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# Playwickian

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The Voice of Neshaminy High School

February 12, 2016

NESHAMINY  
**THEATRE**  
PRESENTS...





# MARY POPPINS

PHOTO/EISHA RANGANATHAN

By Ericka Elvira

Have no plans this weekend? Tired of sitting in bed all day, turning on the laptop and watching a favorite season on Netflix, but are still really bored of wanting to do something entertaining?

Not to worry; the Mary Poppins Musical production is coming up right here at Neshaminy High School in the Theodore Kloos auditorium.

Leads of the show include seniors Hannah Lieb and Rebecca Allen as Mary Poppins, also senior Forrest

Filliano and junior Chad Wiatrowski as Bert.

With the show only costing ten dollars a ticket at nighttime and seven dollars for a matinee, you surely won't want to miss this.

"I have been waiting all my life for this to happen at Neshaminy," said Haley Fatula, a freshman at Neshaminy High School.

"Mary Poppins is one of my favorite Disney films, and to have it here not costing as much as a Broadway musical just makes me very happy and relieved."

The story of the musical is about a nanny, Mary Poppins, who must teach a family how to value each other again using a little bit of magic.

She takes the children on many magical and memorable adventures.

The children she takes care of, Jane and Michael, aren't the only ones she has made such a powerful impact to.

Even grown-ups can learn a lesson or two from the nanny who advises that "anything can happen if you let it happen."

"Sounds like there are going to be a ton of fun going on with

this musical. It would be such a shame to miss out on it, so anyone out there not sure whether they would go or not, I'd buy those tickets soon before they sell out," said Olivia Costa, a freshman at Neshaminy High School.

\*Editors' Note- The musical will take place February 11-14. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night shows are \$10. Saturday and Sunday matinee are \$7. Tickets can be purchased in the main office.



PHOTO/CATHERINE HILLIARD

On Feb. 3, Public speaker Jerry Ackerman talked to sophomores last Wednesday about the dangers of social media and cyberbullying.



# Zika outbreak impacts Americas, Africa, Pacific Islands

By Catherine Hilliard

Concern increases as the Zika virus continues to rapidly spread across the Western Hemisphere. The virus, spread by the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito, is now reported to be in Africa, Asia, Polynesia, and Central and South America.

An outbreak in May 2015 in Brazil led to an alert by the Pan American Health Organization. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have recently issued travel alerts in 24 countries and territories where the virus is continuing to spread.

There are 24 countries and territories reported to be infected with the virus, and the number continues to grow across the Caribbean and South America.

According to the CDC website, the most common symptoms of the Zika virus are fever, joint pain, rash, and conjunctivitis, which is inflammation or infection of the outer membrane of the eye. Other symptoms include muscle pain and headache, which last for several days to a week.

About one in five people infected with the Zika virus become symptomatic. The illness usually remains in the blood of an infected person for a few days. Death and severe disease requiring hospitalization are uncommon.

There are no vaccines or medications to prevent or treat the Zika virus, and it is advised to avoid mosquito bites, use air conditioning or window or door screens while indoors, wear long sleeves and pants, and use insect repellent while outdoors. If one does contract the disease, the

CDC recommends to get plenty of rest, drink fluids, and take medication given by a health care provider to relieve pain and fever.

The virus has also been associated with an increase in microcephaly birth defect cases characterized by a malformed or smaller head and brain that can result in serious developmental delays. It is possible for babies born with mild microcephaly to show no symptoms later in life, apart from a small sized head.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health have urged pregnant women to postpone traveling to any area where the Zika virus transmission is ongoing.

If women do travel to one of the infected areas, they are encouraged to talk to their doctors or other health care providers first and to follow strict steps to avoid mosquito bites during the trip.

The CDC is also investigating the relation of a rare paralysis known as Guillain-Barre to the Zika virus.

There are currently 36 people in the United States, including four pregnant women, who have been diagnosed with the Zika virus in Illinois, Washington D.C., and New York. All of those infected contracted the virus outside of the country.

"The Zika virus is continuing to spread, which raises concern that it could possibly reach the U.S. The worst part is there is no known cure, which could be deadly," Sophomore Amber Wrotto said.

The Director for the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Disease, Dr. Anthony Fauci, told ABC News that based on past experiences with similar viruses, it is possible for official to begin testing for a vaccine later this year that could determine if the vaccine "is safe and effective".

## Zika outbreak linked to birth defects

The number of cases of microcephaly, a rare brain defect in babies, continues to rise in Brazil, reaching 3,893 since authorities began investigating the surge in October. Brazil's health officials say it's linked to a sudden outbreak of the Zika virus, a mosquito-borne disease.

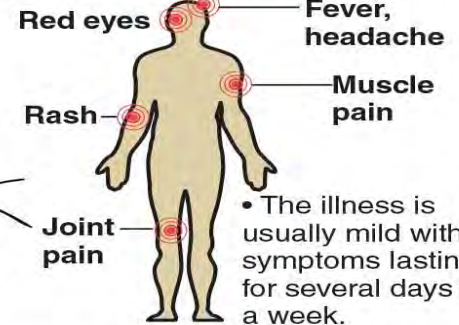
### What is the Zika virus?

- The virus spreads through Aedes species mosquito bites.
- Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on a person already infected with the virus. Infected mosquitoes can then spread the virus to other people through bites.



### What are the symptoms?

- About 1 in 5 people infected with Zika virus become ill.



### How to protect yourself?

- Use insect repellent.
- Use air conditioning or window/door screens.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.



### What are the treatments?

No vaccine or medications are available to prevent or treat Zika infections.

- Get plenty of rest
- Drink fluids to prevent dehydration.
- Take medicines, such as acetaminophen or paracetamol, to relieve fever and pain.



### Places to avoid if pregnant



Countries and territories with confirmed cases of Zika virus in the Americas, 2015-2016

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advised pregnant women to avoid traveling to Brazil and several other countries in the Americas where Zika outbreaks have occurred.

Source: AP, CDC  
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service



# Neshaminy Nostalgia: Gym Night

AMERICAN  
HERITAGE  
WINNER: RED

WHEN I  
GROW UP  
WINNER: RED

1976



2006

TURN IT ON '86!  
WINNER: RED

1986

NESH ANIMATED  
WINTER: FIND OUT  
MARCH 12



2016

A TRIBUTE TO PAST  
GYM NIGHTS  
WINNER: BLUE

1996



Gym Night  
'76  
American  
Heritage

## Sequins and flash turn on Gym Nite '86

**MEGAN HILLS**  
Staff Writer

March 7 was a special day for Neshaminy High School. The annual first day extravaganza was scheduled for the first day of school. The theme for the event was "Turn It On '86".

The first event of the evening was the Neshaminy Color Guard. The audience then heard opening remarks from Mr. Evans and the color captain, Dan Southman. Sharon Stefanski, Bob Duggan, and Doris Cerra. The red team cheerleaders, led by Jill Fierick and Mark Riedinger, made an exciting entrance using the theme of "Glad Dances". Their costumes were lined with sequins that gave them an extravagant look while performing routines on the floor. The blue team cheerleaders, led by Keri Ann and Jim Dougherty, were more flamboyant using "Flash Gardens" as their theme. The flashing headbands, worn by all the cheerleaders, gave an impressive effect during their dance. Both teams were awarded one point each night.

The first relay of the evening was a volleyball game played by all of the captains. Both teams won one game. The next set of relays was the tug-of-war race. The girls' team won the tug-of-war race. The boys' team won the tug-of-war race.

