

THE BANNER

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North Brunswick Township High School
98 Raider Road North Brunswick, NJ 08902

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NBTHS Goes To Cali

Gabrielle Jarvis, Staff Writer

This year North Brunswick Township High School's DECA members have made it to the internationals, which are being held in Anaheim, California.

23 students in NBTHS are leaving for California, April 23, and will remain there until April 30th. Students from countries such as Puerto Rico, Canada, Guam, and Germany will be attending this international competition.

Brianna Hanson 14' and her partner Nicole Fosko 14', both qualified for the internationals, are very excited to experience the West Coast. Hanson said she joined DECA simply because, "Ms. Pendleton was involved."

Ms. Pendleton has been incorporated with DECA for five years, and Mrs. Malik has been involved for a whopping 30 years. She received a 30 year involvement

award at states which was held in Cherry Hill, New Jersey this year.

Hanson and Fosko wrote an eleven page paper about the release of the movie 'The Avengers'. It was a sport and entertainment promotional plan.

This is the first year NBTHS has had so many students make it to the Internationals. In the past, students have gone to Florida, Kentucky, Utah, Philadelphia, and

our nation's capitol: Washington, D.C. Over 15,000 students will be there.

DECA involves competitions and work shops, which are based on business. NBTHS also holds a class centered on DECA. The students who take the class are the ones who are mainly involved in the competition. Students, like Hanson, who aren't enrolled in the class, signed up for the club.

The DECA members leave for Anaheim in less than a week. NBTHS wishes all of them luck!

Talent Show

Gabrielle Jarvis, Staff Writer

North Brunswick Township High School held its annual talent show on March 1, 2013. It was either go big or go home.

Of course the people competing weren't actually competing to win. At the end of the night, it was all about having a great time with your friends and putting your talent on display.

The show was hosted by Darius Delk, who held down the fort and whose jokes were on point. Darius danced to Get Em Bodied by Beyonce along with three back ground dancers: Ashley McCoy, Bonayza Lunn, and Gabriela Vargas.

The auditorium was extremely packed with people of all ages attending the show and from different as well as the local New Jersey areas.

One student, Anthony (?) '14, had a very popular fan base. Many of Anthony's friends from his previous school came to support him. Anthony even won the popularity vote.

The talents of NBTHS consisted of juggling bowling pins, singing, dancing, spoken word, and many other acts.

The R.I.S.E. program also gave out two very big surprises; a Michael Kors bag and a pair of Beats headphones, which were raffled off to two lucky winners.

The night ended with Erica Cha and Emma Howard coming in first place for singing 'Only Exception' by Paramore.

Photo Courtesy of Bree Hanson



DECA CARD

About to "Lead the Way" with Engineering Program

Moksh Gudala, Contributing Writer

Whether a student wants to be a teacher, scientist, or even an entrepreneur, North Brunswick Township High School offers courses based on the student's field of choice - or so it seemed. Engineering is a growing field and a career many students are planning to pursue. However, NBTHS did not offer any direct engineering courses, until a newly implemented program had been put in place, with the help of Project Lead The Way (PLTW).

PLTW is a program in which students can use hands-on equipment to develop projects and learn about engineering in-depth. NBTHS and the NBTHS Science Department have recently decided to put in place 2 PLTW courses: Introduction to Engineering Design (IED), and Principles of Engineering (POE) for the 2013-2014 year.

IED is a drafting course where students can use autodesk inventor software to draw items and parts, as well as use reverse engineering to learn the basics

of engineering and engineering software. This class is going to be a pre-requisite to POE, but not until the 2014-2015 school year.

POE is also a drafting course, but it goes into detail about engineering, dynamics, and kinematics survey of engineering. The IED course will be taught by Ms. Dhrolia and the POE course will be taught by Mr. Weiss. Both teachers will have to take a two week intensive training course from PLTW. In addition to these courses, the CAD rooms and the ISS room (124, 126, and 127) are potentially going to be remodeled to fit these new classes.

In the first year in which these courses will be offered, any student will be able to take these courses, as long as they achieve a "B" or better in their previous math and science courses. Mr Amendola, the science supervisor, believes that since certain science courses aren't mandatory pre-requisites, these PLTW classes will be "open to a bigger range of students... which is

something [the NBTHS Science Department] are quite excited about."

After the first year, IED will be a pre-requisite to POE, and IED will be recommended to be a freshman-only class. Another implementation will be a 3D printer, which takes a blueprint design made on certain softwares, and "prints it out" as if it were printing a paper in 3D. A CNC-router will also be provided, which can precision-cut wood, aluminum, foam, and plastic.

The PLTW equipment will also be available to NBTHS robotics team, which is excelling in its endeavors. After a few years in these courses, students will be asked which course: Aer4ospace Engineering, Biotechnical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Computer Integrated Manufacturing, and Digital Electronics. One of these courses have a potential of being implemented in the coming year.

Innovasian Brings Back Asian!

Liela Piracha, Staff Writer

March 15th marked a momentous occasion for the members of MediterrAsian club. The club had their annual show, which featured dances from both the Indian and Mediterranean cultures, featuring some American twists.

The show began with a classical number starring people from all grades, including Aditi Shah and Sapna Mehta. This dance was sure to impress by offering a glimpse of the past.

When moving on from dance to dance, there were splashes of entertainment with a skit that was sure to have you laughing. It began with a bossy big brother- played by Rohan Chittela, pushing his three younger brothers- portrayed by Wali Kamran, Shafan Khan, and Sai Gundlapalli, to their end points. The brothers establish a plan to find him a wife so he can give them a break.

As the show continued, the oldest brother realized that his true love was right in front of him. But the younger brothers also learned that life was much harder than expected without him and tried to get him back by taking what the brother loved the most, his wife. Once he learned that the brothers want him back, the brothers were reunited and everyone was happy.

After multiple dances including a traditional Indian/Pakistani dance, the Bhangra, the show continued to impress everyone in the audience. Yet the next groups of girls were able to make the biggest impression of all.

The freshman dance was an amazing performance. It showed strong bursts of talents from the new-bees of the club. When talking to a member about their experience in MediterrAsian, Mariam Dar stated, "I went into the club not knowing what to expect and joined because I heard it was a lot of fun from my friends." Dar continued to talk about the show being "a huge success, "We worked really hard, from coordinating dances to finding costumes, and everyone did their part. It was an amazing experience to perform on stage."

After another Indian dance, Zara Jhoom performed by Shivani Mathur and Jamie Jadav, the Mediterranean members of the clubs were able to shine with the Near Eastern dance. One of the

many stars in the dance, Joseph Baradhi made the dance even more amazing with the playing of the drum throughout the performance. It showed that Innovasian wasn't just Asian; it was MediterrAsian.

The show later continued with a fashion show, displaying the new styles in India and Pakistan. Then another dance, the Garba dance, gave another demonstration of the culture. Then in order to help this show seem like apart of our high school, members performed a RISE dance, enforcing it through a fun way.

To bring the American twist to this Asian show, the club had brought in the Boys Hip Hop Bollywood Crew, which got everyone on their feet. The main star, Itham Chowdury, was able to lead all the other boys through another successful dance.

The show did one final Indian Bollywood dance, which allowed for all types of people to shine, including president of the club Shafan Khan. When asked about the show and the club, he said, "The club and I set out to make the show the best this school ever displayed. We encountered problems from every possible way but the maturity and devotion from all the members kept us going at a steady pace. As show time approached stress levels sky rocketed as it was very difficult for all of us to balance academics, sports and the club. I gathered all the members, spoke to them, and sparked a sense of commitment. Everyone stayed up countless hours during the last week to perfect whatever they were involved in."

