

THE BANNER

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North Brunswick Township High School
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Rise for the RISE Talent Show!

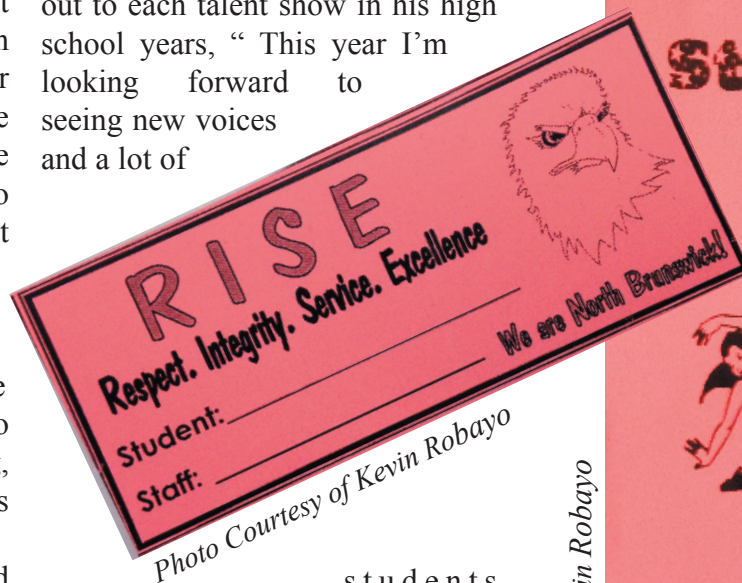
Arислеida Gonzalez, Contributing Writer

Don't be afraid to hide any longer, because the RISE Talent Show will be the perfect opportunity for every student in North Brunswick Township High School to embrace their skills. On January 29, 2015, the Student Government Organization (SGO) along with the New Jersey Positive Behavior Support in Schools (PBSIS), are taking action to create a memorable talent show this year. Those who want to showcase their inner talent can sign up for auditions within the next month. Pay attention to announcements in homeroom.

In order for this event to be a success, the student body needs to participate. Anyone who can sing, dance, or display any other talent is welcome to join!

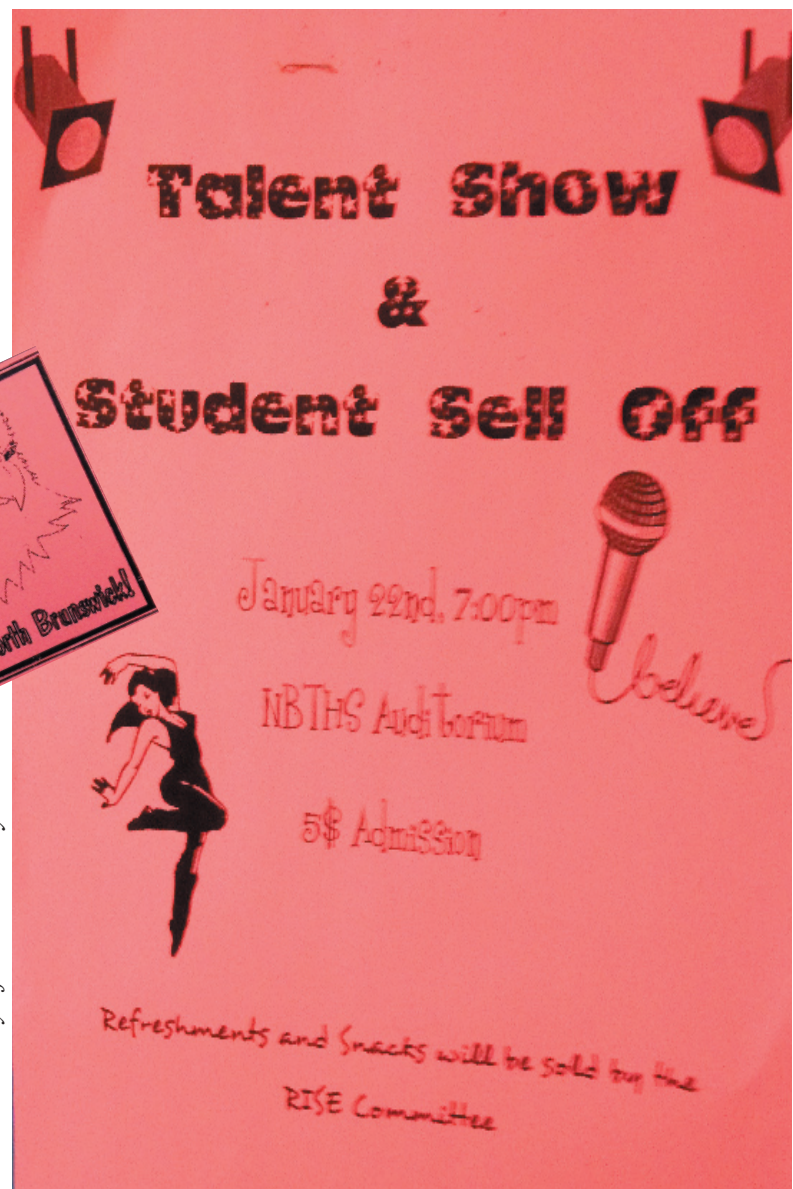
Past winners have received prizes such as Beats headphones, gift cards, and a spotlight page in the yearbook! Many students come out to watch and support friends who go onstage. Ricardo Guevara,

a senior in North Brunswick Township High School stated "I like to go to the talent show and see the new performers each year. It's great to see everyone perform." Anthony Easie, also a senior, says he's gone out to each talent show in his high school years, "This year I'm looking forward to seeing new voices and a lot of



students from our school coming out of their shell." With the student body's cooperation, this school year's talent show will be unforgettable.

