

THE BANNER

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Crisis In Ukraine: A Cause for Concern

Claudia Torres, Staff Writer

On the day of November 21, 2013 Ukraine's stability as a country was shaken, causing a crisis within the country that continues to be a problem. Ukrainian President Yanukovich's cabinet abandoned an agreement with the EU, foregoing closer ties in favor of seeking a better relationship with Russia.

As Ukraine is a mix of Russian and Ukrainian speaking citizens, the country was split between Ukrainians and Pro-Russians as small protests occurred. Several protests later, President Yanukovich disappeared, and Pro-Russian gunmen seized key buildings in the Crimean region.

Meanwhile, it was eventually revealed that although Ukraine refused to acknowledge

Yanukovich as president; the former leader escaped to Russia, declaring Ukraine's actions a "coup" and ultimately unacceptable.

As Ukraine's population consists of Russians, especially in the Crimean region, Russian President Vladimir Putin

declared that in order to protect the Russians in the region, he would send forces in to help control

protests.

Eventually, Pro-Russian fighters not connected to Russia took over key buildings in Crimea until Putin "officially" annexed Crimea with the support of people in the region (after taking a vote on whether or not to side with Russia, they chose to side with Putin).

The annexation has caused more protests as Ukraine, the United

States, the EU and others protest that although there are Russians within the Crimean region, it is unacceptable for Crimea to be annexed by Russia as Crimea belongs to Ukraine.

Russian forces have killed both a Ukrainian mayor and protestors in northeastern Ukraine. The U.S has placed sanctions against high-ranking Russian officials and Russia has done the same.

Ukraine has officially asked NATO and the UN to assist them. On April 29, 2014 the EU instituted 15 more sanctions for a total of 48 different sanctions against Russia.

Only one thing is certain: Ukrainians abroad and in Ukraine are wishing for an end to the violence.



*Ukrainian protestors demand change
Photo courtesy of Google Images*

InnovAsian 2014

Srinija Kakumanu, Contributing Writer

On March 28, 2014 the NBTHS MediterrAsian Club put on their annual cultural performance: InnovAsian! This year's show was a bright explosion of dance, culture, and talent. Through the program, club members intertwined several dances with a skit and fashion show. Audience members thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Each dance was a unique fusion of elements and a clear example of the club members' hard work and dedication. Dances included ones such as Garba, Bhangra, Clas-

sical as well as Hip Hop and Fusion.

The skit was an adaptation of a recent Bollywood movie, *Anybody Can Dance*. The skit included many club members who modeled a variety of radiant Indian outfits.

Overall, this year's InnovAsian was truly a cultural emersion. The music, outfits, and performances were outstanding and the club's hard work was more than clear. Audience members loved every minute of the show. Everyone left with the same thought: what will the NBTHS MediterrAsian Club amaze North Brunswick with next year?

Day of Silence

Lindsey Mykiety, Staff Writer

The Day of Silence is a day usually placed in April where many students pledge an act of silence to make a statement regarding equality to the LGBTQ community. This annual event began in 1996 at the University of Virginia and has grown to include over 5000 school participants.

April 11, 2014, the Day of Silence occurred in North Brunswick Township High School. Participating members wore bright red t-shirts labeled Day of Silence to introduce the cause. This event was previously hosted by the Lambda Coalition, but due to the cancellation of the club The Human Rights Coalition took over. The day requires that each student participating will be silent for the entire school day.

Most teachers are understanding for this because they have knowledge of the day, yet some may force participation in class and in this case an exception is made.

Every year the Day of Silence occurs around the same time, so if you want to join next year pay attention to the events in April.

Next year's t-shirts will be \$15 for first time contributors, and \$5 for previous members. For any further questions Mr. Ragati can give you any information necessary.

Be inspired, get motivated and take part in this wonderful experience.

The Malaysian Plane Mystery

Julie Youngman, Contributing Writer

Day by day, the hopes of being able to find the missing Malaysian Flight-370 lessen, but new plans and ideas are being set into action.

The next phase of this search will be an intense underwater investigation that will use private contractors and take six to eight months, costing about \$56 million dollars.

Crews will now be searching the entire ocean floor. "I regret to say that, thus far, none of our efforts in the air, on the surface, or under sea, have found any wreckage," Australia's Prime Minister Tony Abbott said.

Due to long, drawn-out aerial searches, it has become highly unlikely that any debris from the plane will still be evident on the ocean's surface.

Abbott had said that most of the debris would be waterlogged and sunk by now since it has been over 52 days. Therefore, authorities are suspending any more searches conducted through the air.

The searches being issued now involve Bluefin-21. It is a submersible connected with the US Navy designed to search the ocean floor.

"This is an extraordinary mystery," Abbott said, "we will do everything we reasonably can to resolve it."



*Stunning and gorgeous fashion models, Asra Farooqi and Vishra Parekh, pose during the show.
Photo courtesy of Mairti Patel*

SAT Changes: What Exactly Are They?

