



THE BANNER

North Brunswick Township High School
98 Raider Road North Brunswick, NJ 08902
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Largest Single-Day Robotics Competition in the Country Held in North Brunswick

Press Release

Forty robotics teams from the tri-state area descended upon North Brunswick on Saturday, November 11, to compete against each other playing FIRST STEAMWORKSSM for a final time before the start of the 2018 robotics season. The 16th Annual Brunswick Eruption event was hosted by FIRST FRC Team 25 – Raider Robotix at the team’s home school, North Brunswick Township High School. Brunswick Eruption is the largest single day off-season Robotics event in the nation. All FIRST robotics events are free and open to the public to attend.

Robots played STEAMWORKSSM in two three-team alliances, that placed as many gears that they could on an “airship” to enable four rotors to spin while

also placing as many “fuel” balls into the “boilers” as possible to gain more points. In the last 30 seconds, the ropes were deployed and all alliance robots climbed the ropes to the top in order to gain additional points as well as to completely “lift off”.

The winners of Brunswick Eruption 16 were: Team 694 - StuyPulse (Stuyvesant High School, New York, NY); Team 5895 - Peddie School Robotics (The Peddie School, Hightstown, NJ); Team 1257 - Parallel Universe (Union County Vocational-Technical Schools, Scotch Plains, NJ); and Team 41 – Robo Warriors (Watching Hills Regional High School, Warren, NJ).

The teams that finished as

Finalists were: Team 747 - Flight Crew (Middlesex, NJ); Team 222 - Tigertrons (Tunkhannock Area High School, Tunkhannock, PA); Team 3637 - The Daleks (Hunterdon Central Regional High School, Flemington, NJ); and Team 102 - The Gearheads (Somerville High School, Somerville, NJ).

The Mahalo Award for Gracious Professionalism was awarded to Team 747 - Flight Crew. Team 4653 - Ironmen Robotics (Don Bosco Prep High School, Ramsey, NJ) won the Evil Sundae Eating Contest.

Among the other awards, the Kumu Mentor Award was awarded to Joe McCullough for his passion and dedication in leading his team as the mentor for FRC Team 4575

- The Tin Mints of the Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania, Broomall, PA. Home Team 25 - Raider Robotix awarded the Big Kahuna award to team parent Harshal Dalal, recognizing his year-round commitment of a team volunteer in helping to run Raider Robotix and Brunswick Eruption.

During Brunswick Eruption, two charity collections were held: a food drive to benefit the North Brunswick Food Pantry and Raider Robotix’s shoe drive. Team 806 – The Brooklyn Blacksmiths (Xaverian High School, Brooklyn, New York) took home the trophy for collecting 1,480 items. Team 1626 – Falcon Robotics (St. Joseph High School, Metuchen, NJ) earned a trophy for collecting 473 pairs of shoes.

Contreras Signing to Central Connecticut State University

Shaniah Stokes, Staff Writer

Andrea Contreras (senior) was signed to Central Connecticut State University to play softball at a division I level. Each year Andrea comes back as an improved player and she continues to flourish each year. Hopefully her final year at NBTHS will be something memorable.

Shaniah Stokes, Photo Courtesy



Winter Concert

Olaedo Ukanwoke, Staff Writer

Every year the music program here at NBTHS puts on a concert filled with a variety of holiday music. This year’s concert took place on December 14, 2017 in the NBTHS auditorium. The students in the music program worked hard since the beginning of the school year, practicing and going to rehearsals, all in preparation for

the show and it was good work because the concert turned out wonderfully.

At the concert this year, the band, choir, and orchestra performed songs such as “Stille Nacht,” “Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas,” “A Festival of Hanukkah,” “Old Scottish Melody” and much more. The music was heart warming

and the audience really enjoyed it. Kiran Baig, a student who attended the concert, said, “It was an interesting experience watching the orchestra and band play from a new perspective. I can definitely see that everyone worked and improved a lot and it was nice seeing new things.”

When Mr. Ford, orchestra teacher at NBTHS, was asked about

how the performance went he said, “I’m really proud of the kids, they really sounded fantastic. The music was enthusiastically received by the audience.” Mr. Smith, one of the band teachers, said, “I’m so proud of the students for all their hard work. This was without a doubt the best winter concert I’ve had the pleasure of being apart of.” The winter concert was a great success.

STUDENTS ON THE MARKING PERIOD

Vianelly Batista	Ahmani Gray	Omar Shehabeldin
Sidharth Bejugama	Ginalee Jiminez	Yanee Stafford
Ross Feiner	Fay Jah Johnson	Breanna Williams
Manuela Alejandra Salazar Botero		

CLUB UPDATES

SGO

The SGO/RISE Talent Show will take place on Friday, January 26th at 7:00. We will also have Class Olympics on Friday, February 2nd. The student faculty basketball will take place in March for Senior boys and girls (who are not on the basketball team). Applications are available beginning February 1st. We are continuing to raise money for POAC Autism Services are about halfway to our \$5000 goal.

