

# THE BANNER

March 2013

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

Volume 28, Issue 02

## Comics Serve Their Country

*Anthony Kovach, Staff Writer*

Each district of the U.S finds a way somehow to give back to our heroes overseas. Some schools choose to write cordial letters to a soldier and others contribute gifts.

However, at NBTHS, we take the most innovative, unconventional route possible. And of course, there always is a fantastic outcome. The freshmen, with Mr. Ojeda, had

the revelation to buy, donate, and collect comic books to send to those serving thousands of miles away.

At first, Mr. Ojeda hoped to collect a few hundred comic books and never expected such a turnout. Between monetary contributions from students and comic books being donated accounted for over 3,000 comic books collected.

Mr. Ojeda soon discovered the overwhelming amount of comic books would be difficult to ship without some kind of mediation or facilitation. It was then he made a deal with a company who would send “care packages” to individual soldiers with a single comic book for each who would receive. Through this method, Mr. Ojeda was able

to donate each of the 3,000 comics without a hassle. But before doing so, his and the freshmen class’s ensemble of comics caught the eye of a local newspaper.

The newspaper dispatched a reporter to photograph the proud class and their teachers with their glorious collection laid out for all to see.



*Photo Courtesy of Anthony Kovach*

TEAM C, COLLECTED COMIC BOOKS TO HELP THE SOLDIERS OVERSEAS.

## Mr. NBTHS 2012

*Harrison Kaye, Contributing Writer*

Mr. NBTHS has been successful in North Brunswick for decades. Its success is due to the constant entertainment provided by the contestants each year.

Mr. NBTHS is no different than any other beauty pageant in certain aspects. Participants must organize a talent as well as dress formally and answer one question insightfully.

Each participant showed their talent to the crowd. Some of the performances required hours of rehearsal and memorization. Ankur Sharma, a senior who participated in the event, admitted “I’ve been practicing for a year. I saw the show last year and knew then that I wanted to be in it this time.”

Sharma’s performance included a mashup of dances from Michael Jackson songs as well

as some Bollywood dances. The hard work paid off, as Sharma’s performance was followed by a standing ovation.

Isaiah Mason, a junior who participated in the event for the first time, performed a combination of singing and trumpet-playing to wow the crowd. Mason’s hard work rewarded him with a third place finish.

Also singing that night was senior Adam Magnacca. His performance took plenty of time to get down. His confidence in the song was proven by his strong performance and another energetic ovation from the audience.

One of the more comical acts of the evening was a group number by three of the contestants, Chris Chedid, Ray Habib, and Joey Ikuss. All seniors, they wanted to

end their high school careers with a bang and this was one way to do it in their minds.

Ikuss noted, “I just wanted to have some fun with my friends and we had a great time doing it. When I saw a video of our performance I could not believe how ridiculous I looked, but I still don’t regret being a part of it.”

The group called “Two and a Half Men” entertained the crowd with a mashup dance of “Jump On It” and “Single Ladies”, both popular songs.

The boys impressed the crowd with their evening-wear and ability to clean up nicely. This portion was highlighted by Chedid’s mother escorting him onto the stage, and a surprise appearance by Superman (Ikuss in a cape). These also brought laughs to the crowd.

The question-and-answer portion went smoothly, with witty yet insightful remarks from all of the contestants. One of the funniest answers, given by Habib, began with a statement that had nothing to do with his question. “I planned the speech beforehand to get a laugh from the crowd. I think it worked” Habib jokingly admitted.

Ikuss’s combination of humor, originality, and talent placed him second among the twelve. Many of the contestants deserved first place, but the faculty judges agreed that Magnacca’s practice and performance was worth the prize above all the others. As a reward, Magnacca received a free tuxedo rental for prom in June.

The night as a whole was very successful, as over 100 people attended.

