

# THE BANNER

January 2014

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

Volume 29, Issue 02

## Students take on MetLife Stadium!

Julie Youngman, Contributing Writer

On November 18, 2013 thirty-seven students in Ms. Bloemer's Sports Entertainment and Marking class visited the MetLife stadium.

In Bloemer's class, students are being taught how an entertainment events works. Along with that they are asked to create their own football team, through a simulated game, in which they make their own team name and logo.

These students traveled about forty minutes to the stadium through bus ride. When they arrived Jessica Aulenbach stated; "I was so happy to be there because I am a very big Giants fan. Not only that, but I was given the opportunity to take an exclusive tour to see things not many people have the opportunity to."

Students had the ability to view a suite where the rooms to buy and watch the game cost at least one million dollars. Within that suite and other parts of the stadium there is furniture made out of real football skins.

Besides this, the students got the chance to stand outside the ropes of the end zone on one side of the field.

games and concerts.

In order to prepare for a football game, workers have to switch the end zones from Giants

one ton. When a concert is being taken place, workers have to set up a stage on the field for the band to perform.

MetLife Stadium will be hosting the 2014 Super Bowl and their sponsors will do a special event when this big game approaches.

Pepsi will hand out free soda, Budweiser is having a band come and perform and Verizon is having a video game area where you can also charge your phone.

"I got to walk past the Jets and Giants locker rooms and down the tunnel the players come from before a game and out onto the field. I got a sudden rush and I felt like I was one of the professional football players. It was a dream come true," admitted Kyle Gallas as his most memorable moment.

Each year Bloemer holds this trip to help her students get a feel for what its like to run their own stadium.

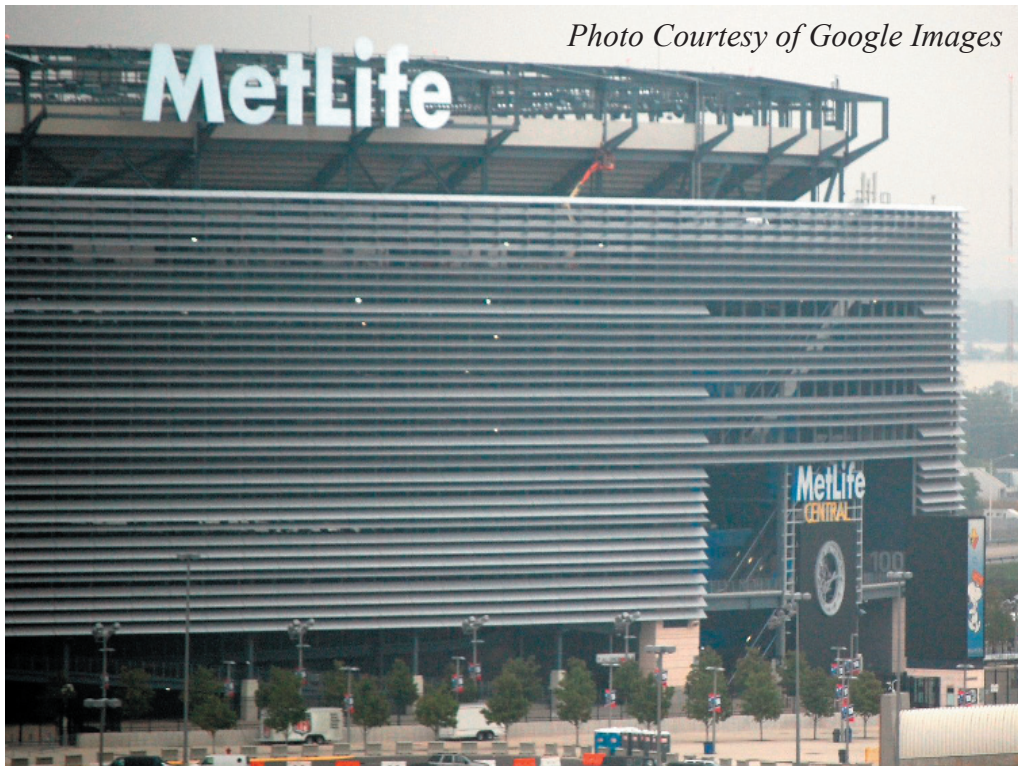


Photo Courtesy of Google Images

METLIFE STADIUM DURING THE DAY

During the tour, students learned about the special events that can be held at the MetLife Stadium. For example, they hold football

to Jets, or vice versa, which usually takes about two to three days to complete. Each end zone consists of nine set pieces that weigh about

## Raising Minimum Wage

Claudia Torres, Staff Writer

There comes a time in high school students' lives when they begin a new chapter and get a job. Whether it is a summer job as a lifeguard, a shift in the local grocery store, or a stint at a restaurant, the vast majority of high school students who work have one thing in common: minimum wage. This is why many students as well as ordinary people have taken an interest into the government's plan to raise minimum wage.

Originally \$7.25, the federal minimum wage is the least amount of money an employee can be legally paid. As of this year, the president is fighting to raise the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour, to a whopping \$10.10 an hour. The Harker-Miller Bill (Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa and George Miller of California from the House sponsors of the bill), if passed, will make these changes to the federal minimum wage.