Photo Courtesy of Kevin Robayo



North Brunswick Road Work

Deeksha Ajeya, Contributing Writer

Road work has been an ongoing event in North Brunswick. "As the year comes to an end, a total of nearly \$2.6 million has been spent on street and utility improvements" as stated by Mr. Michael Hritz, Director of Community Development.

After the Route 130/Adams Lane construction project was completed, road work began on Livingston Avenue, Farrington Boulevard, and Nassau Street.

Livingston Avenue has finally reopened after major reconstruction. A major drainage problem has also been fixed on Tulip Drive, which is right off of Livingston Avenue.

Reconstruction, as well as a water system replacement, is concluding at Farrington Boulevard. This was a lengthy process that has been going on for a couple months.

Mr. Rahul Patel, a citizen of North Brunswick commented on

the construction, "It's a reasonable project that seems to have a heavy workload. I was affected by this because the left turn signal was closed to enter by neighborhood. But the detour was not too inconvenient."

The improved water system is beneficial to those who live in the Farrington Boulevard area.

The construction on Nassau Street is in the process of reaching an end as well. Upgraded storm systems were included along with the basic reconstruction.

The reconstructions that took place in North Brunswick allow for safer roads and moving traffic. Citizens in the town have an easier time driving with these fixes.

The new systems that were added should help with maintaining the roads and the areas around the roads.

There is also additional money set aside in the budget to maintain and improve roads and utility systems.

D.E.C.A.'s Promise to Elijah's Promise

Cristina Torres, Contributing Writer

One organization that is constantly present in the lives of North Brunswick Township High School students is D.E.C.A. From operating the school store to collecting jackets in homeroom, D.E.C.A. does it all. A focus this year has been on aiding Elijah's Promise Soup Kitchen, which has a location in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

D.E.C.A. students have dedicated themselves to help raise money and awareness for Elijah's Promise in a variety of ways. First and foremost, D.E.C.A. students will be selling wristbands in order to spread hunger awareness.

They are embellished with Elijah's Promise's title and logo and read, "Hunger

Changes Lives." These will be sold by D.E.C.A. members all around the school, and profits will go directly to helping out the community. Additionally, students are making care packages to donate to the organization. These care packages consist of toothpaste, toothbrushes, tissues, granola bars, and other basic necessities.

The main message of these efforts is to raise awareness for Elijah's Promise's mission, which is hunger awareness. Many people, even in hometown of North Brunswick, struggle to find food from day-to-day, so it is wonderful to see the high school students of North Brunswick Township High School getting involved and making a difference!

D.E.C.A Keeps Getting Better

Arisleida Gonzalez, Contributing Writer

Members of D.E.C.A. are developing new ways to stay active in North Brunswick Township High School. They have started volunteering at other club events, like the Murder Mystery Dinner theatre.

In addition, the D.E.C.A keeps the school store active by selling snacks, beverages, school attire, and home appliances like candles. D.E.C.A. is also planning new activities everyday. Soon, a walk a thon will take place to support the local soup kitchen, Elijah's Promise.

Mrs. Laura Pendleton, the D.E.C.A. advisor, points out "if each one of you joined the walk a thon, the soup kitchen will raise enough money for food supplies, it's for a good cause, guys." Team members are also developing a new D.E.C.A. Fashion Club. This

club will allow those who want to join, to embrace their fashion sense, while providing makeup tips, hairstyle ideas, ways to keep up with appearance and more!

D.E.C.A. is also preparing for competitive events in Cherryhill, New Jersey to compete in subjects like Hospitality, Business Services, Sports Broadcasting etc.

Pendleton suggests "study your marketing notes!" Competing with other D.E.C.A. representatives can be nerve wracking because everyone wants to win and move on to the next chapter which includes a trip to Florida.

The competition is fierce, but D.E.C.A. stands strong and remains a big part of the North Brunswick Township High School community.

NBTHS Fall Play *Fools*

Eric Vasquez, Contributing Writer

Every year, North Brunswick Township High School performs a few plays throughout the year, and recently, they have done their first one of the year, *Fools*.

The first play of the year for the Alchemists was successful. Many people went to this play. It was showed on Friday, November 20th, and Saturday, November 21st. It

was \$10 for students to get in and it was \$12 for adults.

One of the main actors in the play, Frankie Marrone, junior at NBTHS, was very excited to be one of the main characters for the fall play, and hopes to be involved in the rest of the plays throughout the remainder of his high school career. Marrone plays a big part in the Alchemists.

The next school play will

not occur for the next couple of months, however, it will occur during this school year. They also have been successful in every play for the last three years.

However, the Alchemists do not have a lot of money compared to the main sports in our school.

Therefore, they have to charge everybody to come watch the show because, with

all of the money they get from people watching the show, it all goes towards the Alchemists. They try to raise as much money as possible throughout all the plays each year so they can keep updating their supplies.

Fools was the first play of the year and it had a large turnout. The Alchemists are hoping for the same result with the rest of their plays throughout their high school career.