The show ended with the surprise twist by doing their own take on the latest dance craze, the Harlem Shake. It was hilarious with people having faces covered with pie. All in all, the show had high expectations that were reached.

Khan continued, "It was no easy task putting on such a big production, but I have absolutely no regrets. All those hours of practice and rehearsal created bonds that I and the rest of the members will cherish for a lifetime. We succeeded in what we aspired to do and put on the greatest Asian show in school history." And indeed it was.

Environmental Club

Hayley McDonald, Contributing Writer

Environmental Club is gearing up for a great spring. One of the club's biggest projects, the "Twist, Drop and Stop" campaign, started last year under the direction of Club Adviser Amy Rafano, who also directs Care To Walk Club. The club will take the plastic twist caps and send them to a recycling plant that specializes in recycling this type of plastic.

A representative for Environmental Club sends this message: "If you don't recycle these caps, they will find their way into our rivers and oceans. Birds and other marine creatures mistake them for food with tragic results. The magnitude of this pollution problem is devastating to our oceans and wildlife."

To help out this cause, collect caps from restaurants, vending machines, the cafeteria, and your home. Drop them off at NBTHS and the North Brunswick Public Library. Ms. Rafano is available to discuss possible community service for the collection of caps.

Not sure which caps to

recycle? Most of the accepted caps are twist-off and rigid plastic. Caps from shampoo, bottled beverages including water, soda, and milk, pharmaceutical lids, flip top caps from tubes and jars, laundry detergents, and tub lids all fit the criteria to be recycled at this plant. NBTHS is continuing the cap collecting efforts of more than 1,600 schools that have been working to get these caps out of landfills and from littering wildlife habitats.

Environmental Club is taking action in the upcoming months. Members will be working outside, gardening and cleaning up the community. Have any ideas for the club? The club welcomes prospective projects and aspiring eco activists.

If you would like to join, see Ms. Rafano in the English Department or contact her through e-mail. Meetings are usually on Tuesdays. If you have any questions or if you're looking for opportunities to help the environment, contact Ms. Rafano at arafano@nbtsschools.org.



ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB MEMBERS PLANTING TREES.

Photos Courtesy of Hayley McDonald



La Muerte de Hugo Chaves

Maria Sanchez, Staff Writer

El presidente de Venezuela Hugo Radael Chaves fallecio el cinco de Marzo del 2013. Hugo Chavez fue President de Venezuela por varios años. Nacio el ventiocho de Julio del 1954.

Chavez murio de un ataque al corazon. Antes de este ataque Chavez sufrio de cancer. Tuvo cuatro cirujias y tomo quimioterapia.

La muerte de Hugo Chaves afecto a muchas personas de modos diferentes. Por ejemplo a algunas personas estaban tristes porque

lo querian mucho pero otros se alegraron que este dictador estuviera muerto.

Para algunas personas Hugo Chavez fue muy malo pero tambien ayudo a mucha gente en su pais. En sus ultimos dias Chavez nombro a Nicolas Maduro como su sucesor por si el se moria.

Nicolas Maduro se afecto mucho por esta noticia. Maduro sera el presidente interino mientras hay nuevas elecciones presidenciales en Venezuela.

Fuimos a Mexico

Ray Habib, Staff Writer

North Brunswick Township High School has always provided students with opportunities to see the world. The AP German students have the chance to visit Germany, the AP and Honors Spanish students have the chance to visit Spain, and our robotics team often ventures to places such as Florida, St. Louis, and Las Vegas. This year Mr. Dawson and Mr. Garcia did not shy away from the opportunity to show students more of the world. These teachers and eight other students embarked on a trip to Mexico, the first of its kind for our school.

When Dawson was asked about the point of the trip, he quickly answered that "it provided an authentic way to learn more about Mexican culture." He added that often people "buy a sombrero and sit on the beach in Cancun and think they have experienced Mexico, but that's not the case." When Dawson was asked what his favorite part

of the trip was, he replied "for me it was working with the children's organization, mostly the children of prostitutes." When asking Dawson these questions, it was easy to see how touched he was by the experience. "It's heartbreaking, you know? The mothers are out 'working the streets' and their fathers are God knows where." NBTHS students painted Easter eggs and played games, providing what we take for granted everyday as "normal socialization."

Senior Hayley McDonald was one of the students who embarked on the trip to Oaxaca City. When asked about her favorite part was, she explained that it was "meeting Llorena, a homeless girl. We played and spent a couple hours just being with her. I ended up buying her two pairs of shoes because she didn't have any of her own." This touching story shows how Mexico isn't Cancun and sunny beaches

all over. It is more than wearing a sombrero and listening to Mexican music. It is a place like all others, with certain places being extremely poverty stricken. McDonald's act of kindness came from the bond she formed with a girl less privileged.

Seeing the youth and the struggles they faced in Oaxaca City was heart breaking, but Dawson did not hesitate to share the positives as well. "We took Spanish classes, and visited amazing sites. Some were from the 1500's, and some date back to the B.C era. We visited the Zapotec ruins, too." These ruins were once a place where a game was played in which players had to manipulate a ball through a goal using only hips, shoulders, knees, and elbows. Seems pretty fun, right? Except the part where the loser was put to death in a ritual sacrifice to the gods. Along with visiting these ruins, Dawson and the group learned how to make rugs. "A really

cool part," Dawson continued, "was that some of the students that went on the trip were Native speakers and they got to see family that they hadn't seen in years. It was great to see them reunite after years of being apart, and comparing the two cultures."

From simply interviewing Mr. Dawson and students that went on the trip, it was apparent how passionate they were about the educational endeavor. And from working with underprivileged children to seeing old ruins and making rugs, this experience was one to remember for everyone that attended. When I asked McDonald to summarize the trip in only a few words, she was quick to let me know that it was "absolutely amazing, and definitely one of the best experiences of my life."

NBTHS Dance Team is Back

Taylor Ann Winkler, Contributing Writer

After five years of being in hibernation, the North Brunswick Dance Team is back. After they nearly disappeared, no one had the drive or concern to bring it back; until last year, when a group of freshman girls approached Mr. Emanuel about the idea. After being so persistent, and frankly quite annoying, they got him to bring the matter before the North Brunswick Board of Education. Waiting almost six months, the girls' hopes were fading, until one day when they finally got the okay to go further with their vision.

During the first meeting they talked about the future and how they were going to get the word out that the Dance Team was back. They talked of tryouts (which will be most likely held in May or June), summer conditioning, coaches, and competitions. Emanuel, being a former dancer himself, fully understood the dancers' intentions

and what they wanted from this team. Even though there was not a big turnout for the first meeting, they are working on getting the word out and hopefully getting more dancers.

Looking at the Dance Teams in our surrounding area, it is intimidating. South Brunswick is the 10th in the nation, along with many other teams with much more experience than our team.

Mr. Emanuel has expressed his high expectations for the dancers. He hopes to bring the team, along with the future coach, to competitions and hopefully Nationals in the near future. With the support of the present dancers in North Brunswick and the interest of the future North Brunswick dancers to come, NBTHS can rise to the top.

History of Black History Month

Gabrielle Jarvis, Staff Writer

Black History Month is celebrated in America, Canada, and the United Kingdom as an annual observance month for important achievements of African Americans. Black History Month is celebrated in February in the US and Canada, and in October in the UK.

Black History Month began in 1926 when a historian by the name of Carter G. Woodson declared that the second week of February would be 'Negro Week'. The second week of the second month was chosen because both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass were born. Lincoln helped abolish slavery and Douglass was a prominent abolitionist.

Blacks in most communities promoted 'Negro Week' to the

fullest, especially in churches. Woodson believed it was very important for blacks to understand their background and be proud of their history.