Next the sophomores strayed their stuff. The blue team exhibition made everyone feel young again, using the theme "Senior Street". The crowd joined in to sing "Sing-A-Long". The highlight was watching Big Bird, Captain Tom Adams, entertain the audience. The crowd watched the sophomores "superheroes" unfold their talents in the floor. Everyone was jumping when "Shout" was played. Although it was close, the red team won both nights.

The last event of the evening occurred when the red team seniors glided onto the floor. The theme "That's a Kickass" provided just that. Michael Jackson, The Blues Brothers, Twilight Zone, and Madonna.

Senior David Landa, Neshaminy's captain of the dance team, performed on the red team.

Over the weekend of February 27th to March 1st, Neshaminy had the honor of hosting twelve exchange students from various high schools. The students are...



Senior David Landa, Neshaminy's captain of the dance team, performs on the red team.

## Student Exchange exciting weekend

**JOCELYN BURNHETER**  
Entertainment Editor

Over the weekend of February 27th to March 1st, Neshaminy had the honor of hosting twelve exchange students from various high schools. The students are...

## Blue team reclaims Gym Night title

One week later than planned, Blue triumphs over Red, 18-17, in Gym Night 1996

by Sara Haviland  
Staff Writer

The decorations were finished the Sophomores had practiced, and the road conditions were excellent last Friday, March 15, as Neshaminy's annual battle of the school colors commenced. Despite a week-long delay, Gym Night '96 went smoothly with the theme "A Tribute to Gym Night."



Seniors Kathleen Mullins, Todd McFarlan, Andrea McCollick, and Brian Stern take part in the Red Senior dance.



# Fears of vaccinations debunked

By Shannon O'Grady

"I believe vaccination is an important health measure to keep our population safe from the reappearance of a variety of diseases," Doctor Nancy Oliveira said, a science teacher at Neshaminy High School. Due to the lack of vaccinations dangerous diseases that have been wiped out in America, such as measles, have returned. There are many reasons why parents neglect getting their kids vaccinated, spanning from beliefs to medical issues.

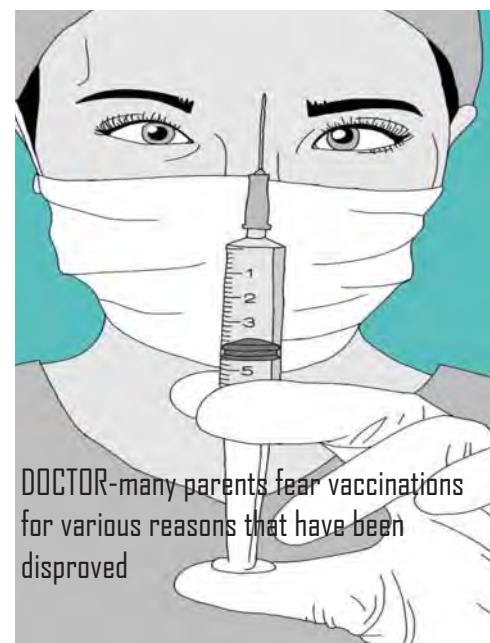
Vaccines are an important part of keeping the community safe from dangerous illnesses and protects those who cannot get vaccinated due to medical reasons. "These people [unvaccinated] depend on all the rest of us [healthy] people being vaccinated so we don't spread the diseases, i.e., they need

us to develop herd immunity to keep all of us safe," Oliveira explained. Herd immunity is when a large portion of a population is vaccinated which then provides protection for those who are not vaccinated. Herd immunity lessens the impact of diseases when they arise and lessens the chance of those unvaccinated getting the disease.

Some parents do not vaccinate their children because they think that vaccinations cause autism, which studies show is not true. "In subsequent years, there have been many, many studies that have looked at this same question, and there has never been a link shown," Oliveira said. Even though it has been proven that vaccines do not cause autism, parents still

hesitate to vaccinate their kids.

Another reason children are not getting the proper vaccinations is because parents are afraid of the side effects. Though there is a risk of contracting the disease from the vaccine, the risk is incredibly small. "The risk of a bad reaction is much lower (in general) than the risk of a serious outcome if the child catches the disease," Oliveira explained. It is better to risk a reaction than risk catching the disease. The main disease vaccinations should be required (measles, smallpox, polio, etc.) should be required in order to keep the unvaccinated safe, while others such as the flu and HPV should be optional.



## Satanism just another religion

By Ryan Miller

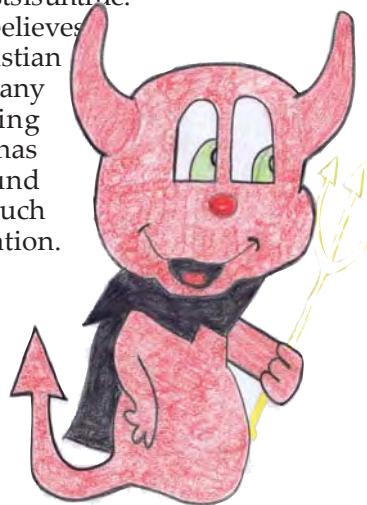
What comes to mind when thinking of Satanists? If asked, many would say they are evil, cruel and unforgiving people. They are often looked down at as bad people.

Just like many other religions, there are different forms that can be very negative to others. Satanists have positive forms of worship and negative forms of worship just like all other religions.

One form of Satanism that is popular is Luciferianism. Luciferianism believes that Satan, was casted down from heaven because he wanted to give people the power to heal themselves. His excommunication was not because of him being a bad person, but disobeying God for his disobedience.

Those that follow Luciferianism describe Lucifer as a positive and easy going ideal rather than Satan who is often given the title of punisher and "Bad Guy". It is believed that he is misunderstood and wanted to help people instead of harm them. A majority of the Luciferians look at him as a positive role model. Actions that help and represent a high respect for other people are highly encouraged. This proves that the generalization against ALL Satanists is untrue.

An attendant of a Luciferian Church believes that these accusations started with the Christian church and have been carried out through many years to discourage members from looking into the religion. Even though the religion has grown rapidly from 50000 in 2013 to around 100000 as of now; but it would have been a much larger group without the hateful generalization.



SATAN-mass media

misrepresents satanism

GRAPHICS/MADISON PICKUL

The Playwickian  
February 12, 2016

## Not all love celebrated

By Brynn MacDougall

Valentine's Day is supposedly a celebration of love, however there is an obvious focus on heterosexual couples. "Gifts for 'him' or 'her' are clearly divided and marked and it's almost impossible to find cards that represent queer couples," Sara Alcid of everydayfeminism.com wrote in their article "Valentine's Day: What's a Feminist To Do". The erasure of non heterosexual couples sidelines same gender loving kids and invalidates their identity. This othering of same gender loving kids and teens reinforces everyday homophobia, ideas

such as gay/bisexual/pansexual individuals being something out of the ordinary. The hallmark holiday also reinforces the idea the romantic attraction is a must. Society bombards everyone with the idea the romantic attraction is the end all be all of happiness in the modern world, going as far as to place romantic relationships above friendships. This can be frustrating, even suffocating, for many, even more so for aromantic individuals. "I really can't stand Valentine's Day. I'm

tired of feeling like I need to date someone to be normal," an anonymous Neshaminy student said. "The whole holiday is shoving society's ideas of what I should want down my



VALENTINES-Holiday reinforces idea that hetero romance is a must

GRAPHIC/MADISON PICKUL

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# Unsigned Editorial

## Schools unjustified in terrorism fears abroad

This editorial represents the unanimous view of the editorial board

In recent years schools in several states have canceled trips to London, Brussels, Berlin, Madrid, Paris and a myriad of the world's other popular destinations in an abundance of caution for the possibility of an act of terrorism being committed by ISIS or one of their affiliates under a school's watch. Although understandable, this degree of caution towards travel abroad is not completely warranted.

