

THE BANNER

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

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Peer Tutoring

Michael Osei, Staff Writer

At least 25 students a week, 32 weeks a year, the peer tutoring program has been working to help all students at NBTHS. The peer tutoring program at NBTHS started in the spring of 2013 and this April, the program celebrated its third year anniversary.

In peer tutoring, students help other students both during lunch and after school. While most teachers are benevolent enough to assist students, the perspective of a peer who has already taken the class can be paramount to helping a current student succeed in the class. Many of the students that have received help report a noticeable increase in their grades. No matter the subject, the peer

tutoring program has a tutor that can teach it. The peer tutoring program is after school in the library on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

whose first language is not English and need assistance in school who can get help since the program has many people who can translate. The

rather large now, it was not always that way. The peer tutoring program has switched rooms many times and it is only through the dedication of the teachers and students involved that the program has grown. One proof of this program's growth is the recognition that it received. Multiple members of the program are certified by the National Tutoring Association. Also, the NBTHS peer tutoring program was featured on ClassroomCloseup, a New Jersey television program, for its innovation.

A lot of people at NBTHS are grateful for the program. The peer tutoring program is committed to helping students and those involved in the program are proud of its success.



Photo Courtesy of Michael Osei

The tutee (left) and the tutor (right) are working diligently together.

On Wednesdays, the peer tutoring program works with National Honors Society on the busiest day for tutoring at the school. Students

program does its best to not only translate, but also helps the ESL kids improve their English as well.

Though the program is

Raider Robotix: Inventing Their Way To The Top!

Ami Patel, Staff Writer

The 2016 Robotics Season proved to be a prolific and successful---the Raider Robotix team managed to win two Finalist awards and two other district awards.

The team competed against 59 other high school teams in a competition in Pennsylvania and finished as one of the finalists.

As many know, the Raider Robotix team combines creativity with technological intelligence in order to solve the complex problems they face in their competitions. For instance, during the FIRST stronghold,

they had to think their way through a medieval-styled game, in which two alliances, each containing three robots, try to capture their opponent's castle tower by

inserting "boulders" into certain openings. Should the boulders be unable to weaken a castle enough to be captured in the given time, the robots will be allowed to scale

up the castle walls and make an attempt to conquer it within the last 20 seconds. Combining ingenuity with creativity, the Robotix team was able to construct a robot that

was highly consistent when it came to climbing the tower. The robot's climbing mechanism, custom train wheels, and ability to quickly score in the lower goals earned the

beginning of March, the team was awarded the Johnson & Johnson-sponsored Gracious Professional Award for "continuous gracious professionalism and working together both on and off the playing field". The team has also placed #11 during the MAR Championship, with 8 wins and 4 losses, while securing an alliance with the #4 ranking team. This alliance proved to be successful, as both teams went undefeated all the way to the final rounds.

the team will be preparing for their next competition at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis, MO on April 27th. With already a successful season under their belt, the Raider Robotix Team will continue to amaze their competitors. Be sure to wish them best of luck!



Photo Courtesy of Ernest Weiss

The team gets ready to hear amazing news about their third place victory.

Robotix team the Industrial Design Award for their outstanding efforts.

The awards don't stop there. While at the Horsham-Hatsboro MAR District event held at the

Adoption for All!

Ami Patel, Staff Writer

Last month, a U.S. judge ruled Mississippi's ban on adoption for same-sex couples as unconstitutional, therefore legalizing adoption for same-sex couples in all 50 states. This decision marked the biggest step in LGBTQ+ rights since the decision in June 2015 that legalized same-sex marriage in the country.