Would You Buy A Friend?

Deeksha Ajeya, Contributing Writer

On January 29, 2016, the student auction will take place to raise money for the Police Unity Tour. The Student Government Organization will host this event during the intermission of the R.I.S.E talent show to support their chosen charity.

The purpose of the Police Unity Tour is to raise funds for the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial and Museum; a place that honors officers who have died in the line of duty.

This event will add a substantial amount of money toward the \$5000 goal. "Last year a total of \$1200 was made through the student

auction", reported Mrs. Melissa Pineiro, an SGO advisor. Pinero organizes the event and reaches out to students who are interested in being auctioned off.

Students offer an incentive when signing up to be auctioned off. At the auction, anyone in the audience who wants the student must bid for him/her. Students, teachers, and family members have a fun time with this event.

The auction will be a success because of the generosity of the students who are willing to participate in the event. Mrs. Pinero is confident about another profitable student auction this year.

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 in black and white. Throughout the year, the staff maintains a circulation of both a print and electronic publication among NBTHS, the Board of Education and other areas in the community.

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Punish All For One?

Hiloni Kapadia, Contributing Writer

It is human nature for individuals to find someone to blame whenever a tragedy occurs. For example Germans are now looked down upon because they feel that since Hitler was German, every German is like him.

The “blame game” is played by every individual today. If a child breaks something, in order to avoid the consequences he/she will blame it on their sibling.

This concept has been applied again and again whenever a catastrophe occurs. The recent Paris attacks that took place have increased racism towards Muslims.

Before the attacks happened, there was already racism towards Muslims present because of 9/11, however this “sparked” the racism to grow.

Rashaun Brown, a student at North Brunswick Township High School says, “You know so much about the extremist group and little about the regular normal Muslims which can cause misunderstanding and racism...I have many Muslim friends but they never talk about their culture as I do often”.

There are two kinds of people in the world: first those like Mr. Brown, and second those who show hatred towards the entire race because of the extremist group.

Those who blame the entire race try to justify themselves by saying this is what the Islamic religion teaches.

However, little do they know that is not what the Islamic religion teaches. The Islamic religion teaches peace. They do also believe in Jihad but Jihad is not what these extremists make you believe. “It’s a range of activities all based on the Arabic meaning of the word ‘exerted effort.’ In the Koran it’s projected as exerting effort to change oneself” (Maher Hathout, author of *Jihad vs. Terrorism*).

Those who judge a whole race because of a few extremists are so narrow minded. I advise them to do two things: one stop being judgemental and two get your facts right before you decide to throw yourselves into believing all Muslims are terrorists.

Modern Obsession with Dystopian Novels

Abhie Maharana, Staff Writer

Series such as the *Hunger Games Trilogy*, and the *Divergent Trilogy* and independent novels such as *1984* and *Fahrenheit 451* have become pretty popular amongst young adult readers. One of the reasons that this may be is that these types of books have a lot of sales, causing people to read it after wondering why these books are earning so much. Another, more practical reason, is that these books all revolve around a central genre: dystopian.

These dystopian novels describe the imperfect society that the characters of the book live in, and the numerous conflicts they have to deal with in order to survive. Along with this imperfect society, there is also a harsh government that are basically the dictators of the land the characters live in. Why is reading about a totalitarian government with horrible conflicts so appealing?

The first reason why dystopian novels are so conspicuous amongst the numerous other genres is that the characters in these novels have to deal with so many conflicts.

People enjoy when they read about the constant struggles a character has to face in order to overcome success. For example, in the *Hunger Games* Katniss has to participate in the 72nd annual Hunger Games in which 2 kids from each of the 12 districts, have to compete in an ultimate death match. The kids that win get to stay alive and move on with their lives. After seeing the countless conflicts that Katniss has to face, it encourages readers to read on to find out about how Katniss eventually solves these problems, and obtains temporary success.

Another reason why dystopian novels are great to read is because the villains in these books are powerful by a substantial margin. This margin is so great, that it would require a lot of manpower to equal the forces of the villain.

Since, in most cases, the villain is the government, they have access to officials all over the area, and can make decisions that no other body or person can veto. This makes the story much more interesting, because people would want to read how a single character

either disobeys the superior of an entire area, or completely takes down the superior of an entire area. It is unique to see how a fully supplied body of people with so much power, can get taken down by a couple of disobeying underdogs.

In conclusion, dystopian novels have an interesting plot and characters that make the story much more unique. When novels like these are published, why would the public not want to read about a couple of underdogs take down an entire superior body that governs the entire land they live in. Since dystopian authors can get as creative as they want, they can uncover so many more plots that were never thought of before.

In addition, these plots contain so many conflicts, that it makes the reader want to know what happens to the characters, setting, and the governing body. There is a modern obsession with dystopian novels because it is also possible that the society we have now could change into the society we read about in dystopian novels.

“Easier” SAT

Marvin Alvarez, Contributing Writer

Spring of 2016 is a big year for high school students who will be taking the newly redesigned SAT, featuring easier vocabulary, and calling for analytical responses.

The new SAT will be ranked out of 1600, unlike the most recent grading system of 2400. It’s focus is to capture how students are able to analyze and respond to a situation rather than testing for aptitude. Along with this redesigned SAT comes many problems including the new difficult math section and unequal opportunity.