Following the increased frequency of terrorist attacks in western countries that has manifested in recent years, those same countries and their associates have increased security and police presence drastically, according to Al Arabiya reports.

Since the Paris attacks, Italy has stationed special forces across the country to be on call for emergencies and added 700 troops to

the patrol their capital, Rome, in addition to setting forth a program to document all permanent immigrants to Italy, according to a November Xinhua report. The preparedness within the European Union has even reached such levels that the openness of borders within the Union is being threatened, as there are typically no passport checks or searches when passing over borders between EU countries, and countries like Germany, Hungary, and Slovakia are now moving toward passport checks and systematic searches surrounding their borders.

Beyond Europe's increased security, the United States faces the same threats as the EU. The most recent publicized terror attack occurred on Jan. 7 in Philadelphia, according to CNN, in which a police officer was shot. With San Bernardino and Charleston, trips within

the United States are no longer considered any safer than those abroad, making fears towards such travel illogical to say the least.

Schools, being legally responsible for the safety of their students, would see it unwise to send said students into what they may see as danger. Because of this, waivers should need to be signed by parents and students for trips abroad in these trying times, as they have been for every field trip, to relieve legal burdens of preserving student safety in totality from schools

Having no real legal liability, nor reason to believe that traveling abroad is any more dangerous than traveling back home, a school

considering the cancellation of such international trips should avoid making such decisions based on anxiety dependent on misinformation and fear of the unknown, as the removal of such plans may not only damage the education of students, but encourage terrorists, after all; does avoiding an entire world outside of your own

border not prove that you are living in terror?



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"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 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 viewpoints 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.



# Ke\$ha continues fighting for freedom

## Continues pursuing lawsuit against record producer

By Brianna Rayner

Kesha Rose Sebert was born during the late 80s: the golden age, hits of synthesizer melodies and vigorous anthems. Due to her emerging in the inspirational city of Nashville, Tennessee she was destined to someday sparkle in the spot light. In 2005, when Kesha was just 18, she signed to musician, song writer and record producer Lukasz Gottwald's label Kemosabe Records.

What she surely thought was the beautiful beginning to her dream carrier. For the most part, it was. Her revolution came in early 2009 after appearing on the illustrious rapper, Flo Rida's number-one single, "Right Round." From then on, Kesha took it upon herself to ensure that her name would always be remembered.

As Kesha began escalating to the top, things took a rapid turn for the worst. During the October of 2014, Kesha filed a lawsuit against the man she believed had a major role in making her dreams come to life. Gottwald has been sexually

assaulting Kesha and threatening to take away her publishing rights. According to dailymail.co.uk, "She is suing because, she has maintained, SME, which owns the RCA Records label, is partly responsible for giving the record producer a platform to continue his abuse." The record label gave Gottwald full business control (basically giving him a perfect opportunity to black mail Kesha to a T.)

Kesha's lawyer, Mark Gerago, wrote in the legal brief, last October, "The letters in response indicated Sony specifically will not work with Kesha unless she agrees to work with Kemosabe and Dr. Luke's company, KMI." He continued, "Kesha now faces an abysmal decision: work with her alleged abuser ... or idly and passively wait as her career tick-tocks away."

So basically, Kesha was condemned to be hopeless and unproductive, for over a year. I personally don't quite understand why it is taking this long for

Kesha to be in the clear to be able to freely publish her music again. I believe that Kesha should not have to fight so hard and put her career on the line for the basic right she should automatically be given.

I wonder why they never included anything in the contract to benefit someone in Kesha's situation. For example: the contract will be automatically terminated if it ever came to a point like this. On the bright side, they essentially began to assist



Kesha with this situation more this year, so hopefully Kesha will someday continue to fill our hearts with mystic harmonies, and show us that no matter what struggle you are going through you can always continue to make your way back to the top.

KE\$HA-Pop singer sues to end contract with her producer/rapist  
GRAPHIC/MADISON PICKUL

## Muslim does not mean terrorist

### Misconceptions towards religious extremists, Muslims

By Grace Marion

With calls from Donald Trump, one of the current GOP front runner for America's Presidency, along with several other prominent political figures, for the marking of Muslims, the monitoring of mosques, and a total maiming of the world's immigration and travel reforms in order to face "Islamic terrorism," it is no surprise that the American people have gathered some misconceptions about the state of both terror and Islam in the modern world.

Obviously, there are people who have committed atrocious acts in the name of Islam, but the same can be said for any other religion. For example, the Oklahoma City Bombing, the Knoxville Unitarian Universalist church shooting, and the Wisconsin Sikh Temple Massacre were all committed by Christians, along with many other recent acts of terror.

In the United States 94 percent of federally classified terrorist attacks are carried out by non-muslims according to the FBI's 2005 terrorism report. Worldwide, according to the University of Maryland's National



RELIGION-Most terror attacks are not carried out by Muslims.

GRAPHIC/TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Terrorism Database, Muslims have carried out 0.00009 percent of the 140,000 terrorist attacks committed since 1970. The Islamic religion accounts for approximately 23 percent of the world's population, or 1.6 billion people, according to a 2015 PEW study. The 2014 United States' State Department's Country Reports on terrorism reported that there were just 184,000 Islamic affiliated terrorists on Earth. It is obvious that the modern stereotype associated with Islam in America has no standing. Maybe it has been the clash of culture that has occurred as a result of recent wars between Western and Middle Eastern countries that has brought this stereotype into popular view. Things like international participation, funding from countries in the Gulf, and a more prominent social media presence within Muslim extremist groups may also have popularized this stereotype- but it is still just that- a stereotype.

# Media, parties **misrepresent** campaigns

By Grace Marion

A September Gallup poll showed that just four in ten Americans trust the mass media to report news fully, fairly, and accurately. This rate ties the historic lows set in 2012 and 2014. In 2004, Pew research showed that 70 percent of Americans believe that there is a great deal, or fair amount, of media bias in news coverage- and they're right.

Since the announcement of his candidacy, Donald Trump has had a total of 212,090 mentions total on Al Jazeera America, Bloomberg, CNBC, CNN, Comedy Central, FOX Business, FOX News, LinkTV and MSNBC. Clinton has had 141,917 mentions in the same bases, Bush 80,136, Sanders 41,538, Carson 37,066, Rubio 36,898, Cruz 25,256, all the way down to Jim Gilmore at 416, according to a data compilation started by The Atlantic in August. Lawrence Lessig's mentions were not enough to tally.

With Trump consistently polling over Cruz and Rubio, according to the RCP polling average, it makes sense that he is mentioned much more often in the media than they- but it seems there is no other correlation in coverage. Cruz and Rubio are both polling far ahead of Bush and Carson, but have received leagues less airtime than the two. These discrepancies go far beyond airtime.

Minutes after the January Iowa town hall meeting, headlines such as "Sanders: Bill Clinton's

scandals  
'totally  
disgraceful",  
and "Sanders  
attacks  
Clinton on sex  
scandal," were  
strung up  
across every  
Twitter feed  
in America.  
These  
headlines

**"PERHAPS IT WAS HOW LESSIG  
PLANNED HIS PRESIDENCY THAT LED  
THE DNC TO REJECT HIM."**

were based off of Sander's response to questioning about the Monica Lewinsky scandal, and make it appear as if Sanders had been quite disrespectful towards the Clintons.