Claudia Torres, Staff Writer

As the school year winds down, students become concerned with their final averages and their classes for next year. However, commencing in the spring of 2016, students will have more to worry about than their grade point averages; they will have to deal with the new and improved SAT exams.

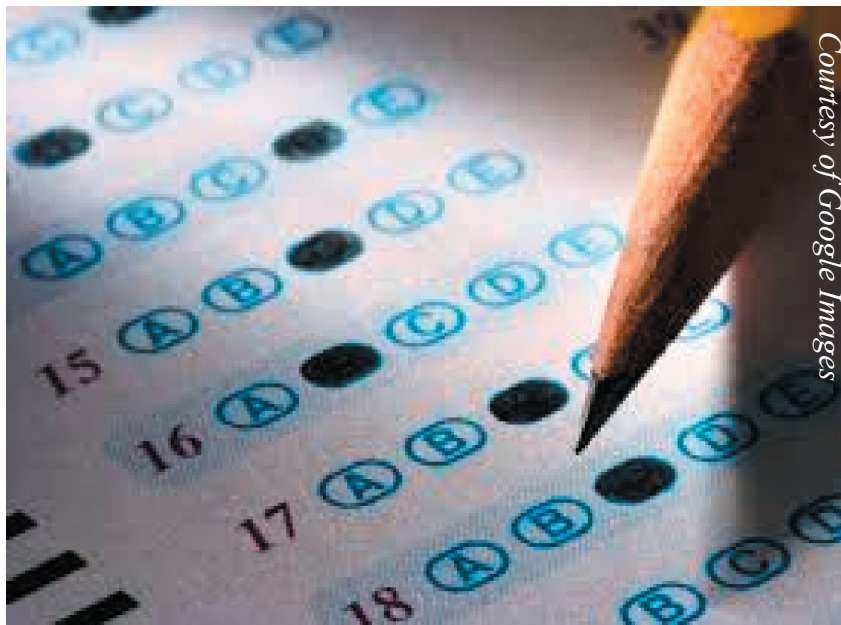
After much consideration, the College Board has decided to institute changes to the SAT exams for the first major time since 2005, including changing the scoring system.

As of spring of 2016, the SATs will be scored out of 1600

set to release free test preparation materials in the spring of 2015 to the public.

Once the test changes go into effect, any income-eligible students will receive fee waivers to apply to four colleges for free. College Board wishes to provide any student with the capabilities to go to college, the financial ability to attend college and further their education.

The new reading and writing sections will include questions that require students to cite evidence for their answer choices, including reading passages from a broader range of



points, not 2400 points. In order to encourage students to answer questions, there will also be no penalty for wrong answers.

Standardized tests have become “far too disconnected from the work of our high schools,” Coleman, the CEO and President of College Board said at an event in Austin, Texas. “They’re too stressful for students, too filled with mystery and “tricks” to raise scores and aren’t necessarily creating more college-ready students,” he went on to say.

Consequently, College Board has made the essay portion of the SAT optional and will be scored separately from the rest of the test; while also creating a math portion in which a calculator is to be used on only some sections, and not all. Overall, the goal of the questions now is to more accurately display a high school student’s knowledge on a test that is not based on tricks or any unfair advantages.

Also for the first time, College Board has teamed up with Khan Academy and they are

subjects such as science, history, social studies and literature. The essay will be optional.

SAT essays have faced criticism over the years from educators who said they focused too much on what test takers wrote, not whether their statements were true, or their arguments reasonable. As such, the essays will not only be graded separately from the test, but a new rubric is in the works to better score the writing ability of a student.

Meanwhile the math section will no longer allow calculators to be used on every portion. It will focus on data analysis and real world problem-solving, algebra and more advanced math concepts -- “areas that most prepare students for college and career”, Coleman said in his Texas event.

The redesigned test will take about three hours, with an additional 50 minutes for the essay, and will be administered by print and computer. It is the hope of College Board that this new test will positively change how students are accepted into colleges.

The Persistence of Dali

Chandler Gorda, Contributing Writer

On May 11, 1904, one of the most influential artists to contribute to the surrealist movement was born in Figueres, Spain. His name was Salvador Dali, and he was well known for a popular piece, the “The Persistence of Memory”, which featured melting clocks in an illogical landscape.

As a youth, he studied in an art academy in Madrid where his eccentric personality and outlandish style set him apart from other students; by 1919 his work was featured in an exhibition at the municipal theatre of Figueres.

In 1923 he was suspended from the academy for criticizing his teachers and starting a riot--he then returned three years later but was permanently expelled when he declared no member of the faculty was competent enough to examine him.

After his failure to complete school in Spain, he traveled to Paris where he worked alongside artists like Pablo Picasso. In addition to his oil paintings, Dali was an avid poet, writer, and film maker. His influence has even reached through mediums of photography,

fashion, and theatre.