Several years later in 1969 professors at Kent University decided to take one week admiring blacks to a full month.

One year later in 1970, the first recorded celebration of Black History Month was recorded.

Black History Month has had many critics since it began back in 1970. People believe one month should not be dedicated to one race and others believe the exact opposite. Whatever your opinion might be, Black History Month is here to stay and certainly has come a long way.



CARTER G. WOODSON

Photo Courtesy of Google Images

Success in Service: Key Club Carnival

Ankur Sharma, Contributing Writer

NBTHS's Key Club raised the bar this year in service with the success it tasted at its annual indoor carnival.

The carnival featured many sources of entertainment, including

fun games such as bowling, mini-golf, Dance Dance Revolution, food, dancing, and more. All the fun culminated into a flash-mob performance of the hit song, "Gangnam Style" at the conclusion of the carnival.

Vice-President of Key Club, senior Ibanca Anand said, "It was truly a memorable experience to be a part of Key Club these four years. My final carnival was another highlight to what I believe is going to be a spectacular conclusion to my

years as a member of the NBTHS Key Club."

NBTHS Key Club has done it again, putting smiles on the faces of many parents and children with yet another fantastic carnival.

Point, Counter-Point: Tanning

Terrible Tanning

Bree Hanson, Contributing Writer

During this time of year, people with paler skin often get “tanning crazy.” Because the weather is not quite nice enough yet, and the sun not bright enough, people go to tanning salons to get tan. Tanning, no matter which way it is done, is damaging for the skin.

Junior Christopher Strazza, states, “Tanning causes more harm than good; it has serious health risks and no positives.”

Ultraviolet radiation, also known as UV radiation, damages the skin. UVA rays are longer than UVB rays, causing them to be less dangerous. UVA rays cause damage over a long period of time, while UVB rays quickly damage the skin, leaving it red and sun burnt.

UVA rays are the rays that are shot by the sun and in tanning salons. Though these rays are less harmful than UVB rays, these can still cause skin cancer.

Tanning not only increases

your chances of getting skin cancer, but also causes premature aging. To add, it also causes eye damage. The exposure to these UV rays can cause irreparable damage to the human body.

“I don’t go tanning in a booth because it increases my chances of getting skin cancer,” says junior Jacyln Carlsen.

Carlsen realizes being exposed to additional UVA rays found in tanning booths are harmful for her health. It is important that the world knows the amount of harm that can be avoided by not using tanning booths.

For people who are “addicted” to tanning, there are ways to go tanning naturally, as in with the sun, and staying safe. For example, one can use sunscreen. Instead of laying out in the sun all day, a person can take a break from the harmful sun and either sit in the shade or go inside.

Tanning Is Not That Bad!

Anthony Kovach, Staff Writer

We’ve all heard about the dangers and tolls of tanning. Yet, many of us loathe the winter because of the inability to catch sun out on the beach. Melanoma, skin cancer, blisters, burns; the consequences of tanning seem insurmountable once they start. However, there is a way to look hot and tanned without having to worry about dastardly diseases and afflictions. It’s not spray tanning. All one needs to do is be a smart tanner!

Though that may sound like an oxymoron, I assure you: it’s not. Being smart about tanning is not a difficult task. It’s based on being prepared and diligent. First and fore

most, tanning salons are a quick way to get an unnatural tan which will not appeal to others. Only true tanning under the sun will get the desirable and salacious results the tanner is looking for. Let’s be honest. That is what tanners seek. Secondly, use lotion appropriately. A superfluous amount of tanning is hazardous and will not result in the sheen of skin tone tanning should give. For every three tanning sessions, do one using a light application of lotion. Finally, a luminous tan is a beautiful (or handsome) one. Don’t overdo it and you could be among the few suave and savvy tanners.

Photo Courtesy of Google Images



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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**We
Are
North
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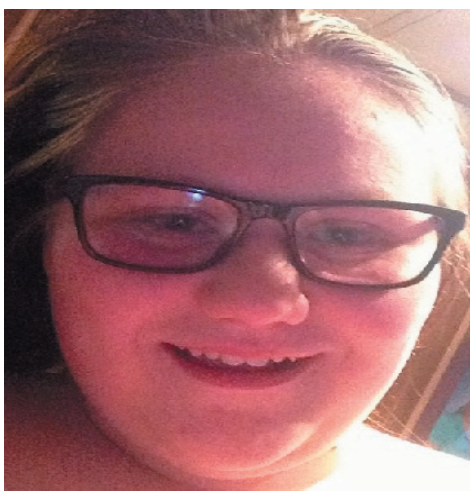
Sidewalk Survey

Who is your favorite musical artist?



Shiv Rattan, '16

“Eminem”



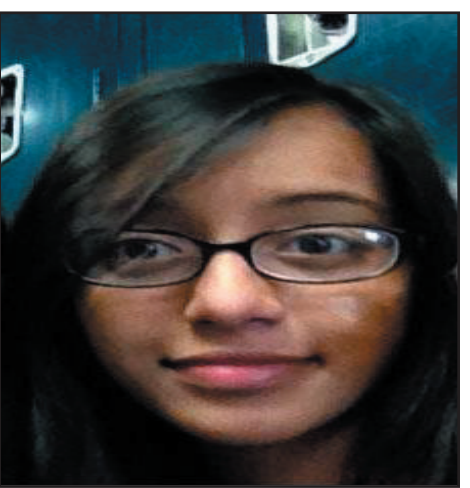
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“Maroon 5”



Calvin Kim, '14

“Rise Against”



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“Coldplay”



Mr. Ojeda,
History Department

“The Beatles”

New Bell Schedule

Chris Iocca, Contributing Writer

This year, North Brunswick Township High School enforced a rotational schedule. This schedule increases the time per class to 55 minutes (previously 40 minutes). With this time increase teachers had to adapt to the schedule as well as the students. More class time meant changing their teaching to more interactive learning as opposed to lecturing.

Recently, NBTHS has changed the schedule. The school changed the class periods from 55 minutes to 53 minutes, and increased the lunch period by three minutes, taking the rest off the end of the day.

This is a debated topic at the school with many people left wondering what good was done.

Ankur Sharna, a junior at North Brunswick Township High School states, “It’s really not much of a change in my opinion. If it means I get to leave school earlier, it is a benefit to me.”

With this new schedule students will be let out of school at 12:12, rather than 12:15, when they normally were dismissed. It also shortens their class periods and increases their lunch periods: almost every students’ dreams.

Other than satisfying the students, it may be the right move for other reasons as well. 55 minute classes this year have been a struggle for both students and teachers. By shortening the periods, it gives teachers a comfortable amount of

time to teach, without having to extend information.

On the other hand, by decreasing the class periods, students are losing valuable time of education as well as increasing a lunch period that is already long enough.

However, with the 30 minute lunch periods that were in place, it may not have been long enough for students to relax and eat their food. With only two lunch periods at the

Photo Courtesy of Google Images



school and 1,800 students, there is not enough time for people to buy lunch and eat it in 30 minutes.

Education is also a question which can be argued by recent surveys done by the Massachusetts Education showed that students with 50 minute class periods improved quicker than students with longer period classes. Also, behavior was much better with the shorter class periods with students more eager to learn.

This new schedule was obviously done for an important reason, which will help the students in the future succeed in school.

So, What Did You Do For Spring Break?

Ami Patel, Staff Writer

Spring break is a time in the year for people to take a break from school and enjoy some time at home, or for some, at a place far away from home. Here are some people who have enjoyed spring break, at home or not at home.