"Look, Hillary Clinton is not Bill Clinton. What Bill Clinton did, I think we can all acknowledge, was totally, totally, totally disgraceful and unacceptable. But I am running against Hillary Clinton. I'm not running against Bill Clinton." Sanders said. In this case, it may be argued that the headlines were at least somewhat representative, but in most others that argument is unavailable.

The American public, as shown above, understands that bias exists within today's media, there is another group that effects the elections-political parties.

Sanders Campaign employee Josh Uretsky, in December, violated protocol by crossing a

firewall that had been lowered by NGP VAN, the independent polling company used by the DNC, to access Clinton Donor information.

Following this, the DNC imposed strict consequences on the Sanders campaign. They would not be allowed to access any voter or donor information, even their own. Sanders sued the DNC for access the next day and demanded a full investigation into the matter, as Uretsky had been recommended to his campaign by the DNC and NGP VAN. The head of the DNC at the time, Debbie Wasserman Shultz, contributed greatly, in a financial sense, to the Clinton campaign. She has stepped down from her position in recent weeks.

In September, polling at over 1 percent according to Daily Kos reports, the level at which a candidate was required to meet to participate in the first Democratic Debate of this election cycle, Lessig raised \$1 million dollars in under 30 days, directly after announcing his candidacy. The DNC, thereafter, refused to include Lessig on any polls, to publish his press releases, or to allow him on debates.

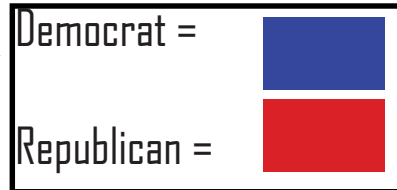
Perhaps it was how Lessig planned his Presidency that led the DNC to reject him. He would enact finance reform; criminalize the bribing of government figures, which is currently legal in the United States; work to repeal the Citizen's United ruling; then resign. This was basically a long-form plan to rid the country of Super PACs. As a result of his exclusion, after several months, Lessig dropped out of the

race.

It appears from this that the more money a candidate has, the better represented they are in the media, and in that, the less they threaten the wealth of their party, the better they are treated by said party.

With the ruling on Citizen United, in which corporations were deemed 'people', and the removal of donation caps to campaigns through yet another Supreme Court ruling, it has become easier and easier to corrupt electoral systems.

Because of this, it seems that Lessig was right, after all- for money is power, and power corrupts.



Jeb Bush  
-Increase military spending  
-Some changes towards immigration  
-Simplify tax code

PHOTO/JEB2016.COM



Ben Carson  
-Increase military spending  
-Secure border on immigration  
-Simplify tax code

PHOTO/BENCARSON.COM



Chris Christie  
-Increase military spending  
-Some changes towards immigration  
-Flat income tax

PHOTO/CHRISCHRISTIE.COM



Ted Cruz  
-Increase military spending  
-Secure border on immigration  
-Flat income tax

PHOTO/TEDCRUZ.ORG



# Presidential **hopefuls** chose their positions



Carly Fiorina

- Increase military spending
- Some changes towards immigration
- Simplify tax code

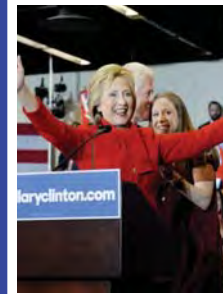
PHOTO/CARLYFORPRESIDENT.COM



Marco Rubio

- Increase military spending on foreign policy
- Secure border on immigration
- Simplify tax code

PHOTO/MARCORUBIO.COM



Hillary Clinton

- Aggressive foreign policy
- Path to citizenship for immigrants
- Increase tax on wealthy

PHOTO/HILLARYCLINTON.COM



John Kasich

- Limit spending on foreign policy
- Path to citizenship for immigrants
- Flat income tax

PHOTO/JOHNKASICH.COM



Donald Trump

- Increase military spending
- Mass deportation of immigrants
- Simplify tax code

PHOTO/DONALDJTRUMP.COM



Bernie Sanders

- Limit spending on foreign policy
- Path to citizenship for immigrants
- Increase tax on wealthy

PHOTO/BERNIESANDERS.COM

## Beyond **bipartisan**: a look at other parties

By Gauri Mangala

Gary Johnson, previously serving as governor of New Mexico from 1995 to 2003 as a Republican, current member of the Libertarian party, is running for President for second time. In 2012, he won about one percent of popular vote. Johnson wishes to win the Libertarian nomination again this year and continue the progress and education of the Libertarian views.



The Libertarian Party, after the Republican and Democratic parties, is the largest political party in America. The main focus of the party is civil rights, personal freedoms, free trade, non-intervention based foreign policy, free-market principles, and peace.

PHOTO/GARYJOHNSON2016.COM

Americans tend to focus on the Bipartisan system that is slowly becoming a less accurate representation of the American government. The public and media focus heavily on the Republican and Democratic presidential candidates, while giving little to no attention to those of other parties. Currently, two candidates are running in the Presidential race as members of these forgotten parties, Gary Johnson and Jill Stein.

Jill Stein, member of the Green party, is also running for President for a second time. The Green Party maintains similar ideals to other

Green Parties of the world. The main focus of the party are social justice, equal opportunity, ecological wisdom, non-violence and decentralization.

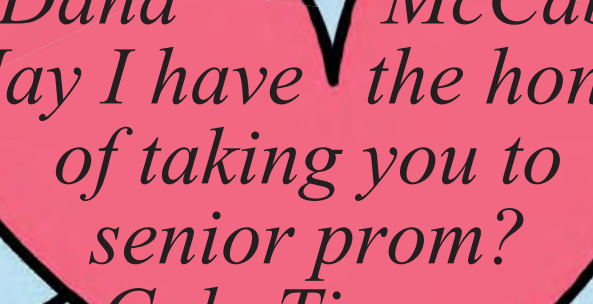


PHOTO/JILL2016.COM



## Sweet Hearts for Sweethearts

Love Lines are an opportunity for the Neshaminy community to express how they feel to someone or multiple someone's on Valentine's Day. As editors, we can edit and even remove any message that is indecent, offensive, insulting, etc. If this occurs, your money will not be refunded.



*Dana McCabe,  
May I have the honor  
of taking you to  
senior prom?  
Cole Tiemann*

GRAPHIC/ZOEY JOYCE



# Bogus bill to create Philly band registry

By Leanne Khov

On Jan. 27, City Councilman Mark Squilla of the First District proposed a new bill that will require all owners of Philadelphia venues like restaurants, nightclubs and bars to create a registry by collecting the names, addresses and phone numbers of all musicians that will perform in their area. This means that all performances will have to be licensed by Philadelphia's government in order to perform at all.

As the bill is headed to a committee hearing, it will allow the Philadelphia Police Department to take part in the approval process for a "Special Assembly Occupancy" license, a section of the Philadelphia Code. The license describes how venues must be licensed in order to hold special events for concerts containing 50 or more people.

Not only are venues required to obtain the musician's registry, this

bill will require them to hand over the performer's information to the police when they are asked for. It will allow the police to decide where and when these performers will play by looking into each performer and their tracks before licensing them for approval. Thus, this will allow law enforcement veto power over shows containing 50 or more people.

According to Billy Penn news, Squilla sees no problem about his bill. "Some clubs were operating without a license because they found a way to have music without a DJ or live performer/band. This legislation will include new forms of music/streaming that weren't around when this first Special assembly bill became law," Squilla said.

However, many musicians, fans and promoters have reacted with negativity towards this bill. As the word of the legislation spread, many exploded in anger, mainly at

Squilla.