Dali’s artistic involvement in surrealism was part of a movement that many other artists followed at the time. The concept of surrealism means taking principles of reality and distorting it into creativity that derives from dreams and the subconscious mind.

Dali read various works of Sigmund Freud, which is said to have influenced his passion for using the subconscious to enhance creativity. He also studied the Dada philosophy and considered himself apolitical.

By the age of 76 his capacity as an artist began to fail him, as his trembling hands made it impossible to transfer the ideas in his head onto canvas. On January 23rd, 1989, he passed away, due to heart failure, and was buried three blocks away from where he grew up in Figueres.

His legacy has carried on throughout the years and will continue to influence artists and dreamers alike. His creative genius has graced the world in many forms, and is still enjoyed by patrons of exhibitions from Spain to Germany to even New York City.



Pep Rally Spring 2014

Hannah Sawyerr, Contributing Writer

On April 4, NBTHS held its third and last pep rally for the year of 2014. Every year the freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors fight for their class to win the spirit cup. These pep rallies consist of several activities such as tug-of-war, relay races, and the class banner contest.

Pep rally is an event where NBTHS can come together and cheer on our various sports teams. This pep rally also consisted of both the Alchemists giving a wonderful sneak-peek from their spring musical, “In the Heights”, and the performances of the band and choir.

Haley Gorda, a senior at NBTHS, said, “My favorite part of the pep rally is the sense of unity you have with your class when competing in the games.”

Pep rallies not only serve as friendly competition between grades, but they’re also a time to cheer and bond with your class.

Regardless of your group of friends, likes or dislikes, in pep rallies, all students will have one thing in common: the desire to win as a class and beat the opponents!

Bobby Orokos, a junior at NBTHS, said, “I love pep rallies! It’s such a relaxing day. Classes are shortened; everyone is in a good mood. It’s such a great time to bond with your class and try to win!”

Although traditionally the seniors win first in the pep rallies the seniors did not take home the spirit cup this year. In a 10 point lead the juniors won over the seniors. Congrats to the class of 2015!

Sidewalk Survey: Do You Prefer Nutella or Peanut Butter???



Genesis Larrea '17

“Nutella, I guess. Because peanut butter tends to stick to the roof of my mouth, and I hate that feeling.”



Beran Manneh, '16

“That’s easy, Nutella, because I don’t like peanut butter, and at least Nutella is chocolaty.”



Katie Siegal '15

“Please don’t make me choose!”



Ajit Matthews, '14

“This is difficult... Peanut butter because at least I can pretend I’m being healthy.”



Ms. Gilliland,
History

“I prefer peanut butter because Nutella is too sweet. Also, peanut butter is a basic ingredient in many delicious and nutritious foods like candy, sandwiches, granola bars and more.”

Photos courtesy of Stephany Mensah-Narh

The Importance of Extending the School Year

Cristina Torres, Staff Writer

When the issue of extending the school year is brought up, it is usually met with the whines and complaints of students. However, is school truly long enough to give each student a proper education? The answer is a clear and blatant no. In the state of New Jersey, school lasts a mandatory 180 days, which consists of about 6 hours per day.

Yet in countries around the world, school lasts much longer. In China, most schools run from September to the end of July- in school days from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. In many other Asian and European countries, a school year lasts 200 days or more. How can students that receive a noticeably lesser amount of schooling achieve the same education as those of foreign countries? They can’t. American students pale to the foreign education systems.

Lastly, an extended school year doesn’t only benefit students- but parents as well. In public school systems, there is a growing percentage of students that rely on their school to provide free or reduced breakfast and lunch. Those students, if an extended school year is put in place, will have healthy and nutritious meals for a longer time period. During the time off of school, those same kids most likely don’t receive the proper meals at home.

Also, extending the school year allows parents to be less worrisome about their children. During the school year, parents at work don’t have to worry about where their kids are, if they are safe, and if they have to get someone to watch over their children. So if school is longer, parents will not have to worry about any of that because their children will be safe and watched over at school.

Overall, students need a longer school year. Despite their qualms about summer vacation, school is an important part of every person’s life. Every student deserves the proper education that can mold their future in a positive way.

Shailene Woodley vs. Jennifer Lawrence

Alyna Reagan, Contributing Writer

Jennifer Lawrence is currently one of the most well-known actresses. She plays the lead role as Katniss Everdeen in *The Hunger Games* series, Rosalyn Rosenfeld in *American Hustle*, and Tiffany in the movie *Silver Linings Playbook*.

Most younger viewers love her because she tries to explain to female viewers about how they should love themselves and how they shouldn’t change how they look just because someone doesn’t like their original appearance.

When she signed up for these roles during casting and they tell her that she should lose weight to get the role, she said, “I’m never going to starve myself for a part... I don’t want little girls to be like, ‘Oh, I want to look like Katniss, so I’m going to skip dinner’...I was trying to get my body to look fit and strong...not thin and underfed.”