## McCarthy's Bookshelf

Ray Habib, Contributing Writer

An amazing maze. So many choices. So many options. Hemmingway? Shakespeare? Modern novels? English literature? 20th century? 19th century? Mrs. McCarthy's bookshelf is NOT a joke. Mrs. McCarthy's bookshelf is a lifestyle. Constantly changing and heightening its abundance, Mrs. McCarthy's bookshelf defines the atmosphere of her English classrooms. As a freshman three years ago, I was extremely intimidated. Geometry? Biology? What happened to art and music? It was only when I walked into

are too detailed for a student, or the bloody themes of *Othello* don't get the reader engaged. Have no fear, variety is here. With titles and authors from A-Z, Mrs. McCarthy's bookshelf will turn a book skeptic into a believer. When I was a freshman, Mrs. McCarthy's bookshelf was small but sufficient. When I entered her classroom to visit her this year, I was surrounded by shelves fully stocked with a variety of books. Like a labyrinth of literary excellence, this bookshelf is iconic. When people think of Mrs. McCarthy, one of the first things that



Photo courtesy of Anthony Kovach

McCarthy's bookshelf in room 855 is filled with a variety of texts for students' reading pleasure.

room 853 that I felt at home. Mrs. McCarthy's welcoming smile, accompanied by her bountiful bookshelf, greeted each student as they entered the room. It was cozy. Comfortable. Welcoming.

Never have I met anyone more enthusiastic about reading than Mrs. McCarthy. Not only is Mrs. McCarthy enthusiastic about reading, but she is enthusiastic about enticing her students to read. "Students don't read enough for pleasure," McCarthy said. "They need to be surrounded by interesting, available books if we want them to become lifelong readers." So maybe the twisted plots of *Hamlet*

they think about is her bookshelf, and rightfully so.

Constantly growing and always available, Mrs. McCarthy's bookshelf is the epitome of her welcoming classroom. With books of various scopes, the bookshelf will never disappoint. So maybe this is a sign that good books do exist. That reading for pleasure instead of throwing an 87 yard touchdown pass with Joe Flacco in *Madden 13* can be beneficial. So put down the controller and pick up a book. You'll be surprised at the places they'll take you. If you ever need a good book to read, you know exactly where to go.

## February Spotlight: Darius Delk

Ami Patel, Staff Writer

Junior Darius Delk is the star of the school with his talents in the art of theater. Everyone also knows him as the announcer who comes on the school's PA system to announce the school's after-school schedule, such as club meetings and reminders for sports. For this month's issue of *The Banner*, the spotlight has been moved to Darius.

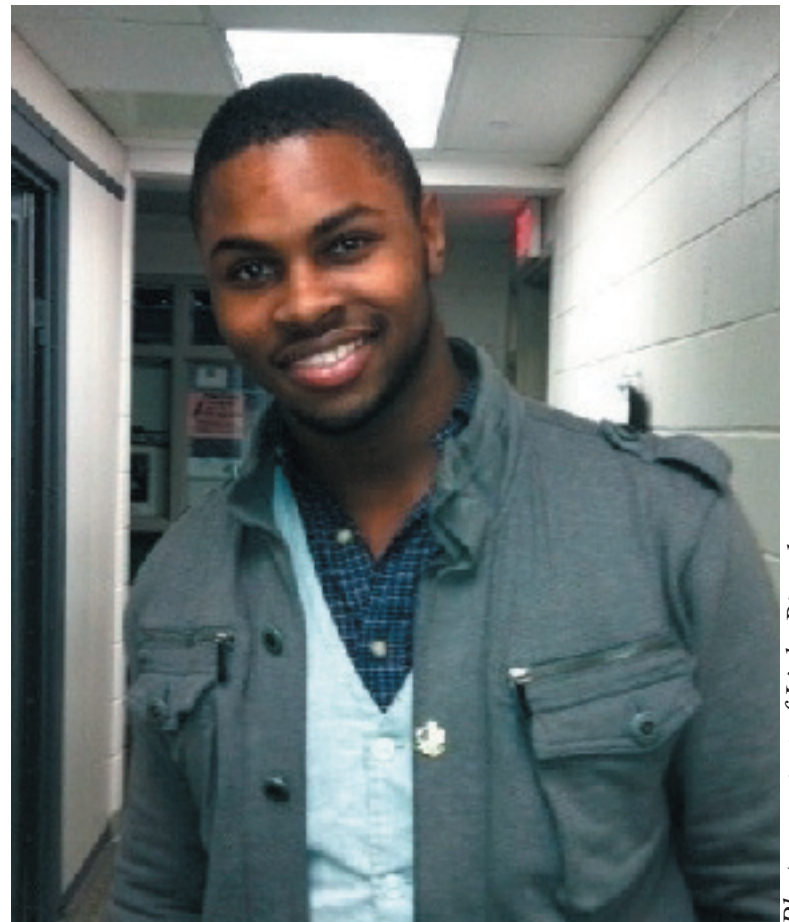
A thespian who has been acting for nine years, Darius has been acting in *Alchemist* since his freshman year. His acting career was inspired by a musical TV show he watches, "The Whiz".