In response, Avram Hornik, owner of Four Corners Management, have stated to Philly Voice, "[Police are] not trained for it. They have enough responsibilities to police the city and keep the city safe -- why do they have the responsibility for deciding if something is a risk or not? And if they don't affirmatively say it's safe, then if something goes wrong, they're responsible."

Many have petitioned against the bill in websites like Change.org which will be headed to the committee hearing. Philadelphians and performers have also expressed their outrage in social media, arguing that musicians should not be forced to give out their private information as well as allowing the police the right to decide whether or not they should perform.

"I don't think this bill should be enacted. Musicians should

be allowed to perform without having to be licensed and giving out their info. Their purpose is to please crowds and the government should let them do that without any restrictions," said sophomore Julianna Mathew.

For Squilla, the bill's intent was never to allow the police to have veto power or to force a registry upon the musicians. After hearing the slams against the bill, Squilla was planning to strip out the bill's requirement of musicians to give out their addresses and names. As the controversy grew more intense and outrageous, Squilla decided to withdraw the bill and create a new bill that will leave out the registry requirement instead. Despite denouncing the bill, musicians are still planning to create a rally, organized by Lea van der Tak, outside City Hall on Feb 4.

## Food Critique

# Restaurant stuns tastebuds

By Madison Pickul

Located at the Center of Langhorne is the family owned eatery, The Sandwich Club. This food joint has been owned for 22 years by Rose and Joe Amato. Although this isn't the run of the mill restaurant, its uniqueness is what makes it truly great. "We want to be different from a pizza place," Stated Rose.

The relationship that the Sandwich Club employees have with their customers is a friendly and personal one. That is evident when they named one of their most popular items, the Donna's Favorite, after one of their many loyal customers. The Donna's Favorite includes eight chicken tenders, two sauces, a full order of fries and comes in four different varieties. "Donna became infamous," said Rose Amato. "Thanks to Donna- it put us on the map!"

The Sandwich Club has a variety of fresh food that with a personal touch to them. Joe Amato is known for taking something familiar and adding his own personal touch to it. Their Chicken Tenders are just one example of that. They have a secret breeding on it that only Joe Amato knows. The tenders are also served with a tweaked Boom Boom sauce, with a tangy taste and kick to it.

Joe Amato's personal touch to his food is especially shown through their homemade Rice Cini Balls. The Cini originated from a secret Amato family recipe crafted in Sicily, Italy. When biting into the Buffalo Rice Cini the first thing that comes to mind is mouthwatering. The breeding is crispy and warm, while the inside is rich and spicy. It's something that is quite addicting and comes in a generous portion size. The Rice Cini also comes in a variety of flavors.

The Sandwich Club is an exceptional food place and often supports the Neshaminy School District with a kick back fundraiser. Their next kick back will be on Tuesday Feb. 23, and it is from 4-9 P.M. 15 percent of the overall profit will go to Oliver Heckman Elementary School. The Sandwich Club is now offering online ordering through their website.

The Playwickian  
February 12, 2016



PHILADELPHIA- JOY AGAIN, HANK GREEN, AND OTHER BANDS WILL BE EFFECTED BY THIS BILL, ALONG WITH THE VENUES THEY PLAY (FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA, THE ELECTRIC FACTORY, UNION TRANSFER CENTER) AND THE PEOPLE THEY SERVE.

PHOTOS//GRACE MARION





# Yeezus 2.0 joins the radio waves

By Dan Cho

After two years of the abstract and potent minimalist beats of "Yeezus," Kanye West bursts into the scene, while in the midst of a series of controversies, of his seventh studio album, "Waves."

Long awaited by fans and admirers, they paused with bated breath for the final debut of the album for two years. With what many considered a disappointment with "Yeezus," they hoped that "Waves" will be able to satisfy their cravings for the old Yeezy beats.

Originally named "So Help Me God," and, later on, "Swish," it recently has been changed to "Waves." Also, some of the tracks on the album had

***"This is not album of the year. This is album of the life,"***

a similar modification. "Nina Chop," the first song on the tracklist, was changed to "Famous" while the last song of the list, "Wolves," was replaced with the addition of a new song, "Ultra Light Beam," that was not originally on the album.

"Waves" bears more expectations from listeners to be a step-up. Like all of West's albums, they all shattered stereotypical rap images and reached new heights in the rap industry. "I like it when he pushes boundaries and I hope he continues to do so," Joshua Stoner, AP U.S. history teacher, said. "It seemed like he kind of backed off Yeezus when it didn't sell as well."

Defined by three acts, similarly like "The College Dropout," "Late Registration," and "Graduation," "Waves" is expected to be more of his

older style. With the fallen expectations from "Yeezus," people thirst for the man that had humbled himself when he had once won his first Grammy's. "Hopefully Kanye will create more self-aware songs," David Tilli, junior, said. "I wasn't much of a fan of him saying 'I'm awesome' and 'I'm a god'. He needs to be less self-absorbed."

Expected to drop on Feb. 11, music enthusiasts contain themselves, with barely-contained excitement, for his upcoming studio album. With his direct proclamation, "This is not album of the year. This is album of the life," the world watches for his confident, border-line arrogant, assertion to come into fruition or fall short flat on its face, again.

## Movie Preview

# Deadpool's sassy jokes in theaters soon

By Connor Menzel

Deadpool, since his release in comics nearly 25 years ago, has been revered by readers for his snarky attitude and sarcastic remarks. For decade, his fans have anxiously awaited his debut on the big screen and now, it seems, their wait is over. Fox 20th century and Marvel Entertainment, on Feb. 12, will be releasing their Deadpool movie throughout the United States.

Deadpool first appeared in the action-packed comic book, "The New Mutants," in 1991 as a special character, but he has quickly grew to celebrity status in the superhero world.

Many are drawn to Deadpool because he is an anti-hero; he usually kills the enemies, whereas classic superheroes are known to not stand for such a solution. A violent, mentally unstable hero, Deadpool continuously lashes out with snarky one liners throughout the comics. In his movie trailer, Deadpool can be seen standing on the roof of a car that is flipping over without any worry about dying, saying, "Did I leave the stove on?"

Deadpool is without worries of destruction most of the time because he is indestructible.

Even in deadly situations, Deadpool lighthearted and funny personality excites many for more of his adventures.

"Shhh. My common sense is tingling," is one of his most famous lines. He said this as a spoof of Spider Man, who often says "My spidey sense is tingling."

Ryan Reynolds, who had a previous experience playing a superhero when he starred as the Green Lantern, will be playing Deadpool in the new movie. "I'm incredibly happy about it — we've got a director that understands that world and writers with a slavish devotion to the canon of that character. That's the most important aspect: it's made in a way the most critical of fanboys could embrace. Well, that's the hope," said Reynolds while talking about the movie. He seems to have high hopes that the movie will be a success when it finally hits theater.

The movie is to be directed by Tim Miler. It is being

produced by Ryan Reynolds, Simon Kinberg, and Lauren Shuler Donner. The contact for filming was signed in 2000, and it has taken 16 years to complete in whole, although filming did not begin until 2014. It was filmed in Vancouver, Canada.

There is a projected \$55-60 million income projected during the movie's release on the 4 day weekend. It's running time is 108 minutes, and the cinematographer was Ken Seng.

Some critics are worried that the movie may be inappropriate for little children due to some sexual references that Deadpool may make. However, the high anticipation surrounding it and action-packed story line leaves it impossible for fans and families to refuse to watch it.

Fans have always known Marvel for its lively superheroes and climatic plotlines, which leave viewers satisfied. People have waited and anticipated for the next Marvel movie- their wait was finally answered last year when Marvel announced their decision to air "Deadpool," on the big screen, leaving superhero fans in frenzy.