If passed however, the

minimum wage will not just increase by more than two dollars however. The plan set by this bill is to raise the federal minimum wage by ninety-five cents three times over



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

MINIMUM WAGE BEGINS TO INCREASE IN NEW JERSEY

the course of the next two years. In 2015, the minimum wage will then be \$10.10 an hour (increasing depending on inflation).

Though the debate over whether or not to pass this bill concerning federal minimum wage has been continued throughout this year, some states have taken the initiative. Individual states like California and Washington have

set state regulations for minimum wage, so that by the new year their minimum wages will increase (Washington state taking first place by increasing to \$9.19 an hour).

New Jersey is also included in the list of states hiking up their minimum wages. As of the first of January, the New Jersey minimum wage will be increased to \$8.25 an hour (with increases as inflation occurs). This move by New Jersey is expected to increase the number of jobs in the state and boost New Jersey's financial state. Regarding teens, it is expected that the number of high school students getting minimum wage jobs will increase as well.

Overall, the move to raise minimum wages is a positive move by the president and the members of Congress. Especially to teens, if this bill is passed, more job opportunities will open up in the new year. Then teens will earn more money to shop, buy video games, or do whatever it is they do with their hard-earned cash.

RISE  
Kick-off  
Show  
FRIDAY  
(January 31)  
7:00 pm  
NBTHS  
Auditorium!  
Come out  
and support  
the RISE  
program!

## Hawaii: Same Sex Marriage

*Nicholette Aloia, Contributing Writer*

On November 12, 2013 Hawaii became the 15th state to legalize same sex marriage with a 30-19 vote. It may not have been the first state to legalize marriage equality, but it was the first to create the movement 20 years ago, denying a same sex couple.

The debate began in 1990, when a female couple applied for a marriage license that live on the islands. This action made the Supreme Court hold a court case.

In 1993, Hawaii Supreme Court made a decision that stated the women's rights to equal protection

were violated by not letting them marry. The Marriage Act was then created in 1996.

The legalized bill, created in 2013, took 56 hours of public testimony, broken down into 2-minute pitches.

The approved legislation provides protection for both gay people and religious people who oppose same sex marriage.

"In Hawaii, we believe in fairness, justice and human equality," Governor Abercrombie said, on Tuesday, after state senate passed the gay marriage bill. "Today,

we celebrate our diversity defining us rather than dividing us."

Abercrombie also quoted one of his lesbian friends: "Today was a moment that my community has fought for, for many, many decades. I have spent my entire life waiting for equality."

President Obama, is all for the action his home state took this past month. "By giving loving gay and lesbian couples the right to marry if they choose, Hawaii exemplifies the values we hold dear as a nation. I've always been proud to have been born in Hawaii,

and today's vote makes me even prouder."

Gay couples of Hawaii and tourists can start marriage there on December 2, 2013.

Due to gay marriage becoming legal in Hawaii, it will help for the chain of islands to boost tourism by \$217 million according the researcher from the University of Hawaii.

Legalizing gay marriage has benefitted Hawaii in such a grand way. The help of the bill will hopefully gain riches for Hawaii.

## Robots March In Parade

*Katie Siegal, Contributing Writer*

Of the 50 million Americans who tune in to watch the Thanksgiving Day Parade on TV, not to mention the 3.5 million who are there in person, many were most likely surprised to see 5 robots among the humans at the beginning of the parade!

The robots came with robotics teams across the country, including NBTHD's very own Raider Robotics. Along with their robot, Rasheed, marched science teacher Mr. Cokeley, juniors Sarah Sleiman and Kevin Zimmerman, sophomore Samir Shah, and Class of 2013 graduate Tori Schamper.

The news that they were going to be in the parade was a huge surprise to the students, "I was in shock," said Sarah. "I was extremely excited and so happy, I went home and was jumping around like crazy."

"When I found out I was amazed," Kevin Zimmerman said, I didn't even know the robot was going to be in the parade. It was amazing that we were allowed to be in such an incredible event."

The robots kicked off the parade with the Texas team, robot "Sonie" cutting the ribbon to start the parade, while the other robots shot confetti to begin the parade. The route was 2.5 miles long and ended up at Macy's Time Square.

"Honestly, it was pretty fantastic," said Zimmerman. "So many people talk about the parade, but we were in it. It was an astonishing sight to see the massive balloons and all the people working behind the scenes of the parade." The team had to make sure that their robot was ready for the 2.5 journey and handle any mishaps during

the parade. The robot ended up stopping for about five minutes; the team fixed it easily and continued on.

When asked about the weather, Sleiman replied, "It was so cold. I was wearing five pairs of socks and my feet were numb." Zimmerman had a different angle, "It wasn't so bad for us. The other teams were from Texas, California, Arizona, and Florida so they weren't really used to the cold weather."

All five teams that marched in the parade are a part of FIRST (For inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) a nonprofit organization founded by inventor Dean Kamen to show students the fun in science, technology, and problem solving. The team members of Raider Robotix were FIRST World Champions in 2012.