She shows everyone that even though you’re a little bit bigger than most girls, that shouldn’t stop you from eating pizza, fitting into those skinny jeans, or chasing your dreams.

Shailene Woodley isn’t as well-known compared to Jennifer Lawrence, but she has been in a few movies and shows that may seem like she is the “next” Jennifer Lawrence.

She has played in the movies *The Spectacular Now* as Aimee, she plays Tris in the new hit *Divergent* series, and she’s acted in a very popular show series as pregnant teenage girl Amy Juergens called *The Secret Life of the American Teenager*.

Woodley is similar to Lawrence when it comes to giving inspirational quotes. For instance, she says, “I think the most important thing in life is self-love and respect for everything about your own body, your own soul, your own capsule, then how can you have an authentic relationship with anyone else?”

She says that if you can’t love your body and soul, you can’t expect someone to love you with the same respect.

Spring Around the Globe

Spring in Germany

Bobby Orokos, Contributing Writer

The beginning of Spring in Germany is called Fruehlingsanfang. This marks the beginning of lighter evenings and warmer days.

The season of blossoming flowers returns to the wonderful land of Germany. The nation celebrates after a long, frosty winter, and holds festivals to celebrate Easter and the coming of spring. If you are interested in traveling to Germany, book flights and hotel rooms in March; when April comes prices and crowds rise tremendously.

Germany's weather during the spring is about as diverse as North Brunswick. On spring days, the weather can go from extremely sunny, to torrential downpours, to snowstorms - Queen Elsa snowstorms.

During the spring, many Germans enjoy the outdoors in gardens, outdoor cafes, and playing in packs outdoors to enjoy the long anticipated warmth.

Nearly every town and village celebrates the arrival of spring

with folk festivals or town celebrations held in the town center.

Easter, for example, is a massive holiday celebrated throughout all Germany. The first edible Easter

schools, banks, and offices are closed, and public transportation is very limited on operating hours.

Another German celebration during Spring is Dippemess in

potters came to sell their ceramic creations. Eventually, fairground booths and attractions joined the market, turning it into a festival.

A massive spring celebratory show is called the Rhine in Flames. This show is a pyrotechnics show in which fireworks are shot skyward, and the festival travels down the Rhine River from May to early Autumn months.

Another gathering to celebrate spring is called the Leipzig Book Fair, a literature gathering of writers, translators, and readers across all of Eastern Europe. This festival notices young German writers and acknowledges them. Also during this fair, there are award ceremonies to accredit the young scholarly writers, and many parties follow as well.

Spring is a massive celebration in Germany, and allows the nation to reunite with fellow friends and family who they were unable to see due to a cold, snow-packed winter.



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

Bunnies were produced in Germany in 1800. The four days from Good Friday to Easter Monday are considered public holidays; in which

Frankfurt. This is the largest folk festival held in the Rhine region of Germany. Originally, this festival was a medieval market in which

The Hot Season in the Philippines

Julian Maceren, Contributing Writer

The Philippines is an exotic country found southeast of China, and is an extensive archipelago, often overshadowed by its large neighbors.

In the Philippines, there are only two seasons: the rainy season (June-November) and the dry season (December-May)--equivalent to winter and summer here in America except it is always relatively hot in the Philippines.

Filipino students are off from school during this time and many spend their days lounging at pools, swimming at the beach, and spending time outdoors--although, sometimes it gets too hot to stay outside.

The beach plays a big part in the Philippines; the crystal clear waters and exotic fish offer beautiful scenery to both tourists and citizens. Some bring inner tubes and

drift into the deep ends of the waters.

Around the world, many countries and cultures do different things in springtime, but in the Philippines the standard Easter egg

hunt, Filipinos like to spend their time elsewhere: at church.

The Philippines is a predominantly Catholic country (about 80% of the population), so this time of the year, people frequent

different than Easter egg hunts --public crucifixions! People don't actually crucify themselves, but they do have themselves nailed to the cross through the soft tissues in their hands and feet, and stand on a small plank below their feet so the weight of their bodies does not damage their nailed body parts. Despite the goriness of the crucifixions, it attracts many tourists.

This time of the year in the Philippines is also the peak of the fruit harvest--exotic fruits like langka (jackfruit), durian, rambutan, atis, mangos, and santol populate Filipino markets.

So if you ever plan to visit the Philippines, be sure to enjoy the heat, visit

the crystal clear beaches, stuff yourself with the delicious exotic fruits, and maybe even participate in the Good Friday Crucifixions.

churches during Lenten weeks and attend reenactments of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

Some devout Catholics even participate in something very dif-



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

Taiwan in the Spring

Grace Chu, Staff Writer

While in the summer, Taiwan packs in constant heat in the spring, Taiwan fluctuates between clear and dry, to grey and wet. However trifling and full it may seem on the map, the little island brings many activities to the table, especially in the spring.