- “I plan to draw more, go on tumblr, hang out with my friends and family, and, best of all, stay up until 4 a.m. partying!”
-Ashley Gulick, '16

- “My spring break is just to watch TV, hang out with my friend, and sleep late.”
-Aiyanna Jones, '16

- “For spring break, I am planning to go to the Philadelphia Museum of Art to see their Van Goghs.”
-Mrs. Grollman, Art teacher

V i d e o G a m e s

A New Generation of Playstation

Anthony Kovach, Staff Writer

2013 is perhaps one of the most eventful eras for the gaming community in recent years thus far. Rumors swirl of an X-Box 720, the advanced console succeeding the X-Box 360. What was confirmed however was the release date of the newest and best console developed by S.C.E (Sony Computer Entertainment), the Playstation 4. Based upon its title, it is the successor of the Playstation 3, also a very popular gaming system. At its official announcement ceremony—lasting two full hours—no console was displayed, but a release date was set in stone: holidays 2013.

On 2/20/13, the official announcement was made on television. This event easily drove fanatics rabid upon the news gracing their eager ears. Unfortunately, the PS4 itself was not revealed by S.C.E President Shuhei Yoshida, yet he would demonstrate the new controller specific to the Playstation 4. The Dualshock 4 is drastically different from its predecessors. Despite being wireless much like the style introduced by the

Dualshock 3, it features a Share button allowing players to share in-game data or information with one another almost instantaneously. Furthermore, it combines both the Start and Select button (trademarks of the Playstation) into a single Options button. This tool will be used to pause, adjust, and fix the game to the player's liking. The Playstation 4 will utilize a powerful graphic enhancement system in addition to its many other fascinating features.

Finally, along with the Playstation 4 comes some gigantic video game titles procured by intimidating developers. Ubisoft, bringers of the Assassin's Creed series, have scheduled two releases. *Watch Dogs* and *Assassin's Creed IV: Black Flag* were slated to be released near the holidays, as the Playstation 4 was stated to be released. *Sucker Punch* promises to launch *Infamous: Second Son* and suspicions about *Rockstar's Grand Theft Auto V* and *Deep Silver's Dead Island: Riptide* will make the early PS4 debuts. Only time will tell.

Naruto Shippuden: Ultimate Ninja Storm 3

Mark Loshak, Contributing Writer

Recently, the game *Naruto Shippuden: Ultimate Ninja Storm 3*, part of a fighting franchise by *Cyber Connect 2* and published by Namco Bandai Games, came out in North America on March 5, 2013 and in Europe on March 8, 2013. The game will only be coming out on April 18 in Japan and the demo came out in February 19, 2013 in all regions. Europe so far recieved the most downloadable content including two versions of the game, the "Will Of Fire Edition", "True Despair Edition" and six exclusive costumes on first run copies.

The game, which is based on the *Naruto* manga by Masashi Kishimoto, includes over 80 playable characters. It includes all costumes for each character excluding special costumes, which is their largest cast in the *Ultimate Ninja* series. In this addition to the series the fighting system has been modified. Awakening Mode, a state that gave each character enhanced

abilities when their health is low, is made possible to activate at any time during the fight.

Just as in the previous games, the player is able to choose two assisting characters. But in this this ability, it has been made possible for the player to modify and enhancing gameplay. Assisting characters can now aid through 13 different combos and can also be modified to support the player through either Attack, Defense, or Balanced mode.

The game starts with a flashback from the beginning of the Nine-Tails' Attack on Konoha and Five Kage Summit Arc, ending with an alternate turn of events in the Shinobi World War Arc. Being that the manga and anime have not come to that part as of yet, it is unknown if this will be the actual ending—but most likely not. The game is available on Playstation 3 and X-Box 360.

Bioshock Infinite_N

Nolan Salus, Contributing Writer

The newest game that is coming out this month is *Bioshock Infinite*, and being published by 2K Games. 2K Games is known for publishing games such as the *Elder Scrolls: Skyrim*, *Borderlands* and the *Bioshock series*. The third installment of the *Bioshock series*, *Bioshock: Infinite* will take place in the 1900's, in the floating city of Columbia. Main character Booker DeWitt struggles to save a captive girl named Elizabeth from the Founders and Vox Populi. The game was announced late 2010 and was delayed all the way back to March 2013, for furnishing and bug fixing. *Bioshock* is said to have all new characters and game-play mechanics never before seen in the

previous game.

Pulling out from the ocean setting and the characters from the previous *Bioshock* games, this game features a brand new cast and a brand new setting. Protagonist Booker DeWitt, an agent, is sent to rescue a woman named Elizabeth. Elizabeth is a young woman who has psychic powers and has been held captive within the city of Columbia for about 12 years.

Bioshock Infinite also features an array of enemies such as Handymen, who can throw and destroy Booker with their brute strength, and Sirens, who can distort Booker's senses and blind him. All of these characters, along with the plot, add to the new game-play.

The game-play in the new *Bioshock* game features many new innovations such as the Skyline in which the player can use a hook shaped tool to jet around from place to place on the roller-coaster-esque structure. The player will be able to use genetic powers from 'vigors' and other equipment from the setting of Columbia, which allows him to manipulate the foes and the actions that they can perform, such as telekinesis and fire.

Open-world combat and exploration also adds to the effect that the developers are trying to show within the setting of *Infinite*. The developers have also tried to make the game brighter than previous games by adding a sky-based

setting.. The purpose of the skyline is to add more variety to combat and travel around the game's world. In an interview, Ken Levine stated that the environment for *Infinite* would not be as constrained as in the other games when it took place in the underwater city of Rapture.

Bioshock Infinite is scheduled to release next week on the 27th of March, and has already received good reception at the 2011 E3 Awards. It recieved more than 11 Nominations and positive reviews from the critics. The game will be priced at \$60 and will have pre-ordered bonuses such as posters and other items. Play it or not, it will be at your local game seller soon!

Coalition Of Gears (Gears of War Trilogy)

Darron Baity, Contributing Writer

GEARS I

The game's plot begins fourteen years after Emergency Day. Marcus Fenix, the main character and also a former C.O.G soldier is called upon to reunite with the military, after being imprisoned for abandoning a direct order trying to save his father.

Dominic or Dom extracts Marcus from prison to unite him with Delta Squad. The group's mission was to locate the resonator. The resonator was a device that will locate the hollow underground caves built by the locust. The locust are the enemy that is attempting to take over the world.

In the comute to locate the device they took many casualties but Marcus pushed on to the depths of the tunnel where they defeat General RAAM and plant the light mass bomb witch will eradicate the lo-

cust from their tunnel networks and cause them to surface where the remaining C.O.G can put a full attack on them

It ends with Hoffman giving a victory speech and the locust queen voewing vengence .

GEARS II

Six months after the light mass bombing, the locust hord has arrived and has begun/ renewed their war on humanity. through unknown means ,entires cities were sinking and falling beneath the earths surface.

The C.O.G lossing huge nummbers to locust raids, the C.O.G plan to couter attack by sending troops in the grindlifts deep below the surface to attack the locust at their base"the Hollow".

While traving the depths of the earth the foundout that the lo-

cust were using a gaint Riftworm to sink occupied cities.They go into the sink hole to envestigate and are ambushed.

Damon Bird and Agustus Cole rescue them. upon extracton they are swolled by the Rift worm. They set foot to kill the worm by destroying its hearts.The esape the worms dead carcus. After they escape Hoftman gives them orders to envestigate a nearby COG outpost where they encouter an unknown origin and discover a back door entrence to the Hollow.

They use this to attack the Hollow and the fight and fight until they forced to retreat they escape on Reavers. They use a lightmass Bomb to sink the city that locus base is under .