## DECA Charity Auction

*Jadil Rodriguez, Contributing Writer*

Morality is an important characteristic that shapes up our nature and the identity we present to society. It is the conformity to the rules of virtuous conduct. As humans, and living in the 21st century in which we've evolved to truly show love and compassion for one another. It is proper for us to lend a hand to anyone that needs it, whether it is the smallest decency one can act upon.

Here in North Brunswick Township High School, students of the DECA program have phenomenally excelled in the way of character, by engaging in charitable works. Teaming up with The Covenant House of New Jersey, a major charity who offer services for homeless youth. The Covenant House of New Jersey provides these youths with the basic obligatory necessities for life. These teens are sheltered, fed, and clothed.

The teenagers are also being provided with necessary components to go back out into the real world and have a successful future. Students of North Brunswick DECA demonstrated compassion by reaching out and educating their communities of the work and services the house provides. By creating paper pumpkins and ghosts, DECA students were able to reach out to their entire student body, and major communities to donate a dollar, in show of sympathy for these teens in need. All the money raised was to go to The Covenant House of New Jersey in support for these youths.

Many people in our community felt remorse for having little knowledge of what the house does for these teens. This event not only helped and lend a hand to teens, it brought our entire community together for we were now able to do something good for others.



*Photo Courtesy of Kevin Zimmerman*

FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION (FRC) TEAM RAIDER ROBOTIX ANLONG WITH FOUR OTHER FRC TEAMS HEADING THE THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE IN NYC ON NOVEMBER 28TH, 2013.

## PS4 Hits the Shelves

*Anthony Kovach, Staff Writer*

On Friday, November 15, 2013, Sony's next-gen console inundated retailer shelves and was sold out in a flash. I, being the avid gamer I am, picked up my preordered PS4 on release day. The sleek new design, the slew of interesting new features and the broad variety of exclusives like *Infamous: Second Son* and *Uncharted 4* may finally have some Microsoft and Xbox One loyalists switching to the "dark side".

Now, this should not be looked at as a grudge match between the two next-gen consoles as both bring much to the table. However, the PS4 is proven to be the far more powerful system while being sold at almost \$100 less. Statistically, the PS4's GPU (Graphics Processing

Unit) is 1.5 times more advanced than the Xbox One's GPU, though both systems have 8GB of RAM and the PS4 offers it on a superior GDDR5 system whereas the Xbox One offers a DDR3 basis for memory.

After initially plugging in Sony's Playstation 4, the raw power of the mechanical beast is palpable. Its stylish, edgy design features a sort of crevice in which a luminescent glow is visible from within, emanating the sheer genius at work under the black cover of the system. The purpose of the radiance is lost upon me, but it looks amazing.

The performance is unbelievable and coupling it with the console's media and social

features make the PS4 a holiday must-have. Though Microsoft is familiar with cross-game group chat, Sony introduced this feature to PSN with the PS4's release. Finally, the PS4 controller, the DualShock 4, displays a Share button and upon use the PS4 automatically captures the last 15 seconds of gameplay and a screenshot of the current picture to be shared with friends.

The media applications like Netflix and Hulu have returned along with an updated and responsive Playstation Store. However, it is time to address the elephant in the room—the one thing Sony may have done incorrectly with this system in adhering to Microsoft's previously successful Xbox 360. To play online, a subscription to

Playstation Plus is required.

Various subscriptions are available ranging from monthly to yearly with the latter being the far better deal. Not only is one rewarded with the ability to enjoy multiplayer, but one can also benefit from incredible deals in the store. One subscription on the master account applies to all subservient accounts on the console only in regards to multiplayer accessibility.

To summarize, it looks as if the best gift this winter whether the occasion be Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanzaa, or none of the above, will be the PS4. Then there is always the possibility of the Xbox One taking the helm as the next-gen console to have. However, it looks as if the latter has a towering mountain to climb.

## Powder Puff

*Claudia Torres, Staff Writer*

Many students braved the cold weather on November 19th to watch the riveting Powder Puff game. Students, parents and others all cheered enthusiastically in the stands as girls from all grade levels played their best and made an exciting game. A sense of pride filled the air as onlookers saw the communication between teammates on the field and the girls' overall teamwork. It was very clear all the girls worked hard and played with passion.

The hard work and dedication from the senior girls however, clearly paid off as they went on to win first place! As this is their last year, the senior girls have



POWDER PUFF CHAMPIONS, THE SENIORS, POSE FOR A PICTURE AFTER THE BIG GAME.

certainly made their final Powder Puff game memorable. Although they won Powder Puff, what

was great to see was the fantastic sportsmanship from every team on and off the field.

All the girls on every team exhibited the height of what it means to play a sport in North Brunswick: they worked hard, were dedicated, showed passion for the game, and were gracious and well-mannered whether they won or lost.

Overall, this year's Powder Puff game went smoothly and successfully as many attended the game on the 19th. Congratulations to the seniors on winning their last Powder Puff! This is one of many memories to be made for the seniors to treasure. In addition, congratulations to all the girls who played in Powder Puff for playing a fantastic game and exhibiting amazing dedication and sportsmanship.

## Crisis in the Philippines

*Ashley Garcia, Staff Writer*

The Philippines, although long accustomed to fearsome storms, was left in a national calamity when super-typhoon Haiyan ripped through the archipelago on November 8.