Peer Tutoring

The after school tutoring program runs on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays (the days there are late buses) from 2:20-3:50 PM in the MRC. Tutors of various subjects are available to help students as needed. If you have questions or need more information feel free to reach out to Mr. Garcia or Miss Rafano, mgarcia@nbtsschools.org or arafano@nbtsschools.org”

P.A.W.S. Club Update

This marking period P.A.W.S. (Protecting Animals With Service) has raised money by selling chocolates after school. The money raised will be going towards the animals in need. In October we volunteered at the Dog Walk-A-Thon. Hopefully this year we will be able to accomplish more and give back more to the animals in need.

Model U.N.

Over the past few weeks, the NBTHS Model U.N. club participated in the Columbia Model United Nations Conference and Exposition in New York City, New York. After months of preparation, students from the club were able to compete against high school students from across the world. Students displayed their public speaking, critical thinking, and debate skills in competitive crisis simulations. We are currently planning to attend more conferences later in the year, and are planning community service projects such as volunteering at local food banks.

Announcements!!
NBTHS Tutoring Program

Need extra help to prepapre for a test or project?
Want to improve your grades?
Need additional resources /explanations on a topic?

When: During Lunch Periods Monday-Friday

Where: Room 260 adjacent to the New Cafe

Key Club

Key Club Carnival will take place on Friday, March 2nd. We are raising money to help fight hunger in New Jersey by supporting Community Foodbank of New Jersey.

About The Banner

As a news publication of North Brunswick Township High School, *The Banner* serves to provide students with interesting, timely and important information about the school and community. Its staff covers events and stories that are pertinent to the student body at NBTHS.

While honoring the provisions the school has established to maintain a safe environment for its students, the staff upholds freedom of speech as ruled in *Tinker vs. Des Moines*.

The Banner runs online; throughout the year, the staff maintains a circulation of an electronic publication among NBTHS, the Board of Education and other areas in the community.

Advisory Board:

Rebecca Rouantree

Editorial Board:

Keshav Mukundhan
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Staff:

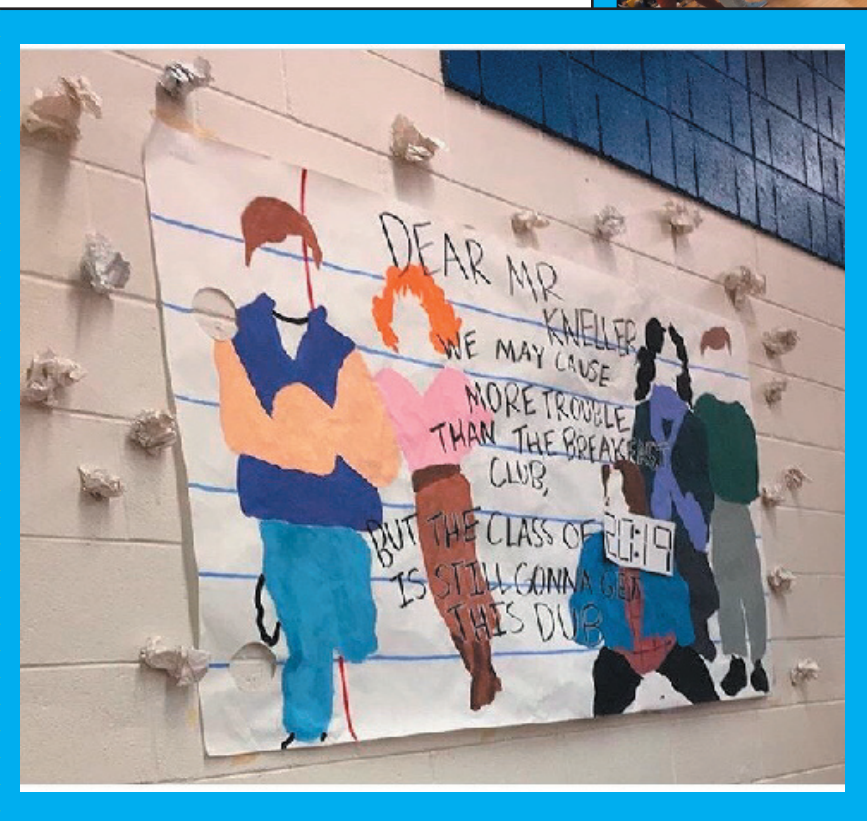
Alisha Akins
 Yarely Galindo
 Abhie Maharana



Pep Rally



2k18



FEATURES

Star Wars the Last Jedi Review

Keshav Mukundhan, Staff Writer

The next edition to the *Star Wars* franchise was finally out on December 15, 2017. It was one of the most hyped and exciting film that people were looking forward to in 2017. It lived up to most fans expectations and this film was very different from other *Star Wars* film.