GEARS III

The game starts with Chair-

man Preacott unexpectedly arriving on the solvereighn. He returned to give important information to Marcus . The lambient launch a sneek attack on the ship and prescott is morally wounded, before dying he gives Marcus an encrypted data disc the reveals that marcuses father is still alive.

They travel to the Anvil Gate where they helped with a comined attack of locuth and lambient. After the fight They travel By submarine to the mercy. They find out that it is really a sanctuary and resort for the Sara's most elete and powerful individuala.

They travel to Azura, where they take his father to get the hammer of dawn to destroy the queen.. after defeating the queen, Marcuses father sacrifices himself to to destroy the enemies.



Rockstar prepares Grand Theft Auto V

Anthony Kovach, Staff Writer

Popular game developer Rockstar has announced and is nearly ready to release the newest and most suspenseful installment of the incorrigible Grand Theft Auto series—where grand theft auto is among the mildest of crimes the player is able to commit. In this fifth mainstream episode of the GTA series, Rockstar attempts a much trickier approach to past successes and amazing story tailoring. Much like its predecessor, Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas, this game will take the player to the fictional town of Los Santos, which can be most likely related to Las Angeles with lavish, luxurious, and ornate houses and buildings accompanied by eccentric citizens.

In Grand Theft Auto V, Rockstar strays away from prior games in which there is a single protagonist and attempts to tackle not two, but three separate anti-heroes. And may I say, what a colorful collaboration of characters this will be. Rockstar has decided to throw together Michael, an ex-con living with a money-loving wife and obstreperous kids, Trevor, a crazy, drug addict, and Franklin, a repo man for the leads of the newest Grand Theft Auto. In the story, the trio decides the easiest and quickest way to earn decent cash was pulling off the most dangerous and intricate series of heists.

Several features accustomed

to the series make a return to the new installment, however Rockstar also adds in a few minor details that will be sure to catch the eyes of devout GTA fans. For example, pets and animals will be introduced in Grand Theft Auto V and will serve as either loyal friends and companions or deadly and rabid foes. The ability to fully control aerial modes of transport such as airplanes and jets return from San Andreas seeing as how helicopters were not sufficient for the aerial aces of the Grand Theft Auto series. Along with these cool, new features and returning old ones, GTA V will certainly make a huge impact upon its September 17th release this year.

How to Hit a Baseball

Chris Iocca, Contributing Writer

Baseball is a game of failure. If you can average to succeed three times out of every ten to get a hit in the Major Leagues in your career, you will be considered to be voted into the Hall of Fame. The baseball swing is taught many different ways, and there is no one exact way that is right. The main goal every hitter must remember that no matter how great your mechanics of hitting are, it does not mean that you are going to hit the ball every time. For example, Mark Teixeira may have one of the worst swings in baseball, and still hits 30 plus homeruns every year.

There are a few things that every hitter must have to be successful. The most important part of your swing is your grip. You must make sure that you are holding the bat in your fingertips, and your “knocking knuckles” should be in a straight line. The knocking knuckles are the knuckles that you use to knock on a door with. When these are in line, it is easier to control the whole bat.

After focusing on your grip, you must then focus on your stance. This is where it is all about preference. Some people like to have a lot of movement, while others don’t move at all. For example, Gary Sheffield viciously used to wave his bat back and forth, while someone like Albert Pujols barely moved at all. The most important thing about every professional hitter is after they load, they all are in the same position. No matter what stance you decide to start in, after you load you should have straight feet, weight more on the back side, and your top

hand almost in line with your chin. This position should be reached every single pitch, no matter if the pitcher is throwing 100 MPH or 50 MPH. You determine when to load on deck, because every pitcher is different.

After you reach your post load position, you can finally start your swing. Even though your upper body is closer to the ball-- and it is very tempting to use your upper body first--, your swing starts with your hips and legs. The first movement in your swing is your hips. Following your hips is your hands. At contact your hands should be palm up, palm down. That means that your bottom hand’s palm should be down, and your top hand’s palm should be up.

However, after making contact, the swing is not over. The follow through may be one of the most important parts of the swing that is missed by hitters. After making contact with the ball, it is important to follow through by pretending to hit the preceding six baseballs as the bat is extending toward the pitcher. After hitting the ball, this will help you make sure you use every inch of power in the swing. This will also help the ball carry, or go farther, than if you don’t follow through.

Now that you know the simple techniques of hitting a baseball, your game should improve. The most important part of being a good hitter is overcoming adversity and not becoming frustrated when you don’t get a hit every time. The sooner a hitter figures that out, the better the hit will be.

Where Are Your Children?

Amy Roth, Contributing Writer

“It’s 10pm; do you know where your children are?” This saying has been broadcasted on all television channels for years now. Why? To ensure that parents are aware of the location and safety of their children.

No one really understands how crucial something as simple as a small message can be. It works as a reminder for parents to be taking the proper precautions to make their children well aware of the dangers out there.

Too many horrible incidents are happening worldwide, starting from teens meeting strangers online, to children getting kidnapped right from their front yard. It’s a shame to know there is no real safe place in the world. However it is important to

be attentive to our children to avoid these tragedies from happening.

An effective way to look out for your child’s safety is to have an open and honest relationship with them. Especially during the teenage years, teens feel the need to lie to their parents about where they are. This can be extremely dangerous especially in case of an emergency. By having an this relationship with your children, you will better understand them and who they are. You will also learn important information like who they hang out with and if they are with a safe group of friends.

The more a parent pays close attention to their child and teaches them about the dangers of society, no matter what age, the safer and protected the child will be.

Transforming Classics into Modern Film

Ryan Wilcox, Contributing Writer

Many classics today have been transformed into modern film. Growing up, most kids are told stories about *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Snow White*, *Alice in Wonderland*, etc.

Most of these stories that are told become tales that get passed on to their children, and their children’s children, and so on. In today’s society, television is the new source of entertainment. It grasps the attention of many kids, teens and even adults.

With the new technology, it’s easy to make a vision come to life and that’s exactly what modern film has been able to accomplish. The tales that were told to this generation and generations before that will now be available to those in the upcoming generation.

“It was cool to see the tale I grew up hearing about on TV. It gave me a better understanding, visually, of how it actually happened,” says Abdullah Shabazz, explaining how he went to see *Red Riding Hood*. “The movie added its own twist to it with all the action and mystery that

was going. I personally thought the movie was better than all the stories I heard,” he added.

Views on classics turned into modern film vary. Some like the idea of classics revolutionizing to fit in today’s society, but others feel as though classics should remain as classics because its the originality which makes them stand out.

“There is a reason why its called classics because its original. You can’t take the charm of a classic and try to interpret that into a modern movie because all charisma will go away.” For example *Romeo and Juliet*. They took a nice delicate play/movie and turned it into a raunchy, vulgar movie which defeated the whole meaning behind it. It was like watching a spoof and frankly I was offended.”--Pongkhi Sarmah

The transformation of classics have made a difference in the modern film whether people are in favor of it not. On the plus side, the tales that have been told for many years will never be forgotten thanks to modern film.

Got Cash?

Grace Chu, Staff Writer

Here at NBTHS, many of our students have managed to find ways to earn money, such as taking on a part-time job. This is a handy choice since some would want to make themselves useful provide a contribution of their own. Earning money also offers experience and preparation for the future. There are plenty of ways for teenagers to make money with little difficulty.

A few students usually take

day.

One doesn’t have to undertake a job to earn cash. There are simple errands teens can tackle on for easy money, like shoveling snow or washing someone’s car. You can go from house to house and take out the trash for ten bucks. You might have the gratifying feeling of how you’ve made other people’s lives easier, which can be even more of a reward than money.



