshaminy girls' soccer team to state championships last year and gave hope for another winning season, but when a coach resigned and senior players moved on to college, the state championship seemed further out of reach.

Chelsea Deeter was an assistant coach in the soccer program but has since moved up to the position of head coach this season. Deeter, a Neshaminy graduate of 2006, played soccer at Kutztown University and knew when she graduated that she wasn't done with the sport yet.

"Once my collegiate soccer career was over, I knew I had to get involved with the sport again somehow. I reached out to Coach Clemens to see if I could help out with the program." She said.

"I wanted the girls to have a familiar face during the transition period and also someone who knew how the program was run." Deeter continued.

This season certainly is a transition season with the loss of key players like Megan Schafer and Mckenna Mullen. Luckily there is still plenty of talent on the field. "We still have a huge amount of talent on our team this year." she explained.

The team will be led by captains Amy Mandia (senior) and Maggie Daeche (sophomore). Junior Gabby Farrell and sophomore Alyssa Tobin will take control of the offensive positons while the middle of the field will be run by Mandia, Daeche and Junior Alyssa Antonelly. Defense will be controlled by Senior Nicole Nisivoccia and Junior Julia Andreozzi.

"I feel like everyone is pulling together as a unit this year after the loss of many key players." Deeter said.

The team hopes to make it to district playoffs this fall; a goal that both the players and coaches feel is attainable.



SOCCKER--Gabby Farrel throws the ball back into play during a game against William Tennet.

Photo/Lifetouch Photos

NESHAMINY ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

Football: Sophomore Quarterback makes Big Impression



FOOTBALL--Quarterback Ma-son Jones is leading the team as a sophomore.

Photo/Liam Krimmel

By Reed Hennessy
Editor In Chief

Sophomore Mason Jones may be a young first-string quarterback, but he certainly plays with the determination and skill of a senior. So far this season Jones's total passing yards are over 550 yards, he has a quarterback rating of 83 percent, and averages 135 passing yards per game. Jones, and underclassmen, is in a leadership position on the field while playing alongside seniors such as D'Andre Pollard and Boniface Stevens.

"He is a coach's son and has been around football a long time," Neshaminy football Head Coach Michael Frederick said. Jones has been playing football his whole

life, always at the quarterback position.

"I started playing on the football team here in ninth grade, but I've been playing football since kindergarten," Jones said. Being around football his whole life, Jones does not lack experience regardless of his age.

"It is hard to be a pure leader as a sophomore, but his demeanor on the team is that of a player beyond his age," Neshaminy football Head Coach Michael Frederick said. Whether it is the new coaching style of Frederick or a result of Jones being the quarterback, the Neshaminy passing game has picked up considerably compared to years previous. This marks a change from the traditional offensive strategy which was focused on the running game to a well-rounded offense with a good passing and running game.

Overall, the team seems to work well with Jones at the quarterback position as his attitude provides a sound base for the team to feed off of. "It's really just a great sport that brings friends together," Jones said. While there is certainly room for improvement by his senior year Jones will certainly have made an impact on the Neshaminy football team.

for leading by example.

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‘1989’debuts at rate ‘swifter’ than ever

By Emily Hamilton
Staff Writer

Whether the world likes it or not, Taylor Swift is coming out with a brand new album. “1989,” her fifth studio album will be released on Oct. 27. Inspired by eighties pop, this is Swift’s first documented pop album. Lindsey Rush, a senior at Neshaminy, and also a Taylor Swift fan said, “I’m not mad about her converting into pop, but I am nervous about what to expect”. The first single off the album, “Shake It Off,” an upbeat pop song about how to take negative comments, was released along with its music video on Aug. 18 over a live web chat in New York City. Swift told “The Guardian,” “You can either go crazy and let it make you bitter and make you not trust people. Or you can just shake it off and figure that as long as you’re having more fun than anyone else, what does it matter what anyone else thinks.”

The majority of Swift’s songs are self-written. In fact, Swift wrote the entirety of her third studio album, “Speak Now” by herself. In contrast, almost every song was co-written on “1989.” Buddy Ballard, another fan of Swift said, “I just like her (Swift) music in general; her meaningful lyrics.” As long as Swift is the person writing the songs, fans will most likely be



ALBUM -- Taylor Swift releases her first pop album “1989” on Oct. 27


Photo/ taylorswift.com

pleased. The types of songs that fans can expect are just more pop and upbeat versions of all her other lyric-booming hits. Ballard

said he hopes to hear mostly pop songs on the new album and more collaboration like for “The Last Time.” This song is a slow, heart-breaking ballad co-written and sang with Gary Lightbody of Snow Patrol. In the past, album sales for Swift always sky rocketed past predictions. Within the first week of release, “Speak Now” and “Red” both sold over one million copies. The same is expected to happen with “1989.” Rush said, “I’ve bought every album the day it has released, so I’m going to do the same for ‘1989’”. Whether fans comment positive or negative opinions, Taylor Swift is going to keep coming out with songs about her life. Admirers and haters think of her however, but the fact is, no one can take Swift down. Being at the top of her game now, the world is listening loud and clear.