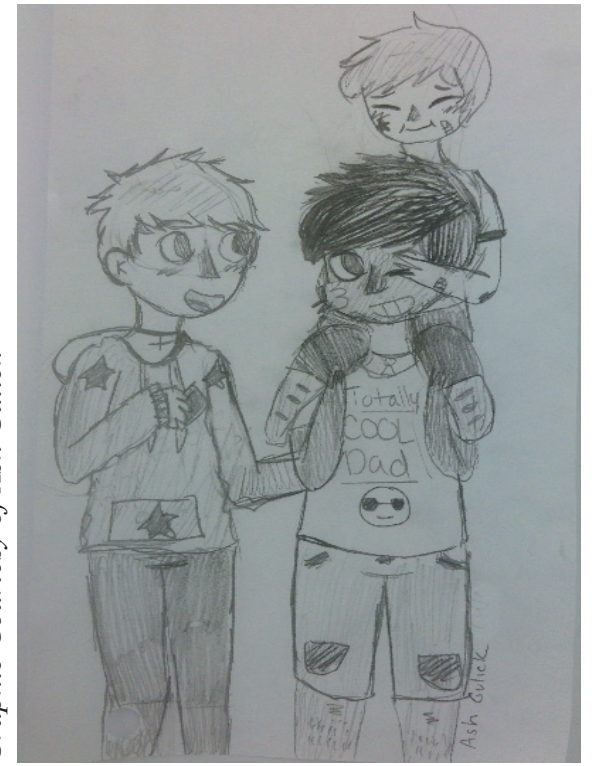
The decision was brought about by a lawsuit that was filed by four same-sex couples and the Campaign for Southern Equality against the Mississippi Department of Human Services. The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of Mississippi, and was presided over by U.S. Judge Daniel Jordan. At the end of the court proceedings, Jordan declared that Mississippi's ban on same-sex adoption was unconstitutional, and ordered the Mississippi Department of Human Services to stop enforcing the ban.

Before his ruling, Jordan cited the decision that legalized same-sex marriage, stating that allowing gay couples to marry also bestows upon them additional benefits, such as the right

to adopt children. In addition, Jordan argued that Mississippi's ban on same-sex adoption, which was first enforced in 2000, violates the "equal protection" clause in the Constitution, therefore making the ban unconstitutional.

Prior to this, adoption for same-sex couples was only legal in certain states, with many other states, particularly in Southern states, that ban it completely or make the process extremely difficult. However, with this decision, same-sex couples should now have rights to adopt children, just like their heterosexual counterparts. Considering the resistance the community has received from religious groups, this decision was a big victory.

Though the LGBTQ+ community is becoming more accepted by the American public, it still faces opposition from hateful religious groups, who have been particularly vocal since the ruling. The LGBTQ+ community pushes on, refusing to give up and winning back their human rights.



Graphic Courtesy of Ash Gulick

The fight to adopt children was a long and hard battle for the LGBTQ+ community but ended in a major success.

Fear and Loathing in Panama

Isha Chavva, Staff Writer

On April 3, 2016, The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists released a gigantic leak of almost 11 million documents scanning the past four decades, apparently connected to Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca. The Consortium reports that the said firm helped to established secret shell companies and offshore accounts for important global figures. The recent 2015 audit discovered that Mossack Fonseca knew the

true identities of--how many?--a stunning mere 204 of 14,086 companies.

The documents were given to the Consortium by Germany's *Suddeutsche Zeitung*, who received them from an anonymous source. The source "claimed to be concerned about what he or she saw in the documents. Of course, the documents started as a trickle but turned into a flood, a torrent in the end," says Gerard Ryle, the director of

ICIJ.

Not only were Russian President Vladimir Putin, the FIFA ethics committee, and men that the United States government involved, but the leaders and former world leaders of 12 countries, as well as 128 other politicians and public officials. These documents accuse the prime minister of Iceland, Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson, of having ties, through his wife, to an offshore company that were not properly dis-

closed.

While the Kremlin immediately dismissed the allegations as "a series of fibs" aimed at discrediting Putin shortly before his elections and Icelandic prime minister's office reported that the Icelandic prime minister had never owned a stake in a firm he was not linked to, and enjoyed no tax advantages, Britain, France, Australia and Mexico have vowed to conduct investigations for possible tax evasion.