The lively singing and dancing of the show gave Darius his love for acting in the theater. This love for being in the theater has led him to a hard-earned success in the school theater. For this success, Darius credits the *Alchemist*, as well as Ms. Van-Lagen and Ms. Marks, two teachers who have helped him achieve his dream. In all of his years of acting, Darius says he cherishes his role as the Coal House for the

*Alchemist's* production for this year, "Ragtime."

Whoever in the school who has not met Darius has certainly heard him. Every morning, he announces after-school activities, keeping the student body in the loop when it comes to sports and clubs. He has been doing this since last year. "It's pretty fun," he said. Whenever he is tired in the morning, Darius also said that saying the announcements in the morning wake him up, and gets him ready for the school day.

When not singing, dancing, or acting for musicals, Darius is also a very sociable person. He has many friends and loves talking to people. He loves watching musicals like Broadway. Darius also believes that even if there are people out there, waiting to knock him out of the way, that giving up should not be the answer. When asked to give a quote to all rising stars and artists, Darius said, "Don't let anything ruin your outlook on everything."



DARIUS DELK

Photo courtesy of Liela Birach

## Senior Spotlight: Nick Onorati

Tiffany Smith, Staff Writer

As many of our 2013 seniors prepare to close out their final year of high school, we like to take the time to look back on the impact they had on NBTHS.

Nick Onorati embodies the ideal of Senior Spotlight with his constant bubbly and positive attitude. You can always catch him smiling or dancing in the hallways.

Not only does he entertain everyone he meets with his humor, he provides a loving shoulder for

people he's known for only a short amount of time.

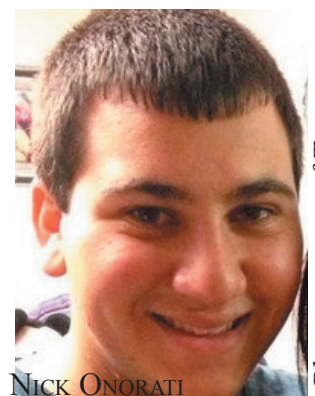
During his time at NBTHS, Nick really took his time to get involved. He played soccer Freshman year and has been an active member of Key Club all four years.

A proud inductee of National Honors Society, Nick was also accepted into Rutgers on early admission, majoring in Math and minoring in Finance.

Aside from this, he is a Senior Leader and also works at LEAL, an after care program, watching over second and third graders each day for 3 hours.

Nick says "I think being very hands on and outgoing, I've managed to push limits and bend rules to help myself, others and the school community. I feel I help to improve a lot of the things I'm involved in and speak up for what I believe in."

Nick Onorati has positively impacted the atmosphere of NBTHS.



NICK ONORATI

Photo courtesy of Twitter

## Stereotypes at NBTHS

Ryan Wilcox, Contributing Writer

It's hard to come across a school that is diverse, but when you do, it's interesting to see all the different ethnics of people in one gathering.

Being that I go to a school that is filled with different people of different races, I get to see how everything plays out first hand.

If someone were to look from the outside looking in, they would see that there are many groups that are formed within a race, and those groups rarely interact with the other.