This upcoming year high school students need to prepare for a redesigned SAT that focuses on effortless material that is taught in the classroom. When it comes to new materials taught in low income schools, it can be hard to keep up to modern day materials. It takes more time and money for low income schools to teach the new materials.

The new SAT can hinder low income student, according to the New York Times “... the new SAT could provide even more reasons for doubting the exam’s fairness. Students at good schools will have that much more of a leg up on this test because their teachers will be able to get them up to speed on the new SAT content.”

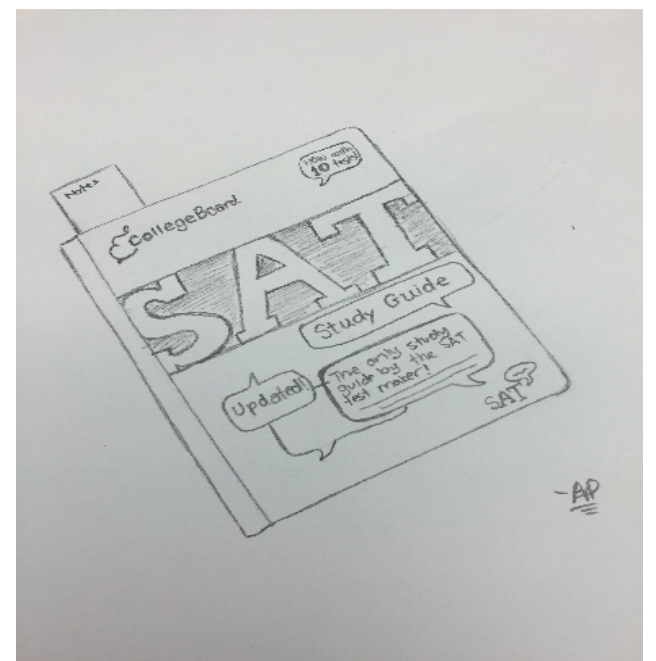
High income students can

afford to hire tutors and teachers who can keep them up to date this is already a step up. Low income students struggle with getting new material and the help from tutors to study the SAT. This redesigned SAT with cause a barrier in students causing many to suffer educationally, because of the new material being forced down.

The redesigned SAT will feature a revised English and Math section. While the English section has been revised to form an easier study the new Math section has been called out as tough. The Math section is formalized to be tougher than the most recent. It consists of graphs and statistics that to some students are not taught until advanced levels of that subject are taken. Current Math teachers do not have the sufficient communications backgrounds to teach students how to read a graph and how to solve word problems. Math

teachers will need to incorporate English and communication into their curriculum, which can be tough for some. Anna Alcantara a current senior at North Brunswick Township High School says “this new SAT can greatly interfere with the basic math curriculum asking for teachers to apply and teach knowledge and communication that they themselves are not good at.”

It would be much easier if we stuck to the old SAT that even though had its flaws it was not a controversial as this redesigned one.



Courtesy of Ami Patel

Most high schoolers get ready for the SATs using books like the College Board book.

Christie for President... Why?

Kevin Robayo, Staff Writer

Chris Christie is running for president because... America? There's really no reason that Christie should run for president, as he is no better than his opponents. All the presidential candidates except Bernie Sanders have been bribed and corrupted by corporations on Wall Street, whose huge donations to their campaigns will lead to policy favoritism towards corporate interest.

What results from this corruption is politicians ignoring the the poor and middle classes' need for a strong education, and refusing to keep jobs in America, which are shipped out to other countries so corporations can pay lower wages.

This is important to understand because these are what Christie's intentions would be if he became president. He has always served the one percent of New Jersey and corporate interest. In other words, he's your typical establishment candidate.

He speaks of serving the people, but once he actually gets the power, he loses interest in you, the voter, the citizen, and the worker. Some will defend him, saying that he did "good" when it came to Hurricane Sandy--well, you'll be happy to know that Christie wasted a large portion of that money for political projects, instead of using to repair all the damages in New

Jersey.

Christie spent \$25 million on the "Stronger Than The Storm" ads in order to create a positive image of New Jersey as the re-election was creeping up. This money could have been used to help the areas of NJ that were hit the hardest but received the least amount of money. While there has been improvement to the areas that greatly were affected by Hurricane Sandy since the storm, it is undeniable that if Christie had used the relief money properly families and businesses would have been built up much earlier.

That's not all, folks; under Christie, New Jersey's had its credit downgraded eight times. Taxes have been raised for the middle class and poor, while the one percent have gotten special treatment and their taxes were lowered.

Not only does Christie have ties with Exxon, which the state had sued for the environmental contamination they caused in New Jersey, for \$8.9 billion, but he settled with the corporation by making them pay a meager \$225 million.

Although he is painting himself as a man of the people, Chris Christie is anything but that. With the damage he has caused for the common people of New Jersey, he has proven himself an unworthy candidate for the White House.

Why Strive For Excellence?