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

up the job of babysitting, which requires patience and responsibility, but is pretty simple to do. How much money they make depends on whether or not they babysit daily or temporarily. Depending on the type of person you are, working with children could truly brighten your

The job of a cashier is another simply and typical way of means to receive money. There are many cashier jobs open for teenagers desperate for a money, including fast food restaurants and pharmacies. While not the most flattering and lively employment, they get paid all the

same. Best of all, it requires very few experience, if any.

There are numerous methods to support yourself and/or your family and many more. All it takes is a certain amount of responsibility. It’s never too early or too late to receive your own salary.

Claudia Torres

Ami Patel, Staff Writer

Known by classmates for her cleverness, freshman Claudia Torres is featured in the Spotlight for this month's issue.

Torres is aiming high for life, determined to do above average in her school performance and fulfill her dream of becoming a medical examiner. She also takes part in many clubs and extra activities, like being a homeroom representative and a delegate for Model UN.

Torres already has plans for her future.

She plans to attend Harvard and Princeton and study in fields like medicine, in order to achieve her goal of being a medical examiner. Even though she does well in her subjects, Torres enjoys English the most.

Analyzing literature has always been an enjoyable activity for her. She is very comfortable with literature, which also explains her love for reading. Torres also takes part in many clubs, and is very fond of taking part in school activities.

She attends clubs like SGO, Model UN, the Environmental Club, and Painted Words. Claudia represents her homeroom as homeroom representative.

In Model UN, she is a delegate, discussing political topics with others. When she isn't attending these activities, Torres enjoys playing the cello and the piano, as well as reading.

Some of the books she enjoys reading are Hamlet and Jane Eyre. She believes that

everyone has the right to chase their own dreams. "The only thing that can hold you back," Torres said in an interview, "is fear."



Photo Courtesy of Ami Patel

When asked about her goals for school, and for life, Torres says she plans to surmount expectations, and score the title Valedictorian. Although she is only a freshman,

Iverson Fleming

Jordan Grant, Contributing Writer

Iverson Fleming, a fellow student here at NBTHS, has definitely had a wonderful experience over the past 4 years. With senior year coming to an end, Fleming definitely has a bright future ahead of him.

their footsteps.

Iverson says that he knew he wanted to play basketball as early as the age of four. Not only is basketball important to him, but maintaining good grades, keeping a good work ethic and being mentally



Photo Courtesy of Jordan Grant

Basketball plays a large role in Fleming's life, he's been playing since the age of five and does not plan on stopping any time soon.

His great athleticism and talent in basketball has landed him a seat at Hofstra University located in Long Island, New York.

Fleming was noticed by Hofstra scouts while playing with his AAU team in Florida over the summer.

He has played in a lot of places nationwide such as North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Florida, and Connecticut. Playing basketball has always been an option for Fleming, both his brother and father played the sport. he is not following in

and physically prepared for college is also a must.

"Don't get me wrong, I'm no superstar... I just want to be successful just like everyone else." says Fleming. Anyone can tell that Fleming certainly has a great head on his shoulders.

In the near future Fleming can see himself playing in the NBA and maybe along side some of his favorite players who include: Chris Paul and Deron Williams.

Having a positive attitude towards his school success is always a great priority. He definitely made his mark here in North Brunswick. He was named the most valuable player and also received a thousand points in his overall basketball season.

Faculty Spotlight: Anne

Anthony Kovach, Staff Writer

Ask any student which staff member he or she admires or likes and 99% of the time the answer will be an educator. The faculty members that almost never receive recognition are the diligent lunchtime cashiers.

One of which operates the snack shack in the commons entirely by herself. A plethora of students buy treats, salads, sandwiches, bagels, or pretzels from her daily. Anne is a woman of cheerfulness, joy, and (finally yet importantly) Rice Krispy Treats.

A day on the job is terribly busy. As Anne states, "I work until

the bell rings," it is easy to imagine how much stress and pressure goes into a half hour long period of serving the needs of the ravenous NBTHS students. Not to mention, the added difficulty of operating the computer flawlessly is also bearing down on Anne. Fortitude is a handy trait for a cashier. She adds that it can be made more difficult by the obstreperous noises and blathering of the commons.

Anne does mention she—as with all cashiers—receive a certificate of appreciation after every five years of dedication to

their job. However, she is just as glad, if not more so, to be featured in this edition of The Banner for doing something she simply loves.

Anne is sure to put a smile on anyone's face when handing over his or her desired lunch. And I recommend buying from her if you have but a few dollars in your wallet. "I love everything, and the students...I love them the most," Anne admits.

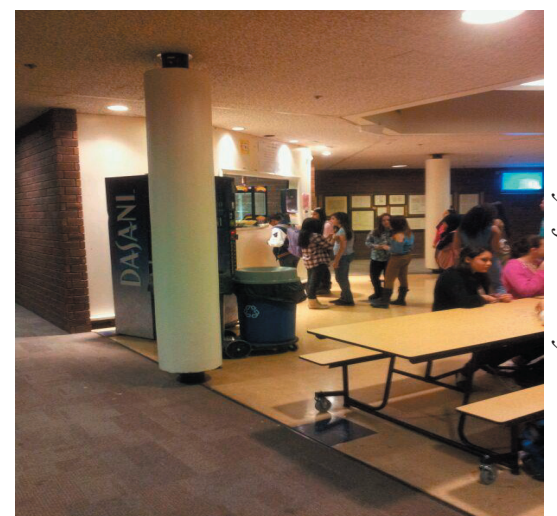


Photo Courtesy of Anthony Kovach

SNACK SHACK

Dark Skies Review

Chyna Woods, Contributing Writer

Interested in sci-fi films with aliens? Looking for a suspenseful movie with a mind blowing ending? *Dark Skies* is the movie for you.

It begins with a family of four, struggling in debt from a stack of bills, after the dad has been laid off from work.

Things start to get weird around the house when there are mysterious break-ins. The family does not think much of it, until the youngest son claims nightly visits from a "Sandman". To ease their worry, the family get security

around the house, with cameras an alarm system.

Soon the abnormalities happened to individual family members and around the neighborhood relating to them. They surf the internet looking for a solution and got an answer that is unbelievable and disturbing; aliens chose the family.

The movie will leave you in wonderment and shock. It will keep you on the edge of your seat with its twisting plot. It has scenes that you will find disturbing, which is normal for horror and sci-fi lovers.

Silver Linings Playbook Review

Musbha Chudhry, Contributing Writer

Got a date tonight? Need to pick a romantic-comedy movie? Then *Silver Linings Playbook* is the one. This movie stars the one and only Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper.

Jennifer Lawrence a famous actress who starred in *The Hunger Games*, not only caused controversy by playing Katniss, she showed off a wild side in this movie. Jennifer Lawrence is a blunt and very confident person while her co-star, Bradley Cooper is a nutcase.

Silver Linings Playbook made a huge splash in the Hollywood industry when it was released due

to the eminent cast members and the gripping story line.

Critics say *Silver Linings Playbook* will have you wanting more. *Silver Linings Playbook* is about a mental patient named Pat played by, Cooper getting out of the asylum and meeting Tiffany, portrayed by Lawrence.

At first, the two only become friends because they both have ulterior motives but as the movie progresses we learn more about them.

So go get your tickets and popcorn ready and watch *Silver Linings Playbook*.

Rihanna takes Connecticut

Isabella Evangelista, Contributing Writer

Rihanna revealed that she would be having a tour called "Diamonds World Tour," starting March 8th and ending on October 6th. She will have a total of 74 shows all over the world.