With sustained winds of over 160 mph and wind gusts of up to 235 mph, typhoon Haiyan (known as Yolanda in the Philippines) became the strongest tropical cyclone ever to hit landfall.

In addition to powerful winds, massive waves of ocean water crushed cities and tore families

After the worst winds had ceased, Haiyan left people in rushing water up to two stories high, full of hazardous debris. As the flooding began to subside, people were left on top of and trapped under heaps of rubble, where the stench of rotting flesh and cries for help were unbearable.

As of now, the Haiyan death toll tops 5,600, with at least 2,000

missing, and about 3.8 million people displaced.

Survivors were left homeless and in need of food and water. Children were seen holding crudely-made signs reading "Please help" and "We need food". Pleas of help were answered, albeit slowly. The rubble from houses and the countless dead bodies made it difficult to get help to people who needed it. US aircrafts have been sent in with supplies to aid the relief effort.

The Philippines was left in a state "worse than hell". Survivors were left grieving the dead and fighting for their own survival among rotting dead bodies and dangerous rubble. Although many problems still remain, with the work of the Filipino people, volunteers, fundraisers, and with the help of donations, the crisis typhoon Haiyan created in the Philippines can slowly be remedied.

## Blood Drive

*Geoffrey McFall, Staff Writer*

On November 18, members of NBTHS gave blood to the NJBS. The event was a success, many people came to donate. When all was said and done, they packed up and got ready to send the blood away. The question is, where is the blood going? What process does the blood go through to get to those in need?

The answer, it seems, is very simple. As a Miss. Lynne Ross explained, the blood is taken from the school to labs in New York. There, the blood is processed. It's checked for anything from viruses to blood type. It's separated into

three different groups; red blood cells, platelets, and plasma. It is then placed "on ice" until it is needed.

From the labs, the blood is sent to different hospitals. It's shipped to places in Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey. One hospital that they affiliate with often is St. Peters. Through these hospitals, blood is given to those who need it. There were about 150 pints collected. This could help about 450 people. Miss. Ross says "This is the best community service you can do in an hour."

## Sidewalk Survey

How do you feel about having parents as friends on a social network?



Olivia Torres, '16

"I'd rather not have them as friends but I've grown used to it".



Kimberly Ortega, '15

"I think it's really annoying".



Treasure Eno, '14

"I've grown use to it but I still feel slightly uncomfortable".

## Parents on Social Networks

Anthony Kovach, Staff Writer

Commonly throughout the nation, kids are opposed to their parents being present on social networks like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Vine (just to name a few). And yes, let us not count out the archaic MySpace. However, others are quite fine with their parents being on these websites, which can grant parents an omniscient view into their kids' social interactions.

These disputes propose the question: is it acceptable for our guardians to have accounts on social networks? The answer to the question is yes, it is quite acceptable. Parents have their own social lives as well and it is not plaguing us for someone to be monitoring our sometimes-unscrupulous internet interactions.

Parents—like today's generation—enjoy staying in touch with friends and occasionally raving about the winner of the latest NFL game while trash talking the losers. We, their children, cannot neglect our parents the ability to associate with friends from the past or taunt every Giants fan in a 2000-mile radius for concern of our personal "privacy intrusions". Oftentimes when a parent creates an account, monitoring the actions of their adolescent(s) is not their primary objective; however, it may be which again is not faulty thinking in the least.

If a guardian or parent goes to the extreme by creating a social account solely to supervise the posts of their kid, said parent is one whom should be admired. Teens do not always think extensively (or at all) and so the watchful eye of an adult may serve a meaningful purpose to a student whom is prone to landing

in a heap of trouble with others. Furthermore, parents only ever have our best intentions in mind; they would never purposefully embarrass a son or daughter, though inadvertently it happens occasionally.

The ultimate reason parents should have a presence on social networks goes without saying and goes hand-in-hand with one the United States's largest problems to date: bullying. Bullying (cyber bullying in this regard) is terrifyingly commonplace on the World Wide Web. Studies show half of suicides among teens are a result of bullying and for every successful suicide; there are a reported 100 attempts.

Parents on Facebook, Twitter, etc. can detect bullying occurring with their child or any other and report or address it before irreversible damage is done. Teens frequently do not speak openly about bullying experiences, leaving parents clueless as to the child's condition and state. These sites are useful tools for the parents to discover things their children are not talking about as well as protect them if need be.

Similarly, to the current generation, parents are entitled to their personal lives as well as being invested in ours. We should not be hasty to extract the involvement our parents in our personal affairs because they frequently seek to help us in our downtrodden hours. And when the time comes to say goodbye a final time to those who have loved us most, we may regret not allowing those people to rant about football on the web with an overzealous utilization of exclamation marks.

## Same Sex Marriage

Alyna Reagan, Staff Writer

People are entitled the right to love. However, not all citizens can get those rights, gay and lesbians are always denied the right that is typically taken for granted by the average man. They are denied the right to marry because society and religion believes that only man and women marry each other and any other kind of marriage is a disgrace. I feel this isn't right because gay, lesbian, transsexual, etc. they are still humans and humans deserve equal rights.