John Onuorah Jr, Contributing Writer

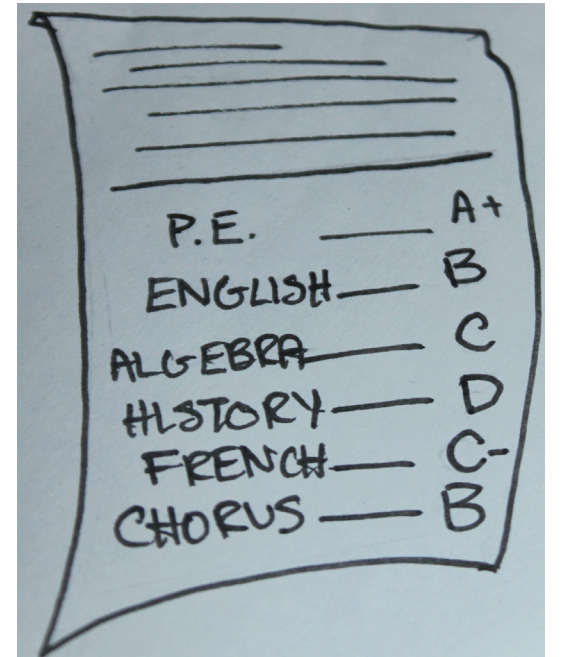
Why do parents always tell us to get good grades? What is the importance of good grades? Well, you might not know the answer, but having good grades can take you a long way.

Having good grades is the thing that separates student A from student B. Good grades basically means that there is a better chance for the student to make more money, have a better life, and have more freedom when it comes to making economic decisions.

"Getting good grades is the foundation of a good life," says Emily Moffitt, student, class of 2018.

If you go to school, there is really no excuse for you not to try to get a good grade. As a student, your motivation and the only thing that you are aiming for, is to pass the classes that you are taking. The excuse students usually give is that the class is too hard. Yes, the class might be hard and challenging but not all classes/courses are going to be a piece of cake.

"If you have a challenging class, try your best, keep an open mind, pay attention in the class



Courtesy of Alyssa Young

Students need to strive for good grades.

and hand in all your work whether you get a 70 on it." says Rashaun Brown, student, class of 2016.

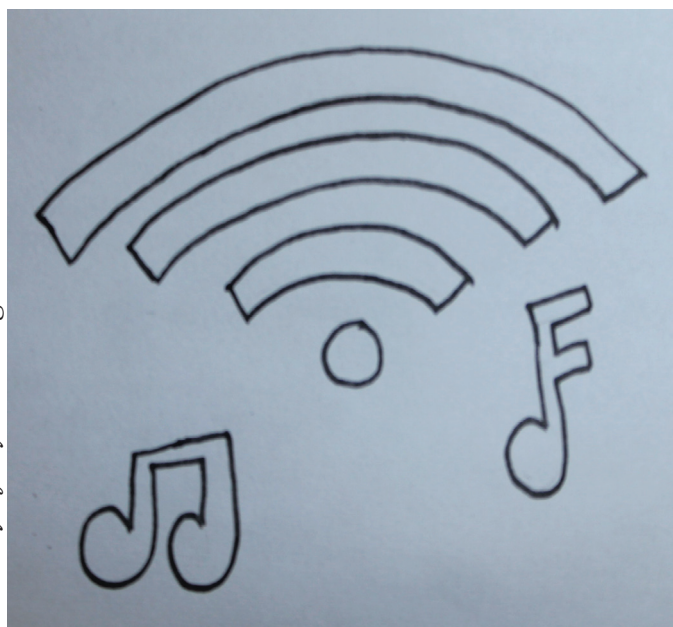
Good grades to a student are a must, because if you are not in school to get good grades, you might not be at the right place. Some people who are adults regret the fact that they didn't use their opportunity in school while they had the chance. Now you still have the chance, you can seize the moment with this opportunity you have by getting good grades and being a good student.

Blocking the Wrong Bars

Daniel Macioci, Contributing Writer

One privilege earned by the students of North Brunswick Township High School is the ability to listen to music during lunch. The only problem is that major music apps such as Soundcloud, Spinrilla, and Grooveshark are blocked on our Wi-fi logins.

Questions such as "How are we supposed to listen to music?" and "Is this really a privilege if nothing works?" are starting to be asked more often. But the question at hand is actually much simpler: why are these websites and apps blocked? Soundcloud and Spinrilla are both free, have no inappropriate ads, and don't have any negative effect on our school environment.



Courtesy of Alyssa Young

Although the school provides, free wifi, students argue that it does not fulfill the needs of the students.

As a matter of fact, it doesn't have any impact on our school at all! Listening to music is something that everyone does. Music helps relieve stress during the strenuous school days.

I, for one, listen to music while doing my homework, and when allowed, while I take my notes in class. For people who struggle with paying attention to one subject for too long, like myself,

music is a way to keep one's mind clear when finishing my work.

But, the issue is more about the fact that these music apps are blocked on our Wi-Fi logins. We have this Wi-Fi as a privilege, but what is the point, when the apps we want to use are blocked?

For example, when searching the internet for certain websites, the ones that are blocked fall under a category. But why is it that music websites are blocked? Some websites come up as adult or forum, but music and adult websites are two completely different things.

Blocking music on our Wi-fi logins ultimately defeats the purpose of having a login. While we have logins to use in the classroom, we barely ever get the option of using our phones in class. The only solution is to unblock the music apps on students phones.

Falling in Love With *Fallout 4*

Kevin Robayo, Staff Writer

Bethesda has returned after five years with a near masterpiece that only has a brighter future. There has never been a game that can completely submerge you into the world it offers.