Everyone, including tourists, are able to enjoy the following events. Taiwan is especially fond of festivals, much like China.

Held in April, The Kenting Spring Scream Festival is an outdoor rock concert

Kenting National Park that spans between 2-11 days, featuring hundreds of bands from Taiwan and overseas. Every year, hundreds swarm the area to enjoy the activities; including art exhibits, DJ stalls, camping, food vendors, stalls and a film festival. Many fabulous mini-concerts and events were scheduled this year, such as Spring Scream, Spring Wave, Spring Wave, Foam Party, and Moonlight Party.

On a somber note, in early April, people celebrate Tomb

Sweeping Day, a national holiday that takes place on either April 4th or 5th, depending on the lunar calendar. Families gather together and pay their respects to their ancestors and to victims of sensitive events. Sometimes they burn joss paper, offer the dead food, or clean and sweep the graves.

The main food item associated with this tradition is Caozaiguo, a type of dessert snack made with sweet dough and wrapped in herbs, often filled with dried shrimps, shi-

take mushrooms, and deep fried shallots.

Finally, Taiwan is really popular for its flowers and scenery. The Yangmingshan is a popular sightseeing site, a collection of mountains where motor vehicles can tra-

verse through and enjoy the sights during spring. Azaleas and cherry blossoms, are at full bloom during this season so it is very popular with picnicking students and families. Other popular cherry blossom sites include The Sun Moon Lake, Wuling Farm, and the train sightseeing at Ali Mountain.

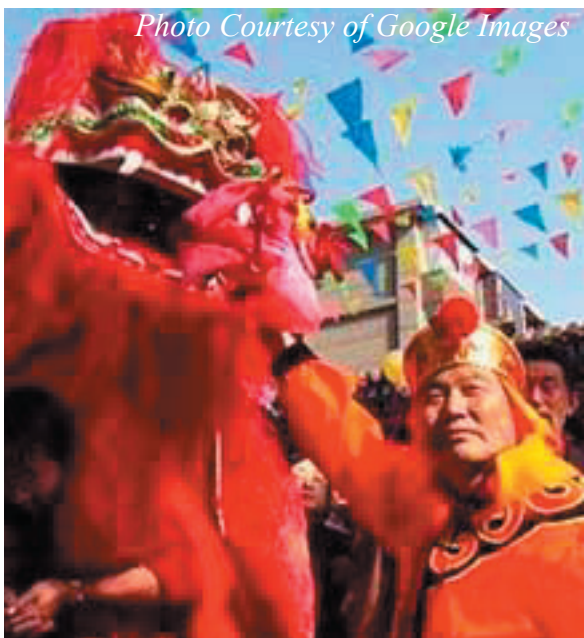


Photo Courtesy of Google Images

Easter Week in Thailand

Cristina Torres, Staff Writer

During the week where Easter is celebrated in various countries around the world, the country of Thailand has a very special celebration. However Thailand, a mainly Buddhist country, celebrates the festival of Songkran. Songkran is the New Year of Thailand. On April 15th, the whole country unites through religious offerings, appraisal of the monks, and a variety of other festive cultural activities.

Songkran is a three day celebration starting on April 13th, and every day has a different meaning. There is a fourth day,

but it is a day of reflection and honoring the elders of Thailand. The first day is nicknamed the "Songkran Day," and is a day of purification and cleansing.

Citizens are supposed to cleanse themselves of their sins from the past year. On this day there are processions of images of the Buddha, and people clean their houses. Additionally, some roads across the country are closed, and therefore traffic is reduced.

The second day, Wan Nao, is considered "New Year's Eve." On this day, Thai people typically

spend their day preparing and cooking food to be used in the Buddhist ceremony the following day. Also, a lot of Thai citizens like to visit their nearby rivers to collect sand and go around looking for flowers and other celebratory decorations for New Year's Day. They mold sand "chedis," which are miniature versions of sand castle-like structures. This day is a day of preparation and

peaceful silence.

Finally comes New Year's Day, called Wan Thaloeng Sok to the native Thai people. Wan Thaloeng Sok is, like New Year's Day across the world, a day of celebration and happiness. There are usually pa-

rades and processions across each town, full of musicians, and elaborate displays of flowers and water.

Children and adults alike splash water and throw flower petals. This day is similar to New Year's Day in multiple aspects, including the belief of cleansing and wishes for happiness for the upcoming year.

The last day, which some do not consider a day, is the day traditional Thai people like to recognize and honor the elders of their town. This day is supposed to be one of quietness and have a respectful vibe.



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

Springtime in Mexico

Ashley Garcia, Staff Writer

With its warm weather, clear beaches, and numerous festivals, Mexico is a popular and festive destination for any spring breaker. The months of April and May are also home to many important celebrations for the natives.