In 1995 Hannah Arendt wrote that it's their right to marry

whoever they like because we are all just humans. In political rights, the Constitution stated that the human right is unchangeable for life, liberty & pursuit of happiness. "The U.S supreme Court has upheld the right to marry for everyone, citizen or even traveler, as a core, inalienable right, bestowed by the Declaration of Independence itself." Said Supreme Court Justice.

In the world today there are more than half of the Americans are married to the same sex and little by little states are slowly allowing same sex marriage. Certain places won't

allow same sex couples to adopt or have an artificial insemination because they think if you are gay then you'll be raised gay which will "die" out the population of mankind. For example the Massachusetts state won't let gay people adopt because the Catholic Church Charities didn't accept the fact two loving couples wanted to adopt a baby.

In America there's a small percentage of people who are gay were born, as all humanity is, with the capacity to love and the need to be loved, as every human should.

## Negatives of the New Miley

Tama Moni, Staff Writer

The supporters and admirers of Miley Cyrus, claim that her shocking behavior is all part of growing up. They feel that she is trying to embrace her youth by experimenting with things our young society deems exciting. She has been seen smoking cigarettes and weed, twerking, and dressing and acting raunchy.

I feel that her doing all these things, to gain publicity and move away from her "Hannah Montana" roots only gives her a bad reputation, and attitude. I personally feel that this new attitude she's trying to put on is not really her, though she and her supporters claim to be.

At the VMA's she did a controversial performance by stripping down to a latex body suit, twerking, slapping dancer's butts, and even groped singer Robin Thicke. I was shocked like many others, and felt that this did nothing but demoralize her and made her look foolish. It was not necessary for her to do all that, and only made her look desperate for attention, and immature.

Some of her family have been interviewed such as Dolly Parton, her Godmother, and says Miley knows what she's doing and is a talented artist. I agree on Miley being a talented artist, but disagree on the way she is going about it. When she does all these things it only declassifies her, and I feel that people will not take her seriously.

Before she went through

this drastic change, I saw her truly embrace her talent and beauty, no gimmicks. If she continues to smoke and crazy party and drink it will ruin her voice. I believe that all these things she is doing is unnecessary and she should focus on getting good publicity, not bad ones.

Another example is her music video "Wrecking Ball" which received many views on you tube. It featured her in her underwear with lots of makeup and a sledgehammer, then later on she was naked swinging on a wrecking ball. This video just devalued the song and the message within it. She definitely could have done a different video that expressed the song better.

I prefer when Miley just sings and performs naturally without doing extra and unnecessary things. Yesterday she performed for BBC Radio live covering Lana del Ray's "Summertime Sadness." She was fully clothed dressed in all black, and sat on a stool singing with her musicians and background singers. This performance was very good, and I felt the real Miley with this song.

If Miley did more of these types of performances that showed her true talent as an artist and performer, it will give her more respect. This will prove to me and others, that she's a serious and mature artist. She does not need to do all these things to prove to the world that she is grown up, her music will speak for itself.

## A Better Miley

Genesis Larrea, Contributing Writer

All over the news, Miley is portrayed a bad influence. When in reality, she's just being herself believe it or not. All of this craze going on about her, is nothing compared to what's actually going on in the world yet the media seems to focus on her. She WAS Hannah Montana, but she grew up, and people need to understand that, that is not who she is anymore. I see some articles that compare her to that era in her life, while there still stuck in that phase and she's just moved on completely.

Miley can be super nice. Recently she went to an upmarket eatery in New York. She was reported being nosy and causing a scene. She realized her mistake of being noisy, and immediately went to go apologize to the couple saying "I'm sorry, I've just had too much

caffeine today." She even got to know the couple and asked them a couple questions like "what was their motive or celebrating?" It was the couple's second wedding anniversary, she was very generous that she left \$100 to cover the couples bill and even posed for pictures with them.

Miley was very generous, she helps people be themselves, giving them the courage to speak up. I believe she's a very inspiring person who I admire very much. Sophomore Cristina Torres says "Miley has been struggling recently, but I believe she been doing a good job" Many people have claimed that Miley is their inspiration to allow themselves to actually be free and act like who they are. In the end, Miley portrays a unique personality, people should be judged for being themselves.

## Corrupt Children

Beran Manneh, Contributing Writer

Music and television have always played a huge part in a teenager's life. As a result, they can have a positive influence or a negative role in their decision making skills

However, during the past few years, music and television have failed to have a great influence on the teens. For example, television has been flooded with drama-filled reality shows glamorizing violence. Teens begin to mirror the actions of their music and TV icons.

For example, artists like Chief Keef and Lil' Wayne rap only

about doing drugs and violence. As a result, teens get intrigued by that and try to copy what they're doing.

Artists like Rihanna and Kesha are some of the biggest starts in our generation. However, they both promote drug use and sex which influence teens to do the same thing.

The entertainment industry needs to stop promoting and influencing the teenagers growing in this generation because they are the faces of tomorrow. And if they continue to lead them in a bad direction our world will be complete.

## 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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## Call of Duty Ghosts

Jonathan St. Ange, Staff Writer

Call of Duty: Ghosts came out on November 5th, 2013 and is very different than what gamers have recently seen from the Call of Duty franchise.