Rihanna had to cancel her show in Boston on Sunday, March 10th and Baltimore on Tuesday,

Rihanna had to cancel her show in Boston on Sunday, March 10th and Baltimore on Tuesday, March 12th, due to the flu and laryngitis. She was then able to recover from her sickness and performed in Philadelphia that Thursday.

The next day Rihanna traveled to Connecticut to perform for the many fans that bought tickets to her show. With just recovering from laryngitis Rihanna did an

excellent job but she did have a rasp in her voice.

Her opening act was A\$AP Rocky. As A\$AP Rocky finished his performance lights dimmed down and she unexpectedly appeared with one spotlight on her.

Along with her she had a four piece band, two back up singers, and eight back up dancers. Rihanna performed about 28 of her tracks.

She began her performance with "Mother Mary" from her latest album "Unapologetic." Towards the end of this number, black panels appeared at the back of the stage displaying light with videos where she moved in the middle of and disappeared. The attention of the audience then focused only on her voice.

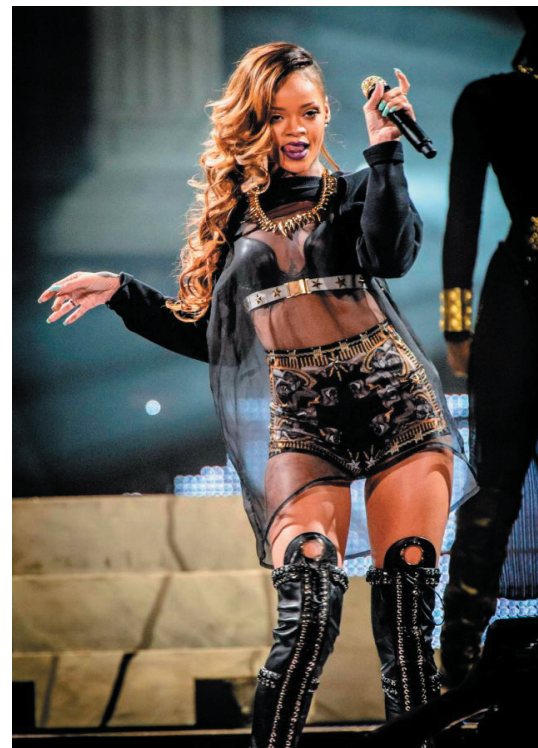


Photo Courtesy of Google

RIHANNA PERFORMING

Paranoia Agent (anime)

Grace Chu, Staff Writer

Paranoia Agent is a psychological thriller anime, created by the famous anime director Satoshi Kon and produced by Madhouse Productions, whose responsible for other well-received animes such as *Death Note*, *Trigun*, and *Ninja Scroll*. It is incredibly meaningful and interesting, full of satire and mystery.

Paranoia Agent takes place in Tokyo, the place where its inhabitants are constantly living under a stressful environment, which leads them to shun away their problems and diverge away from the harsh reality. There are some episodes that focus in on the lives of particular citizens that

have little relevance to the plot, yet the insight in their dilemmas tie in perfectly with the central message.

What connects these irrelevant tidbits together is the growing phenomenon known as "L'il Slugger", a mysterious boy on golden roller skates who strikes down various citizens with a baseball bat, which grows on everyone's mind like paranoia. The plot is pulled off in a psychological fashion, with a particular chilling music and a suspenseful and off-putting atmosphere.

The animation is detailed and realistic, at times bordering on grotesqueness, which can be unappealing to some. It is the type

of stories that, when you relive the experience, your mind goes "aha!" and you wonder how you've never noticed these little things before. Something interesting to note is that Satoshi sometimes incorporates various styles and concepts to tell each episode, such as the use of comic strip shots to add more depth to a character. Which leads to another point, in that *Paranoia Agent* is an excellent example of the "show don't tell" medium.

There are numerous little scenes that speak more than a dramatic anime reveal or exposition, leaving much to be said and making a compelling watch.

Another charming aspect

of the anime is that, aside from the main moral, you can detect several traces of the creator's voice, such as the dark humor on suicide and the stressful portrayal of how an animation studio works. The series was like an experiment for Satoshi to put forth his ideas, so the audience can see the elements of Satoshi.

Since it is a psychological anime, some scenes can be disturbing and it is not therefore unsuitable for anyone below 13 years of age. There are reoccurring symbols throughout and scenes that can be quite puzzling to many viewers. This appealing, yet wonderfully deep anime, will be intriguing to anyone who watches it.

Spring Track Holds High Expectations

Nicholas Onorati, Contributing Writer

As spring begins and the weather is warming, students are relaxing and preparing for the end of the year. However, while most students are winding down, the determined members of the track team are working hard to prepare for this season.

The events that these athletes can train for consist of the 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1600m, 3200m, long jump, high jump, triple jump, pole vault, shot-put, and javelin.

Both teams, boys and girls, are coming off a successful winter season, having both won the GMC White Division. The boys track team is led by captains C.J. Wise, Martin Blay, and David Coffie-Owusu and coached by Mr. Dipane and Mrs. Bloemer.

The girls are coached by Mr. Grimes and Mr. Rosenberg and the captains include Casey Destefano, Imani Fox, Taylor Irrizary, Jen Salvatore, Mecca Mayers, Bonazyia McMillan, and Talyah Winston.

After a competitive and successful season, these athletes are ready to push their limits. The track team is one of the most disciplined athletic activities at NBTHS and these students will stop at nothing

to be the best. Senior captain Casey Destefano explained "We are coming off a great winter season and I am really proud of my teammates. I want to end my eighth and final season with a bang by coming in first in the state."

Destefano has been a member of the track team since the winter of her freshman year and has worked for four years to get to where she is now. Having come so far, she feels she needs to accomplish something huge to end her track career at NBTHS.

Junior Cindy Lee also added, "I know that our team is capable of so much this season, and I am excited to see how far we can go."

The Raiders Track Team has a long tradition of success. All the members of this team are ready to continue this tradition and end the year with a victorious season.

With so many experienced team members and an impressive record from last season, the track team is expected to accomplish great things this season. With guidance from all the head coaches, the Spring Track team is sure to go far.

Boys Tennis

Ankur Sharma, Contributing Writer

"Perfect practice makes perfect." As said by Mark Fitzpatrick, coach of JV Tennis. The Boys Tennis Team follows this ideology at every practice and match.

The boys Varsity Tennis Team played their first match of the season against East Brunswick on April 3, 2013. Although they came up short against East Brunswick, the boys still remain determined and play to the best of their potential at every practice.

The team has gained a lot of new players this year. According to Fitzpatrick, "There is definitely more consistency this year when it comes to hitting on the court. There are a lot of new players on the team which is gonna lead to a bright future for the team. I have a feeling that this year the Boys Tennis Team is gonna have a great season." Akshay Malavade, a freshman, rose through the ranks and currently plays 2nd singles on the Varsity Team. "It's truly an honor to be second singles Varsity in my first year," Malavade

said. The team is captained by Sammer Vinayak and Dhruv Patel who are both seniors at NBTHS. Vinayak plays 3rd singles Varsity while Patel plays 1st singles Varsity. "It's been great fun playing tennis for NBTHS throughout these four years. I'm looking forward to an amazing final season," Vinayak said. When asked about how he feels about playing his final season, Patel said, "It's an honor to be captain of this team. Tennis has been a lot of fun but at the same time a lot of hard work and dedication goes into becoming a great player. I'm looking forward to a great senior year season."

The boys practice everyday after school and on Saturday mornings. The practices are long and strenuous, beginning with 2 mile runs and ending with hitting on the court. The hard work pays off in the end though when the boys play their hearts out in every match they take part in.