The weather in Mexico is at its best during the spring. The weather is hot, the sun is out, and there are no signs of rain- perfect weather for a day at the beach. Towards the end of spring, however, the rainy season begins. Although it rains heavily from June to September, spring can frequently become dry and scorching.

Many holidays and festivals take place during the spring months in Mexico. Holy Week, for example, is celebrated in April, typically the

week before Easter. Holy Week is a popular, country wide celebration, since it is an important religious holiday. Almost all towns and cities



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

celebrate with parades, parties, and ceremonies. Students and adults both have the week off of school, and work.

The month of May is also full of many festive celebrations in

Mexico. Labor Day, on May first, is a day remembering the labor laws in Mexico. People have the day off on this national holiday, and there are



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

parades promoting workers' rights.

Cinco de Mayo falls on, you guessed it, the fifth of May. Cinco de Mayo is not a national holiday, and is more widely celebrated in the United States, where it is com-

monly confused as Mexico's Independence Day.

Mainly known as La Batalla de Puebla, this holiday is mainly celebrated in the state of Puebla. Parades are held to remember the Mexican army's victory over French forces in Puebla in 1862.

Mother's Day in Mexico always falls on May 10, and is celebrated with much gusto. Many people take off work early to treat their mothers to lunch. Mother's day in Mexico also has religious undertones. Churches organize special masses dedicated to mothers.

Mexico is a festive and colorful place in Spring. The weather is optimal for celebrations, church, and days at the beach.

Captain America: Winter Soldier

Katie Seigal, Contributing Writer

In early April of 2014, Marvel's famous Star-Spangled Avenger hit the big screens with the intense and exciting *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*.

This new movie is a sequel to the first Captain America movie, *Captain America: The First Avenger*. Based off of Marvel's much-loved superhero, the first movie is about Steve Rogers, a skinny weakling who tries to enlist to fight in World War I but gets rejected because of his health and physicality. He is then recruited to be a part of something called the "super-soldier" experiment, which makes Rogers taller, and stronger than the average human.

Now known as "Captain America," Rogers fights the Nazis in WWI. He also fights Hydra, a separate but just as evil organization, led by a man known as the Red Skull. Rogers's final battle with the Red Skull involves him trying to get the Tesseract, a dangerous piece of alien technology, away from the evil leader of Hydra.

In order to keep a plane full of explosives from detonating, Captain America crashes it into the Atlantic. There he stays in a state of suspended animation for 70 years, until he is found and revived in present times.

Captain America is next seen in the 2012 film *The Avengers*, working alongside other famous Marvel heroes like Iron Man and Thor.

Now, in *The Winter Soldier*, Steve Rogers is working for S.H.I.E.L.D., a top-secret organization led by Director Nick Fury. Everything falls apart when Hydra reappears after over 70 years and attacks S.H.I.E.L.D. from the inside-out. The members of this evil organization had planted themselves within S.H.I.E.L.D., waiting for the right time to emerge from the shadows.

Now Captain America, with the help of Black Widow and a newer ally, Falcon, have to leave behind what they know and work to defeat Hydra and its newest weapon—the mysterious Winter Soldier.

The movie stars Chris Evans as Steve Rogers (aka "Captain America"), Scarlett Johansson as Natasha Romanoff (aka "Black Widow"), Samuel L. Jackson as Nick Fury, and Anthony Mackie as Sam Wilson (aka "Falcon").

The Winter Soldier has been getting positive reactions from audiences. On Rotten Tomatoes, critics are giving it an 89% on the Tomatometer, and audiences are giving it an even more positive 94%.

Resurrection: A New Look on Death

Ami Patel, Staff Writer

Based on the novel by Jason Mott, the new show *Resurrection*, currently on its first season, has already gathered a whopping 17 million viewers. It has proven itself to be an intriguing drama, with all of its twists and turns, as well as its societal analogy as the plot unfolds.

The show starts out with plenty of mystery, as a young boy, Jacob, wakes up in China, in the middle of a field. Now, waking up in the middle of a field, thousands of miles away from home, would definitely be a weird situation for a little boy.

However, the situation is made even more suspenseful when it is revealed that Jacob was, in reality, supposed to be dead for 32 years!

Jacob is taken back to his home in Arcadia, Missouri, where his very presence shocked the community. His parents, especially, were the most shocked. Throughout later episodes, their surprise is evident as they try to re-adjust having a child in the house.

Jacob and his parents were not the only citizens of Arcadia who were impacted by a strange case of "resurrection". The Richards family is also shocked when one of their own, Caleb, returns from the dead. Federal agents are baffled by the sudden events, and try to crack the case, with their first move being exhuming Jacob's grave.

Rachael, the long lost love of the town's religious leader, Pastor Tom, suddenly returns, as well. However, her condition was much

different than the other Arcadians who have returned. It was to be kept secret, for if it were to end up in the wrong hands, much harm could come to her and Pastor Tom.