Infinity Ward, the company that made the Modern Warfare series, helped develop Call of Duty: Ghosts. The style in "Ghosts" is like modern warfare, but the makers of the game obviously took it to the next level.

There are previous game modes along with new ones, like Cranked and Blitz, making game play more enjoyable and fast paced.

Many often complain about "campers": people who find a hiding spot and kill from there, but in Cranked the creators of "Ghosts" implemented a fix for that. In Cranked after one gets a kill, he or she has 30 seconds to get another. If not, the person dies.

Blitz is a fast paced "storm the castle" kind of game mode. It gives teams two bases and a ring within them. If anyone gets into the opposite team's ring he or she teleports away while scoring a point for his or her team.

Multiplayer isn't the only thing about "Ghosts". The campaign has a great storyline with some very interesting missions. More than once, players will find themselves in space doing the fighting.

The story line is very easy to follow but has many twists to it. Just when one thinks it's over something unthought-of happens.

Altogether, Call of Duty Ghosts reveals itself as a new kind of game. With new and exciting events in the story, new fast paced game modes, and the same game modes that have worked their way into being part of every game, Call of Duty Ghosts has proven itself to be a next-gen game.



Photo Courtesy  
of Google Images

CALL OF DUTY: GHOSTS IS OUT  
NOVEMBER 5 TO US STORES

## The Hunger Games Catching Fire

Jonathan St. Ange, Staff Writer

Many eager and devoted fans of the Hunger Games have been anticipating for the sequel the second they finished the book.

On Friday November 22nd, Suzanne Collins's Catching Fire will come out in theaters. Many fans cannot wait to see the movie, but there are some that are apprehensive as well.

The sequel contains the same amount or even more action than the first. The novel's line rapidly enthralls readers, sweeping up the reader in a fast paced and action packed novel.

There are many things fans cannot wait to see happen in the movie as they did in the book, but this also sparks hints of worry.

Some fans think the first movie was too altered for their tastes or not what they had imagined. This is true with all movie adaptations of books, and is very understandable.

We can only wait and see the



Photo Courtesy of Google Images  
CATCHING FIRE HAS BECOME A WORLDWIDE SENSATION FOR ALL AGES

expertise of the director, Francis Lawrence. He did not direct the first film, The Hunger Games, and we shall see if he can do the book as much justice as Gary Ross

(the first director) could.

In the opening weekend, The Hunger Games made over 152 million dollars and was ranked number one in over 4 thousand theaters. Now fans cannot wait to see what is in store for them.

## Day of the Doctor

Lindsey Mykiety, Staff Writer

The upcoming Doctor Who episode is finally appearing on television after about half a year of waiting. Stephen Moffat has created an excellent construal of the 50th anniversary of the spectacular sci-fi fantasy regarding the concepts of going through space and time. This specific episode reveals an almost impossible phenomenon. Matt Smith as the Eleventh Doctor and his most recent companion, Clara Oswald, also known as the "impossible girl", are uniting with David Tennant who portrayed the previous tenth doctor, and Rose Tyler who transported back from an alternate universe where her character was last seen. Also, many past allies will be reoccurring to contribute to what is called the most important fight on "The Day of the Doctor." And don't forget to "exterminate!" with the Daleks who are returning as well.

Along with an extravagant 50th anniversary, the Doctor will also be eventually regenerating. However, what's unique about this regeneration is that the actor who is playing the twelfth doctor has already previously been seen in a Doctor Who episode. Peter Capaldi was seen in an earlier episode "The Fires of Pompeii" as the father of the family the Doctor decided to save from the volcano because of the urgent persistence, and stubbornness of Donna Noble, a past companion; even though it was a fixed point in time. Nevertheless, don't be disappointed. He will be depicting yet another interpretation of the Doctor that will be loved and remembered.

The Doctor Who episode will air on November 23, 2013, exactly 50 years from when the first doctor originally started. The first official episode played on November, 23 1963. It's such a wonder how a television show could have so many varied viewers, and played for such a large amount of time. The new, modernized ideas enhance the comprehension of the show for the more recent fans, which always presents perfectly in each episode. Now patiently fans wait for the upcoming Saturday on the BBC network to accommodate their Doctor Who needs. So, Whovians, after a lengthy, exhausting wait be prepared to experience an amusing bit of nostalgia, and an abundance of comical entertainment that will probably be on every social network by the minute.

## Marvel Cinematic Universe: Phase Two

Isha Chavva, Contributing Writer

The time has come for America's classic superheroes-- Superman, for instance--to step aside! Superheroes of all shapes and sizes are arriving and returning as Marvel Studios recently began the release of its Marvel Cinematic Universe Phase Two films.

Phase Two kicked off in the spring of 2013 with Iron Man 3, the third film in the Iron Man series, which loosely followed the original comic concept of the Extremis "virus". Iron Man 3 proved to be an excellent start, grossing over a billion dollars worldwide. It is followed by the recently-released Thor 2, which picks up the plot of Norse god and superhero Thor after where it left off in 2011. Thor 2 is already predicted to pass the \$450 million mark by November 17.

Fortunately, for comic-book fans, movie fans, and everyday action movie lovers alike, Marvel's Phase Two is far from over. Trailers for the upcoming Captain America: The Winter Soldier, the second film

detailing the life of supersoldier and American symbol Steve Rogers, are already in theaters.