Young adult book takes reader out of this world

By Brynn MacDougall
OP-ED Editor



Released on September 23, 2014, “Afterworlds” is Yong Adult (YA) author Scott Westerfeld’s newest novel. It juggles two plotlines, the first belonging to Darcy Patel, an up and coming YA author, the second plot line belonging to Darcy’s own novel, also named “Afterworlds.” Lizzie, the other protagonist, lives in a world infested with ghosts and secrets.

“The book is about this weird and wonderful space which is the ‘YA boom’ of the last 10 years,” Westerfeld said in an interview with *Publisher’s Weekly*.

“Often in novels about writers, we see little snatches of their writing. But I figured it would be cool to see an entire fictional novel while it’s in the process of being rewritten,” Westerfeld told to Alexis Burling in “*Publisher’s Weekly*” when discussing his inspiration for the novel.

Darcy’s plotline follows her publishing

iPhone 6, 6 plus receives mixed reviews

By Catherine Hilliard
Staff Writer



It’s been a year since the iPhone 5s was released, and for those who have been waiting since then to upgrade, the wait is over. The iPhone 6 is finally here! The iPhone 6 and 6 Plus were released on Friday, Sept. 19, but pre-orders were available one week earlier on Friday, Sept. 12. Pre-orders launched at 12:01 a.m. PT., and due to the large demand for new phones, the website had technical difficulties. An apple sales representative said, “The sale for this phone was incredible.” Pre-orders for the iPhone 6 made a record of 10 million sales in one weekend.

With a noticeably larger screen that displays more content, consumers can view more apps on the home screen. Unlike the iPhone 5s, which displays a 4 inch screen and is 7.6 millimeters in thickness, the iPhone 6 screen is bigger than any other previous iPhone’s; featuring a 4.7 inch screen with thickness of 6.9 millimeters. The iPhone 6 Plus reveals an even larger screen of 5.5 inches, and a thickness of 7.1 millimeters.

The new iPhones were described by Apple as “bigger than bigger.” A newer, thinner body and rounded corners give new iPhones a futuristic and sleek look. Along with faster processors and a state of the art Apple Pay payment system, this phone can be used by both young and old.

Phones come in three different storage sizes of 16 GB, 64 GB and 128 GB, as well in three different colors including gold, silver and space gray. The iPhone 6 and 6 Plus have a lot in common, however their prices vary. The iPhone 6 starts at \$199 and increases by \$100 with each addition to capacity size resulting in \$300 for 64 GB and \$400 for 128 GB. The iPhone 6 Plus on the other hand starts at \$299, and increases \$100 with each capacity size.

Apple made significant improvements to the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus’ already stellar camera. The device now performs optical image stabilization and uses “Focus Pixel” technology, therefore improving upon the phone’s ability to select autofocus points, resulting in the end of lots of consumer frustration. Battery life has improved as well, so that iPhones dying halfway through the day on a full charge are a thing of the past. Fingerprint ID technology allows buyers access to their phones with a touch of their fingers, as well as the capability to purchase apps and music.

One main aspect to be worried about is resistance to weight. The phones cannot withstand the weight of 70 pounds and will bend. If a consumer’s iPhone bends, the circuitry could get damaged and the phone may need a replacement. Apple’s statement on the iPhone 6 said, “It’s one continuous form where hardware and software function in perfect unison, creating a new generation of iPhone that’s better by any measure.”

journey, from querying to rewrite deadlines. Some may find that at times the drama wears a bit thin and doesn’t hold attention as well as Lizzie’s paranormal struggles.

“It sounds cool,” longtime Westerfeld fan sophomore fan, Hope Murphy said, when hearing about the novel for the first time.

Both Darcy and Lizzie have very distinct voices, despite Lizzie being a

figment of Darcy’s imagination, which may help readers imagine her as more than a character in a novel within a novel.

However, others may find the constant flip-flopping of chapters disorienting and prevent them from fully immersing themselves in the story.

“Afterworlds” is not your typical Young Adult novel and worth checking out.

TUNNEL VISION Fashion week reigns supreme

By Monica Dinh
Entertainment Editor



From the Paris to Milan and New York to London, the most prestigious clothing designers gathered for one week at a time in order to showcase their talent. Names consisted of Chanel, Marc Jacobs, Proenza Schouler, Moschino, Alexander Wang, Prabal Gurung, Valentino and many others who debuted their Spring/ Summer (S/S) 2015 Collections. Over at New York Fashion Week, Alexander Wang, the 30 year old designer and creative director of Balenciaga, returned to his original aesthetic of sportswear. This time, however, the pieces were revamped and provided more of a youthful, pure feeling along with a luxe atmosphere. He sent out ready to wear pieces that women with diverse body types could slip on. For Wang, sources of inspiration hailed from Nike and New Balance, clearly seen on the criss-crossing elastic waistlines.

On the Chanel runway during Paris Fashion Week, Karl Lagerfeld sent down colorful printed blouses and skirts with strong hints of femininity. A sensibility of feminism reigned supreme when Lagerfeld sent models out with signs reading “He is She,” “Ladies First” and “Boys Should Get Pregnant Too” during the closing finale.