"Based upon Marvel Comics' most unconventional anti-hero, DEADPOOL tells the origin story of former Special Forces operative turned mercenary Wade Wilson, who after being subjected to a rogue experiment that leaves him with accelerated healing powers, adopts the alter ego Deadpool. Armed with his new abilities and a dark, twisted sense of humor, Deadpool hunts down the man who nearly destroyed his life," boasts Fox Movies.



SKETCH//GRACE MARION



# AP Season Takes Off in High Gear

By Tim Cho

It has come to that time of the year—no, not Gym Night or prom or class trips. For students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses, AP season has begun.

AP courses are academically more rigorous than the Honors and College Prep courses, meant to mimic a college-level education. In May, AP students participate in the AP national exams, which determine how well a student knows a course's curriculum and scores the students, on a one to five scale, with five as the highest score.

AP courses have a reputation for being difficult and time-consuming, and for good reason. For example, AP United States History covers America's history, starting from the Native Americans in the 16th century and ending with the beginning of the 21st century. Thus, 500 years of American history is examined and analyzed, finishing with a national exam that spans the entire curriculum. Furthermore, while most courses at Neshaminy follow the September-to-June curriculum calendar, AP

courses follow a September-to-April schedule; once all relevant material has been covered by April, teachers and students then begin preparing and reviewing for the national exam in May.

Some students also take more than one AP course. Consequently, even more time is spent learning the material. Taking AP courses is not a light matter or for the fickle-minded—it is a serious commitment to learning.

"They're only worth taking if you feel confident in that field of study and have some time to commit to that course. On average an AP class will have 4 hours of homework a week, which isn't too overbearing if you can master time management," Emre Fisher, Neshaminy senior, said.

However, there are benefits from taking these challenging courses. Some students desire more challenging courses, more diverse curricula and specialized education to serve as a kick start for their college education.

The biggest incentive for taking AP courses is the available college

credits. Each college and university has its own requirements, but nonetheless, the opportunity to bypass college courses while still in high school has drawn hundreds of students to take AP courses.

College credits costs anywhere between 100 dollars and a few hundred dollars. Meanwhile, AP national exams cost 92 dollars. Thus, it is cheaper to take AP exams, especially if students plan on taking multiple AP courses.

Most public colleges and universities require a score of at least three for AP credit to apply. More prestigious and exclusive colleges and universities require higher AP scores, however.

Knowing all of this, it is no wonder students hesitate when deciding which AP class they want to take, if they want to take one at all. For those already in AP courses, now is the time when the end is approaching; the finish line is just on the horizon and after three months, the worst will have passed.

Currently, Neshaminy increases the number of AP courses students

can take as they progress towards senior year. The first available AP courses are in sophomore year, when students can take AP European History, AP Environmental Science and AP Music Theory. Juniors are able to take AP Statistics, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP United States History, AP European History and AP Music Theory. Seniors have the greatest variety with AP Statistics, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics, AP United States History, AP European History, AP Psychology, AP American Government & Politics, AP Spanish, AP French and AP Music Theory.

Students who pursue AP courses prefer more challenging courses, but end with long-lasting benefits. Those who succeed in AP courses learn how to academically survive, whether it be good time management or searching on the Internet for answers to an assignment due the next day. In any case, AP students prepare themselves for their college education.

GRAPHIC/ GRACE MARION

## Diversity Pride Club Celebrates Black History Month

By Liz Daniel

Diversity Pride Club is celebrating Black History Month this February at Neshaminy High School. Black History Month is an opportunity to emphasize and educate others of the great accomplishments and strides that have been taken by black people throughout history and have forever changed the way black people live in society today. Black History Month originally derived from Carter G. Woodson's "Negro History Week" to cultivate awareness of black accomplishments that have been and still is neglected from school curriculum.

Janel Pascucci, senior and president of the Diversity Pride Club says, "Black History Month is a time to remind ourselves of how far we've come as people and how much closer our generation is coming to

peace between all races. Black History Month isn't just about remembering influential people like Martin Luther King Jr. or Rosa Parks but to reflect on how all of the suffering our ancestors dealt with in order to give us a life that they could have."

Through the years, historical figures such as Martin Luther King Jr., Langston Hughes, Marcus Garvey, Rosa Parks and many others have continued to expand black history and show that we must not let our accomplishments divide us but you unite us and celebrate our community as a whole. The success of these historical leaders have come through peace and patience while fighting for the right of all colored people to be treated equally.

The mission of The Diversity Pride club, as stated in the pledge, is to improve diversity, develop healthy relationships and to create and promote a positive image for all people. They pledge to respect

diversity within all students, and will not pass judgments and/or speak upon judgments out loud. They are a club that reflects and promotes acceptance for all.

Black History Month was created to educate all people and inspire them to fight for their rights no

matter the circumstances. We are the future and maybe one day Black History will be celebrated every day instead of just for a month. Join The Diversity Pride Club this February in celebrating Black History Month not to be divided among races, but united as people.

### Dance With Celeste

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# Noa Rassin:

## Through the eyes of Terror and Travel



"In times of such stressed relationships between countries, it's key to keep open minded- which Noa is excellent at doing. She is not a citizen of one place, but many... it's clear that the simple things like connecting with people from around the world, can bring them so much closer than anyone could think."

United States of America  
NICOLE BESPALOV, JUNIOR, BBYO MEMBER

entails traveling to talk to armies around the world while representing your nation's. Because several countries during wartime go through universal traumatic experiences, she believes that job shows true compassion – understanding a shared event

that unites humanity; "Not only did I care about America and Israel, but also other people around the world who deal with this," Rassin said.

During her 2014 visit to Israel, Rassin saw firsthand the meaning behind true fear. On a day where the blue skies and white clouds met the green grass and shook hands as Benjamin Netanyahu and Mahamous Abbas, political leaders of Israel and Palestine respectively, were not able to, an announcement was also made. About missile strikes in the area – a moment that later served as the "turning point" of her life.

It was 2 a.m. in the morning at a park, an open place, with a few small picnic tables nearby and a siren blaring in the background. She, her cousins and friends hid, under the table, hoping for the best, waiting for boom. "You need to experience something like that in order to really learn about yourself," Rassin said.

It - the rocket - fell, landing 10 miles away in open space, unable to be taken out by

the Iron Dome, the main air defense system developed by Israel. She later advocated for continuation of U.S. funds to perpetuate the development of the Iron Dome at an AIPAC (American-Israel Public Affairs Committee) conference in Washington D.C. Learning more about relations between America and Israel in DC from a cultural, political and economic standpoint, she spoke with Penn. Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick about the matter.

"She has given me the confidence to speak up for my beliefs, the passion to get more involved and the leadership skills to inspire others. As many know, Noa will be joining the Israeli army this upcoming summer. Many American citizens feel that parts of the Middle East are strictly terrorism but in Noa's eyes... Israel is her home, her love and never does fear come across her mind; Noa's devotion to her home land is something everyone should be inspired by," Casey Superfine, Vice President of the BBYO chapter said.

She relates these experiences back to Neshaminy, where she talks to exchange and English-as-a-Second Language students because of the diverse experiences they bring to her school community and believes they have the most interesting insight to offer. "You don't get to meet these people who come from different places. You meet the people who come from Levittown or Trevose or Feasterville or Langhorne," Rassin said.