In this new RPG shooter you can now create your very own wastelander as you roam through thirty square miles in the Boston Commonwealth. The game will grasp your attention so quickly that the concept of time is ignored. The gamer becomes the wastelander as he or she chooses the path they want to follow. If you want to completely ignore the story and just explore the Wasteland you can. In this game you have the option of following the story or to go exploring. If you want to just destroy everything the enters your path you can. There is always a quest to find that will eventually lead to another, which helps you gain XP.

There is always an area to explore with a backstory behind whether it be in a terminal or journal entries, areas can be littered with enemies for you to get rid whether it be ghouls, deathclaws, super mutants, synths, raiders, gunners, and so many more enemies to fight. You can find a settlement that you can build up or completely destroy.

There are fifty weapons in the game which you can modify with over seven hundred mods to increase the effectiveness of your arsenal. You can earn all seventy perks as there is no level cap in the game, each perk you earn serves a specific purpose that gives your wastelander and advantage they did not have before. A few examples are to make your wastelander stronger, more agile, have more endurance, smarter, more charismatic, luckier, or more perceptive. Every single aspect of the game is built with so much detail. You the gamer are given total freedom in this huge world that Bethesda has created.

However the game has its flaws that has caused some outrage in the gaming community. The main flaws of the game are that it still runs on an old gen engine which effects graphics, the game's story mode, and the new create your own settlement system. The resolution is 1080p but the game runs on only 30 fps which is low considering that PCs, Xbox Ones, and the PS4s can run at 60fps perfectly fine.

While this criticism comes from mostly PC master race gamers and it's not completely merited as it does not ruin the gaming experience whatsoever, this has led to a positive

consequence in which the modding community has created mods that upgrade the graphics in various amounts of ways. While mods are only available for PC, Bethesda has said that they are completely open to modders doing whatever they want with the game and they plan on working with the modding community to bring their creations to consoles by next year.

The next flaw is *Fallout 4*'s story mode. It isn't at all horrible but it is easily forgotten as you tackle go through the game because there's more detail in the Wasteland than the actual story. The story is linear much like *Fallout 3*, however it wouldn't have been horrible to see Bethesda take a path like New Vegas where the main story is unconventional. The endings (yes plural because there's more than one ending) are also a little disappointing when you arrive to them leaving you telling yourself, "Okay, I'm done with the story. Not bad, so what quest can I do next,".

Again in no way is the story is bad, it's that when in the wasteland you get lost in the wasteland. If you have watched any video on *Fallout 4*, you're probably aware of the new create your own settlement system, much like *Minecraft* you can build your very own settlement with settlers to grow crops, work small shops or defend your land. If done with more time this system would be near perfect, however it feels as if Bethesda just put it in the game last minute.

None of these flaws take you out of the experience The game still remains as a near perfect RPG Shooter. Bethesda has many patches to make for it's game and I hope that they are able to create a successful way to bring mods to consoles.

DLC is to come out not anytime soon. The season pass is available now for a cheap \$30, and if you think that's expensive for a season pass then you should do two things. You should look up *Fallout* DLC and look at the price for the season pass for *Battlefront*. You'll understand why \$30 is cheap due to *Fallout*'s great DLC record and how it doesn't compare to the outrageous price of *Battlefront*'s season pass for that atrocious game.

There really isn't any other game out now that promises the incredible experience it has to offer. If you have sixty dollars and you want to spend it on a video game, then go and get *Fallout*. I'll tell you it feels great to be back in the Wasteland. Welcome home.

The Girl on Fire: *Mockingjay Part 2*

Mosam Naik, Contributing Writer



Courtesy of Abyss Young

Katniss Everdeen, *The Hunger Games*' brave heroine who overthrew the capital with the help of her friends and family.

On November 20, 2015, the movie *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2* was released, it is a continuation of the *Hunger Games* series.

The plot revolves around a post-war era in a place called Panem. The war was between the Capitol and the twelve districts. The Capitol won, and, as a result, the districts must take part in something called the *Hunger Games*. Two people are randomly chosen from each district to compete, and only one person comes out alive as the champion.

Movies produced after books generally have the same storyline and themes, although some details may be different. Those who have watched the entire series say that the movies included more romance than the books did.

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2 has received

high ratings from critics and from those who've seen it.

"It was better than the last one and it had a lot of action," explains Ms. Melanie Fosko, a junior at NBTHS who saw the movie over her Thanksgiving break.

Those who have not seen the movie yet are excited to do so.

"It was strongly recommended by my friends. I have high expectations for the movie because I liked the first two and read all of the books," says Mr. Joe Scariano, a senior at North Brunswick Township High School who is going to see the movie soon.

Sadly, for many enthusiastic fans, the trilogy has come to an end. But to them, it was worth the wait for a satisfying conclusion to their favorite series.

The Reality of Teen Suicide

Hiloni Kapadia, Contributing Writer

High school is full of stress and complications. Everyone is focused on themselves and no one focuses on others, making it hard to identify those who are depressed or suicidal. Many think that those who claim to be suicidal just want attention and they won't really do it.

However, this is not true. Almost everyone that commits suicide has given some clue that they are in pain, perhaps by saying "you'll be sorry when I'm dead"

or "I can't see a way out of this". Nowadays people say these kind of things so often as a joke that no one takes it seriously anymore when it's real.