This show does not only give the viewers a look into the personal lives of the families of the returned, but also an outlook on the impact on the town of Arcadia. Many of the people were deeply religious people, and as a result,

"don't know what he could do". In fact, this could be seen a way to acknowledge the human tendency to fear something that is not known to the human brain, and how quickly that little confusion could go to mass hysteria.

Another example of the interesting way in which this show managed to portray society is when Rachael's secret is spilled out by a churchgoer who discovered through Pastor Tom's wife. From a pastor who was everyone's light, Pastor Tom became a sinner in the eyes of the people. Many of the churchgoers left right then and there.

When Jacob's parents came to church with Jacob, the church mass gawked at them, as if demons had entered their holy place of worship. So, not only did this show present the mass hysteria in which the inability

to understand can form in a town such as Arcadia, but also how this resurrection could affect the names and reputations of the community citizens who were closely involved with the resurrected.

Resurrection does not only prove itself an interesting show with plot twists worthy of a large audience, but it also gives a deep insight on the different moods of society, and how it reacts to unusual situations such as the sudden onslaught of resurrected citizens. With its several stories occurring at the same time and cliffhangers at the end of each episode, *Resurrection* is definitely a show that will leave you feeling as intrigued as the characters who play in it.

Unable to understand the state in which Jacob lived and how he didn't stay dead, as most of the deceased have, the people quickly became weary. In fact, in the middle of a meeting in a recent episode, a woman had gotten up called Jacob a "demon" and voiced the public opinion quite well, saying that they



The Amazing Spider-Man 2

Ashley Garcia, Staff Writer

Marvel Studios is coming back with favorite web slinging superhero in *The Amazing Spider-Man 2*. This sequel continues the story of Peter Parker, as he enjoys swinging from skyscraper to skyscraper, spending time with his girlfriend Gwen Stacy, and being a hero.

Once again, Peter is faced with the struggle of balancing his two worlds; being Spider-Man and being ordinary Peter Parker—but in *The Amazing Spider-Man 2*, Peter is faced with a much bigger obstacle. New villains emerge and Peter must protect his fellow New

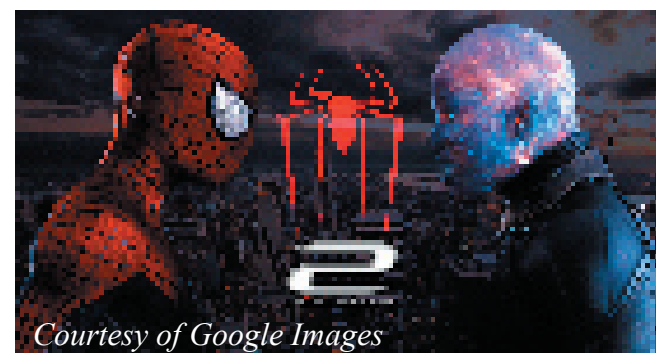
Yorkers against Electro, The Rhino, and his friend, Harry Osborne.

Andrew Garfield returns as Spider-Man along with Emma

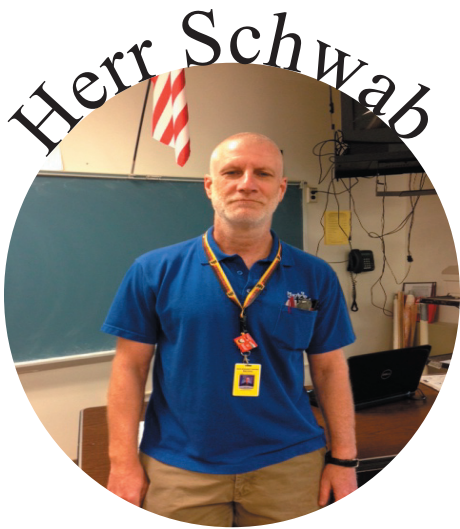
The Rhino, and Dane DeHaan as Harry Osborne, new foes for Spidey to face.

As Spiderman's new foes arise, Peter realizes they may be too powerful to overcome. In addition to the problems of protecting New York and his girlfriend, Peter is faced with the mystery of his father and the threat of OsCorp.

Trailers promise action packed fighting scenes, suspense, and hard decisions being made by Peter. Many fans will be sure to pack movie theaters on May 2 to witness the fate of our friendly neighborhood Spider-Man.



Stone as Gwen Stacy, and Sally Field as Aunt May. Jamie Foxx joins the cast as Electro, Paul Giamatti as



"I'm leaving because I have an opportunity that I feel I can't pass up. I'll be living in Beijing for at least two years; I'll be able to see parts of China, Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, and who knows where else. I'm old enough now that I know I may not have a chance like this again. I've taught German here for seven years. I'll miss the people, of course, the faculty, staff and students. In particular, I think I will miss the graduating seniors most. This would be our last year together in any case, but they will be the last class that I will see graduate in the U.S."