Last year there was criticism that *Force Awakens* had too much similarities with *The New Hope*. This film wasn't similar to any other *Star Wars* film. Rian Johnson took the film in a different perspective that any fan couldn't think of, this film has surprising twists that fans couldn't see coming. Unlike other *Star Wars* films, Johnson incorporated more humor into the film. This was a worthy sequel to *The Force Awakens* with exciting action sequences.

KPOP Influencing the U.S.

Yarely Galindo, Staff Writer

KPOP is Korean Pop Music where boy groups and girl groups known as "Idols" amaze the public with their vocals, dance, rap, and visuals. KPOP music comes in a variety of genres such as Pop, R&B, Hip Hop, Ballad, any many more. Not to mention that every KPOP group has their own concept, making the music style very different from each other.

The songs include words in English to reach the international community. Other groups sing in Chinese and Japanese to attract Asian fan groups such as EXO, BTS, SHINEE, and many more. The amount of members within a group can vary from four to thirteen, making a variety for fans to choose their favorite.

Originally, KPOP was only meant to attract the Asian Community, however this year KPOP performed at a U.S. award show for the very first time making history for both Korean and American music.

BTS, a Korean boy group who debuted in 2013 with seven members from Big Hit Entertainment made a performance in American Music Awards 2017 with their recent comeback song "DNA," making history as the first Korean boy group to do so. Their fans, "ARMY'S," were dumbfounded when they saw them live at the award show, being proud to support them.

The members of the group were honored to be in the show. After their performance experienced a total success, their youngest member, Jungkook, commented, "We had so much energy because of our fans!"

However, the KPOP community in a whole has not been so hyped since December 18th. Jonghyun, the SHINEE leader, committed suicide around 6:10 pm in Korean time. Not only the group's fans, known as "SHAWOLS," were devastated with the news but also KPOP fans felt their heart drop.

Kiran Baig commented when she heard the tragedy, "During study hall, I was watching a video about what the other SHINEE members did after hearing news of Jonghyun's death. I started tearing up because of how sad they were."

Later she commented on what the whole KPOP community should do in order to cope with the grief, "Remembering him as an amazing person that helped so many others with his music. Don't let Jonghyun's death be in vain, spread awareness of how so many other people could be suffering from depression or other mental disorders, but they feel like they can't tell anyone or don't know who to talk to. What has happened was very sad, but it could help as a stepping stone for realizing the seriousness of mental health."

Marvel Studios' *Infinity War*

Abhie Maharana, Staff Writer

On November 29th, 2017 the trailer for the upcoming Marvel Studios' *Avengers: Infinity War* movie was published on YouTube. The two minute trailer of the movie consisted of a variety of short clips that hinted at the possible plot line of the movie, and revealed some new changes that might occur from the previous *Avengers* movie, *Age of Ultron*. According to Anthony and Joe Russo, *Infinity War* is scheduled to release on May 4th, 2018 in theaters across America.

In the first few seconds of the trailer, a small clip of an enormous red planet is shown. While most Marvel movies are centralized on Earth, this may be the first time Marvel has incorporated a different planet in the setting of an *Avengers* movie. It

is not clear what exactly may occur on this planet but it is definitely part of the plot of the movie.

Another significant clip during the trailer, is when the Scarlet Witch and Vision are gazing into each other's eyes inside a building. During this scene, Vision is in his human form, and engraved in his forehead is the Mind Stone (One of the six Infinity Stones). However, later on in the trailer, a scene depicts Thanos using his scepter to try and pry out the Mind Stone from Vision's forehead while pinning him down.

As far as suits, Peter Parker, otherwise known as Spiderman, has a new and improved suit that, from the looks of it, was built by Tony Stark (Ironman). The suit has a more robotic appearance compared

to Peter Parker's regular Spiderman suit.

Additionally, Captain America is seen without his Captain America suit and shield. Instead, he is wearing an all-black suit and is seen fighting against enemies without his original suit. Surprisingly, Ironman is seen without a suit as well. It seems as if Bruce Banner might be the reason why he does not have any suits because he is seen with the Hulkbuster in the beginning of the trailer.

As for the plot, it appears that the *Avengers* have split into multiple teams and are not together as one whole functional team. There seem to be different groups of *Avengers* with different objectives. For example, Dr. Strange, Ironman, and Wong seem to be within New

York while Captain America, Falcon, Black Panther, Bucky, Okoye, Hulk, and War Machine are in a war against Thanos's minions in Wauconda.