According to Voices of Hope, "95% of all suicide victims have given warning signs and clues to their intention. They may not always be verbal, but they are there". Voices of Hope is an organization known for connecting, listening, teaching, and advocate those who are suicidal or have been sexually harmed in any way.

Another misconception about suicidal individuals is that they can not recover from a suicide attempt and that they will try again.

However a study done by Horrocks Owens summarized, "90 studies that have followed over time people who have made suicide attempts that resulted in medical care. Approximately 7% (range: 5-11%) of attempters eventually died by suicide, approximately 23% reattempted non fatally, and 70% had no further attempts"

Many people give up on those who are suicidal because they feel nobody can stop them from ending their life if they really wanted to (which is another misunderstanding). But this study and other studies have proved them otherwise.

More awareness needs to be spread about suicide and make sure it's not taken as a joke; put the stereotypes aside and keep your awareness alert! As NBTHS says we have to "ACT- Acknowledge. Care. Tell!"

Agent 007 Returns: *Spectre*

Mosam Naik, Contributing Writer

Released on November 6th, 2015, *Spectre*, is the 24th movie from the Bond franchise and the actor Daniel Craig's 4th James Bond movie. *Spectre* so far has the largest production budget of around \$245-250 million which tops the previous movie in the Bond series, *Skyfall*, by around \$50-95 million. What new additions have been made to make this movie more expensive than the previous one. You'll have to watch to find out.

Spectre's average ratings is lower than *Skyfall's* but still has a satisfactory rating. According to Rotten Tomatoes, *Spectre* was given a 6.4 out of 10 and according to IMDB, *Spectre* was given a 7.1 out of 10. Even though the ratings of the movie are lower than *Skyfall's*, it is still a good movie to watch during leisure time.

The cast of *Spectre* includes a unique range of characters which makes the movie more exciting than before. Craig acts as James Bond, Christoph Waltz acts as Oberhauser, Lea Seydoux acts as Madeleine Swann, and Monica Bellucci acts as Lucia Sciarra just to name a few. The movie is directed by Sam Mendes, making this the second James Bond movie that he has directed.

Bond's signature car in every Bond movie has always been the infamous Aston Martin. In *Spectre*, the chosen Aston Martin model is the DB10 which only 10 have been manufactured in the entire world. Of the 10 models, 8 of them were used for the *Spectre* filming. With a 0-60 mph time of around 3 seconds and a top speed of around 200 mph, this beast will be one of the greatest Aston Martins used in any of the

Bond movies. Another car featured is the Jaguar C-X75, which Bond drives near the banks of Tiber in Rome. This car is another beast to look out for in this movie.

Spectre is filmed in at least 160 locations. As shown in the background of the photo for *Spectre*, there is a person in a skeleton costume, representing the Day of the Dead. The opening of the movie occurs in Mexico City, Mexico while the Day of the Dead is being celebrated. The movie is shot in interesting locations such as Austria, Italy, England, and Morocco.

For those curious about the plot about *Spectre*, here is a debrief. A mysterious message from James Bond's past leads him to Mexico City and Rome where he meets a beautiful widow named Lucia Sciarra (Monica Bellucci) who was married to an infamous criminal. After attending a secret meeting, Bond discovers the organization *Spectre* (Special Executive for Counter-intelligence, Terrorism, Revenge, and Extortion). Bond realizes he needs the help of an old enemy's daughter, and decides to find her. After he finds her, Bond travels into the depths of "*Spectre*" and finds a connection between himself and his enemy (Christoph Waltz).

To those who love action movies with car chases, stunts, and fighting, this movie is for you. With the cars Aston Martin DB10 and the Jaguar C-X75, over 160 exotic locations, and an interesting plot, *Spectre* is definitely a unique addition to the James Bond movie series.

Deadly Selfies

Rachel Asham, Contributing Writer

Selfie-stick. When the word comes to mind you think of a stick, that has a place for your phone to help you take pictures. That is not the only thing it does now.

It's a self-defense weapon of martial arts for anyone. When criminals try to snatch your phone while taking a picture.

On Yahoo news, Spokesperson Daria Lapshina said: "Unfortunately very often a selfie-stick is the only weapon a tourist has when travelling abroad, and it has the advantage of often being at hand."

They are having lessons in Moscow, Russia teaching people

how to defend themselves. On <http://metro.co.uk/> it states, "Instructors at the combat centre in Moscow say fighting techniques using sticks have been around for more than 1,000 years so it makes sense to create this distinctly modern take."

You can use your phone and the selfie stick as a weapon but make sure you don't smash your phone.

On Yahoo news, Daria added: "We teach people to use the handles if the selfie stick has a phone attached, and it is a very effective defensive weapon."

Self-defense now takes a whole new meaning when using selfie-sticks as a weapon.

Floating Away With Ms. Rafano

Justin Kyle, Staff Writer

Ms. Rafano has worked as a teacher for 12 years, at first she started teaching at Linwood Middle school as a language arts teacher for the next 5 years. Then in 2008 there was an opening in the high school, she jumped for it as she always wanted to be a high school teacher. After she got the opening, Rafano worked as an English teacher for the next seven years. Throughout her years of working as a teacher (she is now an AP), her most cherished memory was the realization of how much of an impact on the students she had on her students. Besides working at as an educator she does have some hobbies; such as gardening, watching college basketball, & staying fit.