"I have taught French for 20 years at NBTHS. I have decided to retire because it's that time in my life. I have grandchildren that need me. I'm very fortunate to be able to do this. I'll miss my students, classes and NBTHS in general. I will also miss the camaraderie with the staff. I loved watching students succeed here at NBTHS."



"I have been at NBTHS for 25 years as math supervisor. I'm getting old, and I feel it's time to go. There have been so many memories that it is hard to think that one memory was bigger than the others. I will miss working with the wonderful staff I have met over the years, and of course, the students."



"People say, 'You will know when it is time to go'. I have been very busy this year and I was coming home late and truly exhausted on weekends. I felt the time has come to take it easy. I want to be healthy in the future. I have spent 10 years of my life at NBTHS in the Learning Center Department and In Class Support. I have truly enjoyed every moment in the classroom. I smile when I think of all the teachers, administrators and staff members I have shared my life with and have become part of my life."

DEPARTING STAFF

The Banner
took the liberty of
interviewing members of
the departing staff one last
time, to summarize thier time
here at NBTHS. Here's
what they had to say.



"I have decided to leave because I want to take on a new profession. I have been a secretary at NBTHS for 26 years. I will always remember interacting with all the students and their different personalities. When I leave, I will miss the wonderful staff."



"I have enjoyed teaching in the English department at NBTHS for 29 years, but I feel the time is right to retire. I will surely miss interacting with the students in the classroom. My most memorable moment was two years ago, when I won the Teacher of the Year Award. One of my favorite sayings is, 'Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might'."



"I decided to leave because it's time to let new young, new people move into my position. I have a total of 25 years here. Through all those years, my favorite memory was probably my first pep rally! It was loud, it was fun, it was exciting. I felt like I was back in high school. And the thing I will miss the most about NBTHS is this campus. It is just beautiful in the fall. All of the seniors should take their picture right there in the center."



"I have decided to spend more time with my family and grandchildren. I have been a Business Technology teacher at NBTHS for 28 years. I will miss the privilege of working with my colleagues who give themselves every day to make NBTHS and the students of North Brunswick a success. I will surely miss the interaction with my co-workers and the history we have shared over the years."



Photo Courtesy of Lindsey Hoagland

This season the Girls Lacrosse team amazed everyone with their win over South Brunswick (10-9) converting them into the 2014 GMC Champions. Not only did they work as a team but they also worked as a family with great sportsmanship. Throughout the season the girls aspired to be the best and in the end their hard work paid off. Congratulations to the Girls Lacrosse Team for being this year's GMC Champions!

Boys Volleyball

Cynthia Liang, Staff Writer

The North Brunswick Boys Volleyball Team is in full swing this season.

Jim Biolsi is head coach of the varsity team, with Carl Huff as junior varsity coach and Robert Halsey as freshman coach. There are 7 seniors on the varsity team: Brandon Shamy and Pratik Patel at outside hitter, Pathik Oza at setter, Deepesh Lad at opposite, Sneha Shah at libero, Imran Fayazi at middle and Wali Kamran at defensive specialist. Juniors on the court include Ravi Patel and Pradham Nandyala at middle, and Karan Gill at defensive specialist. Other juniors that might see playing time include Hector Gonzalez, Vinnie Gibbons and Joseph Lee.

Last season, they won the white division and qualified for the state tournament. "With our large senior class," Biolsi says, "we would really like to win a state tournament match (this year)."

Biolsi explains that one of the challenges the team faces is "lack of height. We need to pass well and set 'fast' to overcome our lack of height."

This year, the sports department oversaw the addition of a freshmen volleyball team, which is extremely helpful for the program as it provides much more depth at each position and more playing experience for each player. Freshmen will be able to get more playing time as they go against other freshman teams from other schools.

World Cup Stadium Construction Terror

Asef Chowdhury, Contributing Writer

As the World Cup slowly approaches, workers continue to work on the stadium where the event will take place. Many factors have hindered the progression of the stadium, and some fear that the stadium will not be ready in time.

At the moment, seven workers have died while constructing the stadium. These have all been caused by construction errors. The stadium is a very large scale project and required the effort of many people. Construction is an unsafe occupation, and having so many

people work on such a large project is bound to result in casualties.

FIFA has been criticized for forcing the World Cup into Brazil. Although soccer organizations in the country are in favor of the event, as well as the middle and upper classes, the poor community is against it.

Riots occurred in the streets of Brazil as people protested the construction of the stadium. People revolted believing the government could be working to help those in poverty rather than spending money on creating a stadium for an event

that could be held in a country that does not have such a large poverty issue. The World Cup is an extremely popular event and people all around the world seek to attend. Brazil will be flooded in the summer by soccer fans around the world. Hotels will be over populated, streets filled, and as always, angry fans will cause violence.

The stadium construction in Brazil has been very controversial. Although Brazil is rich in soccer culture, many Brazilians feel their country is not suited for the event.

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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