Movies that are in the works for future years include Guardians of the Galaxy, which introduces many new characters and a star-studded cast including Zoe Saldana, Benicio del Toro, Karen Gillan, and Bradley Cooper--and The Avengers: Age of Ultron, the sequel to The Avengers. While Guardians of the Galaxy will chronicle the teaming of convicts and an American pilot to defeat a dastardly cosmic force, Age of Ultron will be another Avengers-style ensemble takedown.

Based off past successes, Marvel's: Phase Two is sure to turn out to be a spectacular hit, and a Phase Three is already in the works. Audiences, young and old, male and female, have shown a rabid interest in Marvel's superhero franchise, which will most likely keep producing blockbusters into the super-powered future.

## Music Culture is Jersey Strong at Starland

*Chandler Gorda, Contributing Writer*

When Hurricane Sandy tore through the Garden State last year it left the Starland Ballroom unable to operate. The popular venue had suffered water damage that ruined their sound, light, heating, plumbing and cooling systems and was in need of serious renovation.

With performance cancellations and ticket refunds, many patrons feared the worst for the venue's future. Many residents of New Jersey felt the devastation from Superstorm Sandy, and losing Starland Ballroom became a very real possibility.

On November 14, the website issued a statement, "Much like the spirit of New Jersey, you can't stop rock n' roll. And we don't intend to. Jersey proud, Starlanders. We'll see you soon."

Staying true to their word, after closing their doors for ten months, Starland is back and stronger than ever.

On September 6, the Stone Temple Pilots reopened the venue proving that we truly are stronger than the storm. This came at a rather triumphant time as this fall marks Starland's 10 year anniversary.

Throughout the years over 1.5 million tickets have been sold, which isn't too surprising for the 2,500 capacity venue. The popular touring destination welcomes bands of varying genres from acts like Tegan & Sara to Alkaline Trio, or Ridgewood's very own, Senses Fail.

This November, the venue hosted a ska filled weekend with headlining band, Less Than Jake. Along with the final performances ever of the popular band Streetlight Manifesto. And of course, this December there will be the annual Christmas tour with Bayside.

The strength of the fan base of both Brand New and the Starland Ballroom is evident to many who know that the December 21st show sold out in less than one minute.

One year after Hurricane Sandy, the Starland Ballroom still stands and creates rich culture and memories for all who attend the shows. So the next time your favorite band comes to town, remember to come on down and have fun at the Starland Ballroom located in Sayreville, New Jersey.

## Arts in Public High Schools

*Hannah Sawyer, Contributing Writer*

Music and Arts programs in public high schools are proven to have a positive effect on academic performance. By allowing arts programs in high schools you are allowing students to build on their passion and expand on their personal talents and art forms.

A recent study done by dosomething.org shows that students who study art are not only four times more likely to be recognized for their academic achievement but also three times more likely to be awarded for their school attendance. Not only do arts have a positive effect on academic achievement but it also motivates students to attend school and makes for a more enjoyable high school experience.

Stephany Mensah-Narh a current high school senior at North Brunswick Township High School says "I believe that the arts are essential in all high schools, most importantly public high schools. Public high schools should stand to

serve the general public, and many general people will not become doctors or lawyers. Not everyone will excel in math or science, or history, some students will become artists and musicians. Having the arts will open-up a segway for students to truly expand on their potential, and learn the essentials to whichever craft they choose."

By allowing artistic students to express their creativity and personal strengths we are unlocking student's personal fortes and encouraging them to succeed on the path that is most suited for them.

Another study done by dosomething.org arts and music education programs are mandatory in countries that rank consistently among the highest for math and science test scores, like Japan, Hungary, and the Netherlands. Encouraging the arts in public high schools will not only benefit students that have a passion for the arts but it will also benefit students overall performance in the classroom.

# Performing Arts

## Middlesex County Arts Program

*Cristina Torres, Staff Writer*

North Brunswick Township High School offers many programs to its students, all tailored for different interests. The Middlesex County Arts High program is the most recent platform NBTHS offers for its students who are interested in performing arts. Based with Middlesex County Arts and Education center, there are about 11 different artforms students can audition for.

Being a part of this new program is different from other things offered at NBTHS because it requires the involved students to miss a few classes every Tuesday from January to May. Lessons are taught from 1 to 4 pm, and therefore require students to leave school early on the designated days. These art students, however, need to be responsible enough to take control of their academic careers and makeup any missed work.

The Middlesex County classes are taught by educated professors, and are rigorous courses at an advanced level. The primary goal is to help talented and gifted students be able to learn about something they truly enjoy, and excel in that area of performing arts. North Brunswick Township High School will provide transportation for their participating students to travel to Middlesex County College in Edison, New Jersey, on the Tuesdays they have class.

To be a part of this beneficial program, students need to audition. They can audition for up to two artforms, and will pay a small fee to audition. Around \$45 if auditioning for one artform, and \$55 if auditioning for two. Once accepted into the program, students only need to pay \$50, and the school takes care of the other transportation and tuition fees.