On the dark side, Thanos has the Infinity Gauntlet on his hand and according to the trailer he has collected two Infinity Stones so far (Time Stone and Soul Stone). One shot is shown of Loki holding the Tesseract or the Space Stone in the air which looked like he might have been handing it to someone else.

A huge part of the plot is the concept of the Black Order. While Thanos may seem like he is working alone, he has the Black Order on his side which is a select group of minions that help Thanos achieve his goals.

FEATURES

Bullying

Yarely Galindo, Staff Writer

Bullying is an issue that an innumerable amount of schools all over the world deal with. Some say bullying will never end, while others say there are ways it can end if we all work together. However, that saying has been said over and over again by TV commercials, teachers, parents, movies and posters at school but until now there were no changes.

Bullying does not only mean

being physical towards someone but also committing verbal, social and cyber abuse. Verbal bullying is when you use negative words towards that person in regards to their race, wealth, personality, physical or knowledge. Social bullying is mostly when you ruin someone's reputation, whether it was good or bad, by spreading rumors that aren't true. Cyberbullying is the most common nowadays because anyone

can now comment on someone's video or photo on social media without revealing their identity.

According to statistics, 95% of teens that witnessed bullying on social media report that they ignored the behavior. This is true because no one is willing to stand up to the bullies because they're afraid they'll be attack more on online.

Being realistic, bullying can begin by the negative environment

or relationships a bully witnesses in their daily life. They want others to experience the same feelings they're going through so they can feel better, twisted I know. But as long as we're in this imperfect world bullying would occur because they are always going to be dysfunctional families and unhealthy relationships. The only thing we can do is prevent that from spreading more.

NEWS

Manhattan Subway Bombing

Abhie Maharana, Staff Writer

On December 11th, 2017, 27-year-old Akayed Ullah entered the platform of the 18th Ave. subway station. In his possession was a homemade bomb, concealed by his backpack and dark hooded jacket. After getting down at the Port Authority Bus Terminal stop, he walked towards the Times Square station and detonated the bomb. Instantly New Yorkers around the area started to run and chaos broke

out. Four police officers on duty tackled the man and put him in cuffs. Ullah had wires that traveled from his jacket to his pants. "The mayhem in between two huge transit hubs crippled the morning rush-hour, but just three commuters suffered injuries and they were minor, officials said" (www.nydailynews.com).

Ullah, a legal citizen of the

U.S., "had intentions of sending an anti-American message by killing dozens of people at one of the world's busiest transit hubs" (www.nydailynews.com). Ullah showcased his anger to police officers by highlighting the treatment of Muslims during Obama's and Bush's reign. He also was angered by the fact that Trump regarded Jerusalem as the capital of

Israel.

Identifying candidates for immigration in America is still a major issue. Ullah was able to come to America through his relatives, yet he misused this liberty as an opportunity to try and kill innocent people. Although there were no casualties as a result of this terrorist attack, precautions should be taken in order to prevent this from occurring again.

OPINIONS

Net Neutrality

Talysa Jimenez, Contributing Writer

In the wake of such a decision towards internet freedom, I would think that in a nation which thrives on the World Wide Web, it would be expected of that net neutrality remains intact. The very fact that only 5 officials were able to vote into this for such a large population of Americans, more than 80% against the repeal of net neutrality, is upsetting and scary to look forward to in the future. With the amount of power these few individuals have for everyone else, it is disappointing to find that the vote against neutrality turned out 3-2 with Republican officers taking the cake.

I wish I were able to trust that my government would think more for the people with a consensus but

sadly that's notoriously known for never happening. With all that is going on, the ISP is possibly close to getting the rights over charging companies to pay for the so called "fast lane" of delivering its content. This favors big companies while little companies cannot afford the pay, and therefore they are slowed down or wiped out by competition. This is not good for consumers as they will not have as much content or options to go to in media and communications. While this goes down, ISPs are also able to charge a viewer to use the internet, since the companies are being controversial as may believe this is a waste of money that the government is milking from while others may

think it can help children with their undying passion and need for wifi during inappropriate times.

The bigger picture deals with why it is that net neutrality is even being lifted, granted that we've been using the internet for more than twenty six years now. The reason is because ISP believe that if there was less regulation and consumers were able to pay for premium, the money around for better investments but ISP is still seemingly stronger over all the companies who need their service to keep going on. It is communication, information databases, easy places to go to answer simple questions, and even watching or creating multiple types of content.

Net neutrality is easily supported by 83% of the nation and we're all fighting to keep it intact, but with the power of only a few officers domination over the American peoples' say, it makes it hard to put my faith in a government who seems to not even be for the people. This very much resembles the outdated electoral college vs. the popular vote this past year involving the presidential election in 2016. There is still a chance for net neutrality to remain as it has yet to go through to the Supreme Court. We all hope to see that this vote will be surpassed and put away for good and freedom to the internet stays for future generations to enjoy and create much more for all to come.