Marc Jacob’s S/S 2015 Collection emulated an essence of cartoonish shape shifting. Enormous pockets on jacket hiplines were covered in crystal encrusted buttons, while other buttons became cabochon baubles. The collection gave a nod to both Parisian elegance and utilitarian attire.

Fashion Week dominantly inspired spring and summer trends of the future. Assorted trends include curvilinear silhouettes, gingham prints, abstract flower patterns, trouser suits and much more. Whatever the textile or design, a wide array of clothing is available to those who possess a style of their own.

WANG-- Alexander Wang's 2015 Spring Collection

JACOBS-- Marc Jacob's 2015 Spring Collection



Haunted horrorfest scares Shady Brook once more

By **Molly McIntyre**
Staff Writer

The month of October presents many exciting things; fall, pumpkins, Halloween and especially HorrorFest. Haunted houses have been making America scream for nearly 40 years, and now they have gone global. Shady Brook Farms looks forward to this month every year as their leading source of income.

During the day parents and children can go to Shady Brook for Pumpkin Fest and daylight hayrides around the area in order to get a closer look at the farmland. Animal zoos are included for kids to get up close and personal with animals who live on the farm.

As night time rolls around nightly terror attractions reign supreme. With HorrorFest, Shady Brook offers the Hayride of Horror, 3-D Alien Encounter, Barn of Horror, and Carnage. Prices

range from \$20 to \$50 depending on the amount of attractions one wants to experience. Senior Bobby Nelson said, "I would love to be one of the guys who scare people in the haunted houses, all around everyone seems to be having a good time"

Aside from attractions, other nighttime events included are bonfires, live bands, and unique performances right on the open lawn. "Even though I hate scary things, I still enjoy all the other things Shady Brook has to offer, like the bonfires and live shows," senior Tiffany Tu said.

Two completely different outings targeting any age and any audience allow everyone in the community to enjoy a good time. Going every year will never get old for something new and different is offered every season. Junior Stephen Caldwell said, "I look forward to this month every year because of Shady Brook, it's always fun to go with friends."



Rita Iovine: artist paints and photographs her passion

By **Nina Caruso**
Staff Writer

Rita Iovine is artsy taken to a new level. She is currently enrolled in four major art courses: Advanced Photography, Ceramics, Digital Photography, and AP Art. Not only that, just last week she was admitted into Antonelli Institute, a highly selective college of photography and graphic art with only about 300 talented young artists.

Iovine owns a whopping ten cameras, has a passion for fine arts and started her own photography business as a junior, mostly photographing her friends and family while teaming up with Neshaminy graduate and makeup artist Kyle Nagle. "My job is shooting people in the woods" Iovine said with a laugh.

Some photographers Iovine draws inspiration from include Alex Currie, Alex Stoddard, and Neshaminy's own Advanced Photography teacher Mrs. O'Neill. Reciprocating the love, O'Neill said, "Rita's future is so bright, you gotta wear shades."

To Iovine, photography gives the allusion of a whole new world with endless possibilities. "Photography takes me places I've never been without ever leaving," she said, and this is proven in her intricately detailed work.

However, Iovine hasn't always excelled in the art society. Her humble beginnings included websites such as Picnik and Picmonkey, just as any other indie seventh grader's did. She utilized her passion and motivation to teach herself and transform into the expressive and edgy artist she is today. Iovine prefers candid, or "un-posed," photography over staged and can always be found in her second home, the darkroom of G107.



PAINT-- One of Iovine's many abstract paintings
Photo/Monica Dinh



ARTIST-- Iovine exhibits her different talents.
Photo/Monica Dinh

Dying with anticipation

By **Diana Cristancho**
Staff Writer

The fourth season of "American Horror Story," which premiered Oct. 8 on FX, had many fans on the edge of their seats, ready to watch. Creator and producer, Ryan Murphy, tweet on Sept. 28, "Excited to announce the AHS: Freak Show Premiere on October 8th will be a super-sized 90 minutes", only added more buzz and anticipation.

The show's fans are pumped about this season, particularly since the main character throughout the past seasons, as well as the current, will be making her last appearance on Freak Show. Jessica Lange, who plays Elsa Mars, won an Emmy award for her outstanding performance in "American Horror Story: Coven."

Set in Jupiter, Florida, The members of "Freak Show" are battling against evil forces that do not understand them. Despite negative feedback they receive from the locals at Jupiter, these "Freaks" will do anything to keep the show alive. Senior, Jessica Mousley said, "AHS is super creepy and strange and awesome;

it's everything I'd want in a show about the paranormal." And after overhearing multiple students at Neshaminy discuss their opinions about the show, Jessica is not the only one that feels this way, "I'm psyched for the new season!"

The first episode was named "Monsters Among Us", featuring cast members from past seasons, including Kathy Bates as Ethel Darling, the bearded lady, and Sarah Paulson, who will play a pair of sisters that share the same heart, named Bette and Dot Tattler. Make sure to tune in on this fall, and join the FREAK SHOW!



FREAKSHOW-- Character from American Horror Story which premiered Oct. 8.
Photo/fxnetworks.com

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