The Middlesex County Arts High program is extremely diverse, and truly does have a class for every student interested in art. There is a sub-program that focuses on drawing, painting, and 3-D art that focuses on visual arts. Additionally, there's creative writing, photography, and filmmaking, which are other classes that deal with the visual arts. There is also modern dance and instrumental music for the musically inclined students of NBTHS. Lastly, there's Musical Theater and Theatre Arts, which both courses where students can expand their knowledge on the theater and performing.

NBTHS freshman Genesis Larrea says, "I think this Arts High program is a great idea because it lets students take classes they truly and fully enjoy- and earn credits for it." Another NBTHS freshman Alyssa Young agrees, confessing, "The Middlesex County Art

program is good because students will actually be passionate about what they are doing, and can learn in an environment where everyone is equally as committed."

As these are legitimate classes, the Arts High classes give almost all student College Credits. These credits are accepted by Middlesex County College, and other colleges that accept similar transcripts. The courses are graded on a Honors, Good, Pass, or Fail basis, which grade students on their performing arts abilities.

Overall, the Arts High program is one that allows students to excel in areas they are passionate about. It's a great learning experience for all participating students, and allows them to earn college credits. The Middlesex County Arts program is just another great platform NBTHS offers to its students that gives them an exciting and unique experience.

## 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil

*Gisel Umazor, Contributor Writer*

The FIFA World Cup has been around since May 28, 1928. As they used to say it back in the day, the whole Football tournament was created by President Jules Rimet. He was in charge for which teams would be chosen to represent their country in the tournament. From the start Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, and Sweden were first to be chosen and Uruguay.

The first FIFA World Cup have bust open many opportunities for various countries and their people. The first tournament was held on July 18, 1930 at the brand new Central Stadium in Montevideo. This made a great success, not only in the soccer era but also helped out in the sports marketing and helped in a financial matter.

Now The FIFA World Cup is kinda different. Now many soccer teams from around the world compete with different other teams to have a chance. There are more opportunities for teams instead of only having a few teams being selected. There are about 35 teams right now that are qualified to go to the World Cup in 2014 in Brazil. The final hexagonal round goes all they way until September of this year. Out of the 35 teams, 3 of the teams that have the most point are being directly put into the FIFA World Cup qualification board.

Which I believe is USA, Costa Rica and Honduras for North and Central America. While the fourth place team will be entered into an Intercontinental Play Off against New Zealand. Mexico being the team to go against New Zealand won 4 to 2. Making Mexico qualified for a spot in the World Cup.

Many people don't understand why soccer is such a great sport. The thrill and the excitement you get watching a game. How competitive the fans and the teams give off at soccer games. A soccer game can change your life completely. It can make you go into two directions; either you like it or you don't. FIFA World Cup is such a great fixation. Different kind of groups going head to head with each other to show their fans why they are the best. Or even to come back from a long and not so wonderful year. This year the FIFA World Cup will be held on June 12 till July 13 in South America, Brazil.



*Photo Courtesy of Joe Scariano*

PRANAY BHANDARE, SOPHOMORE, TAKES ON A MONROE OPPONENT THIS SEASON ON HOME TURF.



*Photo Courtesy of Yeawoma Koroma*

GIRLS TRACK CAPTAINS POSE FOR A PICTURE TOGETHER BEFORE THE WINTER PEP RALLY. "AS CAPTAINS WE MAKE IT CLEAR THAT NOTHING IS EASY AND WE HAVE TO WORK HARD TO ACCOMPLISH OUR GOALS," SAID MARIAH GIBSON. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK GIRLS!

## College Football Playoff Will Replace BCS

*Nick Maranca, Contributing Writer*

The Bowl Championship Series (BCS) is in its last year atop college football as the controversial bowl selection system.

The BCS, which relies on polls and computer selection methods to create team rankings and five bowl matchups of the top college teams, has consistently created controversy when the final poll is released in December.

For example, in 2008 a two-loss Ohio State team was chosen over an undefeated Boise State team to play in the Fiesta Bowl, and in 2009, an unbeaten TCU team was excluded from the National Championship.

To decrease controversies similar to the ones that have occurred in the past, a playoff system will be in use beginning in the 2014 season. Under this new playoff system, four teams - who will be selected by a committee of 13 members - will play in two semifinal games, and the winners will advance to the College Football Championship Game.

Although this new system was created to put conflicts from the past to rest, new ones have emerged. Questions about the qualifications of certain members of the selection committee have been consistent points of dispute.

The most popular debate has been centered around Condoleezza Rice, former U.S. Secretary of State and an enormous college football fan. Many people believe that she isn't qualified to be among the athletic directors and former coaches who will be her colleagues in this committee.

Also, college football fans have questioned how much knowledge of the college football season the members will have. Many wonder if the committee will sit in a room every Saturday during the season and watch all college football games to be able to determine the four playoff teams.

Although the new college football playoff system has created conflict among college football fans and experts, it is almost sure to be a more appealing process to the college football world compared to the BCS. With people, rather than computers, deciding the fate of college football teams, this new process should result in less controversy than in the past.

Buddy Program  
Seeking Members!

"Be a Buddy,  
NOT a Bully"

See Ms. Reilly in room  
423 to pick up an  
application today!