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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Mr. Pitt: A Positive Investment in NBTHS

Michael Osei, Staff Writer

Mr. Pitt has a plethora of special characteristics that makes him stand out among teachers in NBTHS. Not only is he a teacher, Mr. Pitt is a businessman as well. Mr. Pitt is enthusiastic about his work in and out of NBTHS.

Before talking about his activities out of school it is important to note his impeccable attributes as a financial teacher. Mr. Pitt builds healthy relationships with his students by offering to have a dialogue with his students when they need help or don't fully comprehend a topic that is being tackled in class.

Mr. Pitt also handles his class in a relaxed manner that allows students to feel comfortable in his classes but he never allows the class to leave his control. Mr. Pitt clearly understands that students react positively to teachers that treat the student like an adult, but he never lets them veer off in the wrong direction.

When it comes to his knowledge in finance, Mr. Pitt never leaves his students in the dark. In fact he wants to share all of his useful knowledge in the financial game so that others could be prepared for many aspects of adulthood. He even goes as far to says that his favorite part about teaching is "sharing knowledge"

When asked about what he would be other than a teacher, Mr. Pitt made the joke that he would be a financial advisor. This is ironic because Mr. Pitt is a financial advisor. He helps people make financial decisions whether it be by helping people to take calculated risk through investing in stocks. As a financial advisor he also helps more cautious people make positive investments in bonds.

Mr. Pitt continues to balance both his jobs spectacularly. He is committed to his work and enjoys what he does. This shows that Mr. Pitt is an exemplary teacher.