Since her flights to Israel are usually independent, she talks to those sitting on the plane with her, to learn, to establish a personal connection, to find adventure in diversity, and because "[she experiences] the kind of communication school doesn't teach [her]. On the way to CA, she sat next to a man from Japan, who happened to be a author in the middle of publishing a book and a year later, received a letter. "We say we learn to accept differences in high school, but it's nothing like in Israel or another country," Rassin said.

"One of the things that make Noa so unique is the fact that she speaks 4 languages - English, Hebrew, Russian and Spanish - and she realizes the importance of languages in cultural understanding and promotion of goodwill. She knows that in order to be able to solve issues, you must approach them from multiple viewpoints, especially cultural," Filip Karan, former Neshaminy exchange student from Croatia said.

Through the travels, tragedies, conferences and conventions she finds inspiration - to want to see countries in their "purest form" and later represent them with first-hand knowledge.

Checking global news daily, aiming to meet someone from every country by thirty, Rassin is in the constant process of becoming, shaping herself based on the voices, anecdotes and accounts she has heard.

"There's lots of connection between her experiences traveling and our particular course. She's made connections with people in [the Middle East] that she brings back and says 'hey I have potentially some speakers that may want to come in and share expertise in certain areas like terrorism and human rights...' I can tell how interested she is in this stuff... There's not a day where she doesn't come up and have something to say about what she's doing, what she's preparing to do or what she's already done," AP Human Geography teacher, Ed Miller said.

"Since Noa speaks multiple languages, and as an Israeli who is supposed to serve in the Israeli army, Noa has decided to take on a peaceful role. She wants to serve as an interpreter and an ambassador in the army in order to promote peace and understanding, a capacity which a lot of people lack."



FILIP KARAN, FORMER NESHAMINY EXCHANGE STUDENT FROM CROATIA

## By Eishna Ranganathan

Each year a wish is made. But it is not followed by the "blowing out" of burning candles. She chooses to save it, this tradition of wish-making, for a later time. A time when the flight attendant announces "Please fasten your seatbelts. The plane will now prepare for take-off." And it does. And she goes home, to her home, Israel, with stuffed animal "Johnny" in hand and dreams "more so ambitions" at heart.

President of her local B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO) chapter, an annual traveler to Israel, and an advocate for international diplomacy, Noa Rassin aspires partake in nation-to-nation interactions as her future career. After graduating Neshaminy High School, she will join the Israeli Army with a position in the foreign relations sector, which

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February 12, 2016



# Nesh Couture

By Namish Siddiqui

Keri Marable, freshman, is the vice president of class office, who loves to shop at Forever 21, H&M and Plato's Closet. "I feel as though Forever 21 has cheap yet cute clothes. I want to spend money on clothes but not a lot," Marable said.

She is wearing a gray skirt with a white floral print with a gray sleeveless sweater crop top on top of a white crisp button down shirt. Topped off with black knee high socks paired perfectly with her attire.

Marable said, "I love Cher Horowitz from Clueless. I am really into the 90's grunge vibe," when asked about her fashion role models. She also likes Kylie Jenner and her sister Kendal Jenner. "Kylie has that edgy look while Kendal has the classy look."



PHOTO/NAMISH SIDDIQUI



PHOTO/ZOEY JOYCE

By Zoey Joyce

Forrest Filiano, senior, is a member of Roadies and the President of the Drama Club. He is known for his acting but also for his style of clothing. When listing off options for the best dressed guys, Filiano was the first to come to mind.

Filiano is wearing a graphic T-Shirt with a dark brown plaid. He's wearing gray jeans and white converse. When asked about his style Forrest replied "I try to do my own thing." His sense of fashion could be described as city like and more mature than his peers.

On the topic of advice, Filiano had a couple things to say, like, "Never underestimate the power of a thrift store." Filiano also spoke true about the positive impacts about fashion: "I think people should treat themselves to dressing up at least once a week. It can make you feel confident and good looking if only for a day."



PHOTO/ASHLEY REISS

## "Practically perfect" stage crew

By Kirsten Magas

Now that the time is coming near, musical fans at Neshaminy will be buzzing about the lead roles in this year's musical: Mary Poppins. Seniors Rebecca Allen and Hannah Lieb are playing the wondrous Mary Poppins. Forrest Filiano and Chad Wiatrowski are playing the comical, yet light hearted Bert.

When the show's over and the curtain is about to close, the entire cast will gesture toward the back to acknowledge the people that tend to be forgotten: the stage crew.

These helpful and important members are people the audience might not see. Being dressed in all black from head to toe helps camouflage them during that short transition in the dark.

Responsibilities of the stage crew aren't limited to set changes either. They range from band members who play the music, and the work can be building props for hours on end to setting up proper lighting for each scene. "This set more than others is really big," Lieb, who stars as Mary Poppins on Thursday and Saturday night. "I know that the set builders are here every Saturday hours upon hours."

The big scene this musical is when Poppins and Bert are lifted off the stage to fly. This stunt is difficult to do and could be dangerous in some situations. However, with the help

of a company and some other extra actors, they make this stunt possible.

To make these lovely ladies and gentleman even more awesome, they're required at every single dress rehearsal. Even when there's not much to do, they're still there whenever they're needed.

"I know that as a group of actors we're all so appreciative of them," Lieb said. "Without the great sets, this show wouldn't be as good."

Neshaminy senior Noah Schaeffer helps every year with the sound system in the auditorium. Schaeffer makes sure all of the microphones on the cast members are working properly. The key to a great musical is having the audience actually hear the lines being delivered by the actors and actresses.

"While the musical directors are very appreciative of our time and make it known to the cast, that recognition never makes its way to the public," Schaeffer stated. "If you mess up your job, everyone knows. If you do your job perfectly, no one knows." Stage crew puts in as much work as the actors themselves, but their efforts are often gone unrecognized.

From changing the lighting during a dramatic scene, to moving a chair across the room, the stage crew is surely one group of people to give an extra round of applause too.



# League Of Their Own

## Freshman wrestler wins big



**Jackson Erb**

Although he is only a freshman, Jackson Erb has already made great contributions to the wrestling team.

PHOTO COURTESY OF/JACKSON ERB

By Julie Mazur

For the past 10 years of his life, Jackson Erb's whole world has revolved around wrestling. But so far it has really paid off. He has been very successful in wrestling and continues to improve. Wrestling is practically in his blood, as he comes from a long line of family wrestlers. Since he was 5 years old, wrestling has been his main focus in life.

Since he started, Jackson has been an outstanding wrestler. He won his first tournament at the age of 6. In the year 2009, Erb placed 3rd in the Pennsylvania Jr. States

As he grew up he continued to win. Some of his biggest accomplishments have been being a 2011 Eastern National Champion, 2013 Pop N' Flo Champion, 2014 Eastern National Champion and 2014 Eastern Coast Champion.

The past 5 years of Jackson's life have been dedicated to preparing for his High School wrestling career, training 6-7 days a week. As a freshmen, as he has had a winning record of 22-4 (12 wins being pins).

Erb placed 1st at his first ever high school tournament, and also placed 3rd at Governor Mifflin tournament. Lastly, he was undefeated at Souderton Duals.

"My season is going OK, but I could definitely be having a better one. All that matters though is what happens in post season, which is states. My goal for this season is 40 wins and to win a state medal." Erb said.

Erb plans to continue to work hard to continue to improve in order to reach his goal for this season.

# Fast Facts

10

years spent wrestling

22-4

overall record

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*Website: www.uptownhall.com*



By Ashley Reiss

A young healthy athletic high school student runs down the court dribbling the ball, the crowd is on their feet as the star player attempts to make the final shot that would win the championship, but he starts to plunge toward the ground without warning. The ball slips from his hands, as the players freeze. An unsettling silence moves over the crowd. All that is audible is a gasp from the mother in the stands, he lays there, lifeless.