GIRLS SPRING TRACK GETTING READY TO RACE

Photos Courtesy of Liela Piracha

2013 MLB Preview

Harrison Kaye, Contributing Writer

The 2013 Major League Baseball season is underway and already records have already been reached.

Opening Night featured a battle for the state of Texas, played by the new addition to the American League West, Houston Astros, and division favorite Texas Rangers. In stunning fashion, the Astros beat the Rangers 8-2. This is the first time Houston held sole position of first place since 2007.

On Opening Day, there was a plethora of games, including rivalry games like Yankees-Red Sox and Dodgers-Giants. The Red Sox pummeled the Yankees in an 8-2 slugfest.

In exciting early-season drama, Clayton Kershaw, ace pitcher for the Dodgers, let his team on both sides of the field. Entering the 8th inning, the game was scoreless with Kershaw pitching a shutout. However, when he came up to bat in the inning he smacked a solo home run to take the lead. The Dodgers never looked back on their way to a 4-0 victory.

Opening Week is always an exciting time for MLB analysts and fans because they can assess teams' performances and predict who they think will take home the World Series.

Chris Iocca, an avid baseball fan added his thoughts on the season, "I think the Nationals are pretty tough as well as the Tigers."

The Washington Nationals and Detroit Tigers are both preseason favorites to make the playoffs and have a chance to win the title. Both teams are led by ace pitchers, Stephen Strasburg and

Justin Verlander, respectively. The past few years have shown that the key to a successful team is a good pitching staff.

A few other teams with good starting pitchers are the Rangers, Dodgers, Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, and Toronto Blue Jays.

The Angels and Blue Jays both made big offseason acquisitions to improve their lineups. The Angels picked up all-star outfielder Josh Hamilton. He will likely be the main source of power for the Angels along with former MVP Albert Pujols.

The Blue Jays made a couple blockbuster trades that gave their lineup a completely new look. Toronto made a trade with the New York Mets to acquire Cy Young winner and knuckleball pitcher R.A. Dickey.

The National League East seemed to be kind to the Blue Jays, as Mets's rival Miami Marlins traded two excellent starting pitchers: Josh Johnson and Mark Buehrle, as well as all-star shortstop Jose Reyes.

The Blue Jays hope that these trades will benefit the team because it cost them a lot of money and prospects to get the players. One particular prospect the team gave away for Dickey is catcher Travis d'Arnaud. He is the number one catching prospect at the time.

Some analysts have predicted the Blue Jays to win the World Series, in which case the sacrifices will have been worth it. However, things often don't go as planned in baseball, so we can only wait to see what happens in what will definitely be another exciting season of MLB baseball.

Go Hard or Go Home

Jaclyn Carlsen, Contributing Writer

Spring time is the most athletic time of the year. Everyone goes out to enjoy the nice weather and stay active. This spring season, Lady Raiders softball girls will bring it on; all or nothing.

Tryouts began on March 1 and lasted about 8 days. This allows the coaches to evaluate each individual player's progress and get a feel of the skills and abilities they have and can accomplish. Based on the skill shown, the coaches can split them up into 3 groups: Freshmen, Junior Varsity and Varsity.

"We can not afford to have just any young lady try out for a sport they have never played. They need to show me, as well as the other coaches, that they know what they are doing and they deserve to be here. Such long tryouts give players the chance to prove themselves and to me, they belong on our Raider Team," states Head Coach Diller.

For about 3 hours a day, 6 days a week, hard work and determination is shown through every girl's eyes. They tried out for a reason, not just to get a sport to look good on college applications, but to be on the team and play softball. That means major commitment and patience. As soon as practice begins or a game starts, outside life is forgotten; it's all about the game. Keeping their heads up and staying

positive helps keep their focus and spirits high.

"Everyday, I look forward to the end of the day and to practice. The moment I pick up my glove, bat, or ball, I am in the zone, ready to try my hardest and give it my all. Being there 6 days a week for about 3 hours is tough, but definitely worth it. All the practice skills and plays needed to be learned and accomplished can be. I am so ready for this season to begin," states Senior Alyssa Carlsen.

The coaches have been working just as hard as players to prepare for scrimmages and games. Today, the Lady Raiders start their season playing their first game against South Plainfield. With confidence, power, and the ability to believe in themselves as one and as a team, they have a high chance at showing South Plainfield what they are up against. It's time to wish the team the best of luck!

As a whole, Lady Raiders Softball Players have been putting in their maximum effort to not only amaze the coaches, but to amaze themselves with how much they have accomplished. Working together as a team and as one is their key to success. Together they can be unstoppable and play an unforgettable season.

Biggest Free Agency Yet?

Akshay Malavade, Contributing Writer

This year's free agency has been a busy one for all NFL teams. Almost each team has been involved in big trades that have affected the teams in more ways than one. The wide receivers have made changes to the teams that they want to be on, making some teams better than others.

The Kansas City Chiefs, a team in the NFL, has made more changes to their team over this off-season than any other team. They have changed their coach and acquired a new and better quarterback from a team that went to the Super Bowl.

Andy Reid, the new coach of the Chiefs, came from the Philadelphia Eagles and went to Kansas City. He is one of the greatest coaches of all time, especially because of the time that he has spent in the NFL, and also because of his work with quarterback Michael Vick.

Also, the change of Wes Welker coming to the Denver Broncos could change the way that teams play in the playoffs. Wes Welker is one of the fastest receivers in the NFL, because of his adept skills, and also because of his ability to break tackles.

This change was possible due to the Patriots' ability to give enough money to Welker to keep him. This was a mistake on the

Patriots', because Wes enabled them to reach many Super Bowls, and also give Tom Brady another option to throw.

The many changes that have occurred in the NFL, due to this off season, has changed the views of many fans and players. Another big trade that has been going on was about the cornerback for the New York Jets, Darelle Revis.

A fan of the New York Jets, Moksh Gudala thinks "Darelle Revis is one of the best players to ever be at his position, he deserves a good team to be traded to".

People like Moksh, who are fans of Darelle feel that he should not be traded, because of the depth that he brings to the New York Jets. Fans believe that their best players deserve good teams, and then free agency helps players do just that.

Because of the free agency, lower teams that are not that good are able to get players by trading draft picks that they have each year for the college draft in April. It is a widely followed part of the NFL, because the free agency is when big names could be traded if they would like to be.

All in all, the free agency is a large part of the NFL, and should be watched and followed by many more people.

KILL KILL: Boys Volleyball

Ryan Lehnau, Contributing Writer

As we are approaching the spring season, another season of Boys Volleyball begins.

This is the second season in which the team has three coaches: Biolsi, Huff, and Halsey. Each coach is in charge of their own division of boys volleyball.

Coach Biolsi is in charge of the Varsity players, while coaches Huff and Halsey deal more with the freshman/Junior Varsity players.

For those who are not familiar to the game, here are the basics to the game.

In volleyball, as in most other team sports, every player has separate positions and roles. For instance, there is a maximum of six players allowed to be on the court while the rally is in play.

Out of these six players,

there are three front row players and three back row players. However, the spot that a player is in changes because after winning a serve and a receive, the players will rotate.

As for the positions that are up for grabs, there are Outside hitters, Middle hitters, Opposite hitters, Setters, and Liberos.

As for the players on the court during a rally, there are two outsides, one middle, one opposite, one setter and one libero.

Out of these six players on the court, everyone can spike the ball except for the libero.

These are the players on the court that will play during the rally. As a rally goes on, a play can be done as follows; pass, set and attack. If done correctly, a team can make a play in order to "kill" the rally.



Photo Courtesy of Liela Pirachia

THE BOYS VOLLEYBALL TEAM HUDDLING UP