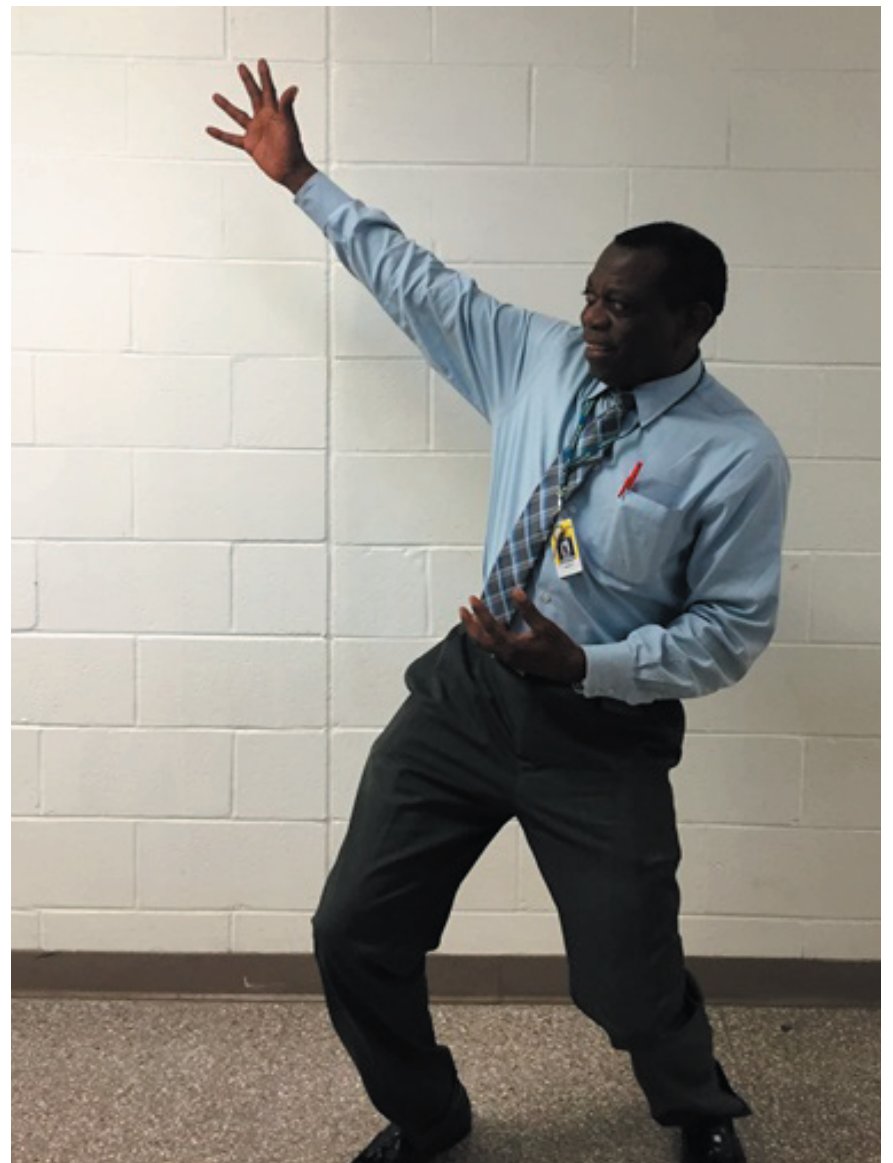


Photo Courtesy Liela Piracha

Mr. Pitt introducing his article to the reader.

Batman vs. Superman Review: Saying What Everyone Thinks (For the Most Part)

Kevin Robayo, Staff Writer

Virtually everyone despises every single aspect of Batman vs. Superman. It's one of the few times where both the public and the critics agree on their negative feelings for a superhero film. However where I stand as a average comic book fan and a film buff, this movie for me is somewhere in the middle. Know now that this review contains nothing really new, I agree with many of the criticism and praises that people have shared for this film.

From listening to many opinions on the film, it seems that overall that comic book fans do not like the direction that the film universe that DC is creating. However as the average comic reader, the universe is interesting. A vital problem that plagues comic books is that the direction of the universe's introduced to the readers is that they tend to be the same.

It's okay to see Batman vs Superman to take a dark course rather than creating a universe that goes down the conventional route. The tone, the mood and progression that this film has offered is one that I enjoy. This universe that DC is concocting is one that I'm interested in examining as more films come but this is assuming that DC has hinted and planned out how the story of this universe will be told.

Ben Affleck's Batman was not only the strongest character but the strongest aspect in this movie. Affleck is a huge Batman fan and a fantastic actor as of lately, making him perfect for the role of the Dark Knight. It was even reported that multiple times through filming, Affleck would hate his lines in the script so much that he went to his dressing room and rewrote his lines. Batman's fighting style in the film goes farther than anyone has ever seen before, which plays into why his motivations through the movie don't make much sense. Still, it has to be said that Affleck was the most redeeming part of this movie as he was able to provide a performance that most viewers were able to enjoy.

The largest disservice movie does to itself is DC's impatience, resulting in the last third of this film being stuffed with too much content. DC rushed everything because they want to be able to compete with



Graphic Courtesy Olaedo Ukanwoke

Batman vs. Superman: Dawn of Justice logo. The Frank Miller Batman logo mixed with the Superman logo

Marvel but in reality they would destroy Marvel if they had taken their time to tell the story of these universe's heroes in their stand alone films and pick people that understand comics on a level that would make for a great film. The screenplay of this movie does not reflect the positive reputation that these writers have, it isn't hard to tell that the screenplay is built off a checklist DC has created so that they could get to the Justice League movies.

This movie fails on other aspects that all superhero movies fails on when it comes to a technical and plot standpoint. Now should you watch this movie? Eh, no rush, this is a movie that you should watch when you know that you have a few hours to waste on. It's a troubled superhero movie built of a corporate checklist so DC can financially compete with Marvel, while ignoring the opinions of the public. In other words, Hollywood business as usual. But from everything that has come from this film, it's refreshing to see the public finally demanding better quality superhero films. Rating: 5.5/10



Photo Courtesy Kevin Robayo

On May 5th, 2016 the baseball team unveiled their new scoreboard with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The baseball team used the scoreboard afterwards with their senior day game against East Brunswick.



Photo Courtesy Kevin Robayo

This was the first pitch for the girl's senior day game. The pitcher would get the other team to strikeout with her strong pitch.



Photo Courtesy Kevin Robayo

The first pitch for the boy's senior day game. East Brunswick's batter would hit the ball but one of the Raiders outfielders caught the ball.