This is what is striking the fear in parent's eyes after hearing stories like the one above. They are scared it will be their son or daughter while they are playing their favorite sports.

Sudden Cardiac Death (SCD), the "death that is abrupt, unexpected and due to cardiovascular cause," according to Annals of Pediatric Cardiology is the cause of some players doing exactly that, suffering from cardiac arrest leaving them to die on the court.

The worst aspect of this condition is in the name, "sudden" as it has very few symptoms, if at all, and is causing a debate whether children--high school students and college students-- should be screened

for EKG's (Electrocardiography).

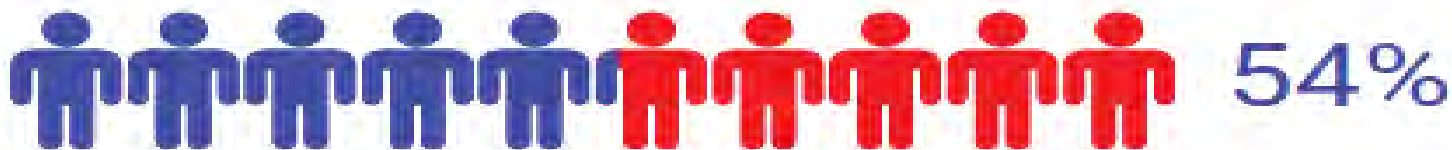
An EKG or sometimes referred to as ECG is a test that looks at and checks for problems with the electrical activity of the heart which is recorded with waves on a paper. This test is superior to the physical exams given as of recent date, although there are problems that come with this exam, furthering the debate whether EKGs should be mandated for student athletes.

N.C.A.A. Chief Medical Officer, Brian Hainline, stated recommendations that all male basketball players should be screened for an EKG, after a study in 2011 showing an increase correlation of deaths, one in 5,200 per year, were dying because of SCD. But retracted the statements after a protest and signed petition of more than 100 college's questioning the effectiveness of these screenings.

"It's not an old thing, to try and mandate EKGs but it's like anything else to rule out heart problems if something like that happens. But the rarity of the condition of the heart problem is such that the expense finding a very small problem may not be reasonable. As well it would be eliminating some from playing for no reason as much as finding the people they need to protect. This is like

*"It's not an old thing, to try and mandate EKG's. It's like looking for a needle in a haystack."*

GRAPHICS/ GRACE MARION AND NATALIE PIETROWSKI



According to the American Heart Association, 54% of deaths from SCD occurred in high school students.



1 in 5,200

Number of deaths due to "Sudden Cardiac Death" in 2011

looking for a needle in a haystack" athletic trainer Brain Schdlinger said.

The EKG is found to produce results that are considered false-positives—results that state there is a problem when there is none. This will, if mandated for all players to undergo EKG screenings, put otherwise healthy individuals on the sidelines. It also will result in the families of the false positives to undergo more extensive and expensive unneeded testing, in addition to trauma that comes with a positive reading.

According to sports medicine specialist David Geier, a doctor at the tests could potentially result in false positives for about 500,000 students. Not only can the test produce false-positives, the opposite can happen. Someone could read an EKG wrong or could not foresee a problem on the scan, that there is in actuality a real problem. This will lead parents to have a false security blanket.

The studies following SCD are murky and some studies show that the number of athletes suffering from SCD is too low to be of concern. The shock factor of this condition is startling, because why should a healthy athlete die, especially of a cardiac condition with no symptoms?

Some studies support the use of EKGs, such as a study done in Italy. The study followed the rate of SCDs of student athletes two years before the implementation of EKG's versus 22 years after EKG's were enforced.

The study found an astounding 90 percent reduction of SCD, leading to the routine use of EKG screening in the examination of athletes in Europe.

A similar study was done in Israel. This study found no change in the number of SCD's and ruled that the EKG did not influence or help whether athlete would survive.

Other studies show that only 25% of the already rare condition, SCD, involves young people playing sports. "The risk of being struck by lightning is about the same," said Benjamin Levine, professor at the University Of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

"I think that putting your health above playing sports is more important," junior varsity basketball player Thyra Tuttle said.

The American Heart Association as well as the American College of Cardiology opposes enforcing all student athletes to undergo EKG screenings.

They are employing a more rigorous questionnaires concerning cardiac problems such as family history and whether the athlete has faced chest discomfort. They will flag individuals to then determine if they need further examinations involving EKG screenings.

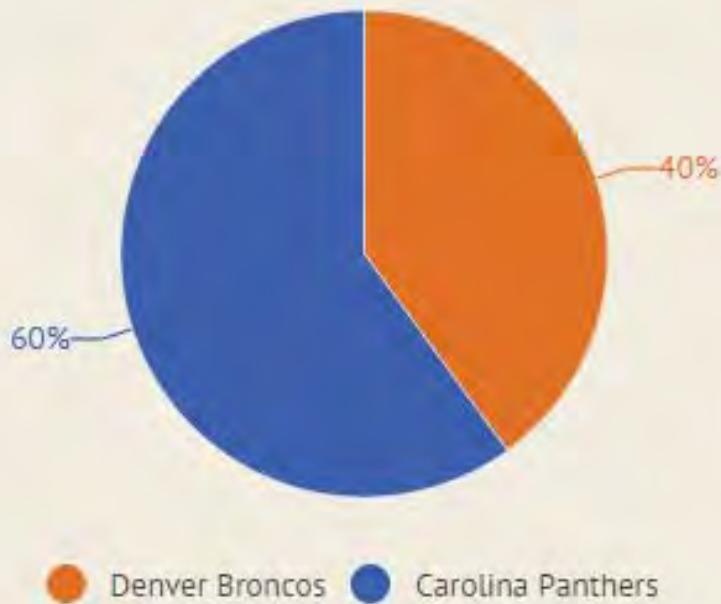
Additionally, the N.C.A.A. is administering guidelines that involve training of CPR and Automatic Defibrillators to be placed on hand of schools for these types of situations in case they do happen.



# NFL HONORS NESHAMINY ALUMNI

**Who did you think was going to win the Superbowl?**

Denver Broncos vs. Carolina Panthers



About 40% of Playwickian members predicted correctly when said that the Denver Broncos would win the Superbowl. The other 60% thought that the Carolina Panthers were going to win.

Awarded in honor of Chris Bahr who graduated in 1970 and was a kicker for the Oakland and Los Angeles Raiders in Super Bowl XV and XVIII.



Awarded in honor of Matt Bahr, who graduated in 1974 and played for the Pittsburgh Steelers and the New York Giants in Super Bowl XIV and XXV respectively.



Awarded in honor of Harry Schuh who graduated in 1961 and played for the Oakland Raiders in Super Bowl II.



Awarded in honor of Steve Shull who graduated in 1976. Shull was a linebacker and one of three captains for the Miami Dolphins in Super Bowl XVII.







PHOTO CREDIT/NATALIE PIETROWSKI

## SIGN AWAY--

On Fri. Feb. 5, 17 senior athletes were honored at a "Signing Day" ceremony where they signed National Letters of Intent. These letters allow athletes to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level.

(Top Row: William Ritchey, Denzel Hughes Harmon Yalartai, Kyle Smith, David Nuckles, William Meyer  
 Middle Row: Sean Conway, Marlana Koellner, Maria Palmieri, Gabrielle Farrell, Julia Anderozzi, Mackensie Compton  
 Bottom Row: Cailyn Seely, Sophie Beretski, Alyssa Antonelly, Amanda Blum, Christen Pennington)