Recently, Ms. Rafano took part in the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade, which is a large parade in New York. She shared this lovely experience with us; and gave us her view of everything that occurred

that day, from how to get involved to the position you were assigned. In order to be put in the parade you need a sponsor that works for Macy's.

During training she was assigned a balloon which lucked out to be in the front. When balloons are full blown they ascend from seven to ten stories and are managed by ninety to hundred-fifty people. She took cycles with people, this is a technique so they would not tire easily. Rafano "cheese touched" while on her break, this is a reference to the book "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" which was the theme of her balloon. Ms. Rafano's march was from eight am to ten am, this was somewhat earlier than other balloons as she was in the front. The directors communicated with the people who were managing the balloon by hand gestures. This overall experience was extremely fun and a wonderful memory for Ms. Rafano.

Jumping Hoops With the Girl's Basketball Team

Ifikhar Ali, Contributing Writer

If you pass the gym after school you will hear the thunder of the dribbles and immediately know their true enthusiasm. Their commitment and energy is far beyond average. Their spirit will never die and their energy would far too great to lower. They are NBTHS Girls Basketball team!

So far in the season there are many new young players increasing the opportunities for success. According to Coach Morrell, "approach each game with energy and effort." The coach's main goal is to attain a better approach to every game. He hopes for a competitive season, and will continue to keep the same tactics as the past for offense

and defense. The top three schools in their division are Bishop Ahr, Monroe, and Sayreville. The Girls Basketball team is determined to put in the work. The team captains, Danielle Segerholm and Samantha Mehalick, display the characteristics of true captains. Mehalick wishes to improve the attitude about the game, and hopes for many games. She believes that every game is a tough one and continuously puts in the effort. Segerholm feels that the team is family. She also wishes for a great season and acknowledges the work ethic in everyone. Let's hope that their highschool ends with a successful basketball season! We are all counting on them!

Swimming Against Sayreville

Kena Chavva, Staff Writer

The NBTHS swim team is off to a strong start. At the first home meet of the season on November 30, the Raiders faced the Sayreville War Memorial High School, and won by a landslide--116:54 for the girls' team, and 117:53 for the boys' team. Many of the North Brunswick swimmers placed first in their respective events.

For the individual girls' events, junior Melanie Fosko placed first in the 200 freestyle and the 100 breaststroke, sophomore Nicole DeMato placed first in the 50 freestyle, senior Dana Park placed first in the 100 freestyle, and freshman Keira Welsh placed first in the 100 backstroke. The girls' team also placed first in the 200 medley relay, the 200 freestyle relay, and the 400 freestyle relay.

The boys' team did similarly well in the meet, earning first place in all but one of the events. Senior Adam Luk placed first in the 200 individual medley and the 100

butterfly. Junior Jordan Leonardo placed first in the 50 freestyle and 100 backstroke; fellow junior Andrew Ackerman placed first in the 100 breaststroke event. Sophomore Jesse Gibbons placed first in the 200 freestyle and 500 freestyle. The boys won first place in the 200 medley relay, the 200 freestyle relay, and the 400 freestyle relay as well.

The meet itself was heated, with many of the swimmers' parents, friends, and teachers coming out to support the team. Swimmers credit their success to both hard work and the leadership of their coaches and captains. Elizabeth Leung, who swam in several of the relays and 100 breaststroke, said, "Winning this meet was a great start to the season. Starting off like this is really exciting and pumps me up for the upcoming meets." The rest of the school is looking forward to the swim team's successes and their prosperous season as well.

All Good Things Must End

Rashaun Brown, Contributing Writer

The North Brunswick Raiders football team is leaving a legacy as many of their best players end their high school careers. This team has made it clear that win or lose they can go toe to toe with anyone. The last game of the season was the game with their rivals, South Brunswick. When asked how they were going to prepare for South Brunswick game, Captain Esberth Pereya responded by saying, "We are going to prepare for them like we prepared for every team this

season, by going 100% each snap and leaving everything we have on the field."

When posed the same question, Captain Maxwell Emanuel said, "We are going to do what we came to do and that is play football. We have went head to head with every team. In this, conference South Brunswick will be no different". This is the legacy that will be left by the seniors. Their strength and tenacity will be remembered long after they've left.



Courtesy of Alyssa Young

Come out and support our sports teams!!

Why Have Sports?

Rashaun Brown, Contributing Writer

Why do we have sports?

After a long and tiresome school day, why do some students feel the need to add more to their workload? Some will say they do it for fun, popularity even but it's much deeper than that. Adolescents crave unity, form cliques and groups with people that they share a common interest with. Athletics are just another way for students to satisfy this need.

But still the workload for the student athletes must be unbearable at times right? WRONG. Studies show that when in season student athletes will get higher grades than students who do not participate in athletics. Mr. Abdalla, a Teacher at NBTHS says "Sports are a necessity they allow teachers to reinforce positive behaviors in students

outside of school, and helps develop connections that are sometimes neglected in the classroom". This is because student athletes have less time after school and must complete their homework faster.

Head of the Athletics Department Mr. Emanuel says "The three step clearing process takes into account an athlete's academic standing and affects their eligibility", Head coach of the North Brunswick Raiders football team Mr. Donald Zsak says " We make sure our athletes are beast on the field and scholars when off of it". Sports are a healthy outlet for Student athletes and help schools reinforce good characteristics such as the ones rewarded through NBTHS' R.I.S.E program.