You have the whites, blacks, asians, hispanics, the "pot heads," and the "loners" as some would call it.

The whites and asians fill honors and AP classes while the minorities can be found in "BOBO" or general classes.

Sitting in the library as the teachers were having a meeting, I overheard their discussion which quite frankly disgusted me.

They basically explained that most minorities are looked down upon because of their race which is why its rare to find them in a honors or AP class.

What I took from their discussion was that those who aren't white or asian are not even given a chance to expand beyond their expectations because they're not expected to do so because they're black, hispanic, a "pothead" or a "loner."

Its sad that even in 2013, racism still occurs. It may not be as open, but its still here.

## Social Media Takes Over

Bree Hanson, Contributing Writer

Only fifteen years ago, the thought of socializing with people cyberly was absurd. Now, however, the thought of NOT having social media is ridiculous.

According to a survery done by Pew Research Center, 80% of teenagers that are computer users have accounts on social media accounts, such as Facebook, Twitter, or MySpace. That means that in NBTHS alone, about 1,440 students have social media accounts.

Mark Zuckerberg, founder and creator of Facebook, stated "Facebook was not originally created to be a company. It was built to accomplish a social mission - to make the world more open and connected."

Social networking helps keep people connected all around the world. No matter if someone lives across the street, or across the Atlantic Ocean, there are a million and one ways to stay in contact.

"People get to interact with their friends through pictures, messages, and videos which gives them a sense of false presence that substitutes the need for physically being next to the other person/

people," said 11th grader, Anuj Desai.

Desai, having both a Facebook and Twitter account, believes that for shy people, social networking gives them a chance to express themselves, without the fear of publicly speaking. A computer is not needed to access a social networking sites in this new time and age; these sites now have apps that can be downloaded on smart phones, this way, people can socialize cyberly while away from a computer.

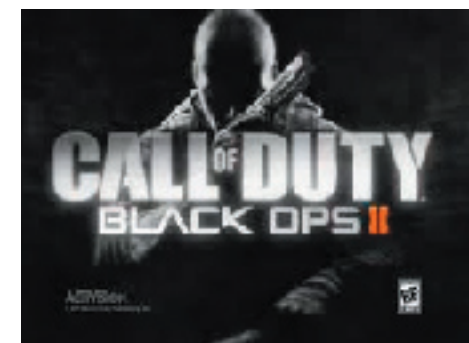
On socialnetworking.procon.org, it was recorded that in the year 2006, 60 million Americans alone received help with changing jobs, finding a new place to live, and buying a car just from people they connected with online. Not only is social media a good way to keep in contact, but it assists people all over the world.

Overall, social media has taken such a huge impact on the world. In a year, the amount of time spent on social networking sites has increased by 37%. Join the craze (if you haven't already) and become a member of a social networking site!

## Violent Video Games Cause Shootings?

Anthony Kovach, Staff Writer

Every person in the room will get mutual chills when a person mentions the three words "Sandy Hook Elementary." As most of us know, Sandy Hook Elementary was the site where a brutal and grievous shooting occurred stripping 20 innocent children of their lives. The motives of Adam Lanza, the deceased shooter, remain unclear. However, this tragedy has given rise to a newer issue, and quite a bold one as well.



Courtesy of Google

Upon discovering Adam Lanza's avid addiction to the first person shooter video game, Call of Duty, the media felt it necessary to load the blame cannon and fire directly at violent video games in their entirety. So, is this move appropriate? I think not.

Granted, many gamers have since taken it upon themselves to cease playing these games as homage to the Sandy Hook victims.

This is completely acceptable and quite noble. However, to even begin to believe outlawing games of this caliber is a possibility is quite reasonable (and affectionately) insane. Firstly, millions of teens and thousands of adults indulge in console and PC gaming almost daily as Lanza had. Moreover, not even one ever received the notion to inflict harm upon an entire school. In order to, a significant mental disorder must be present. To have those thoughts in the least, one must be cognitively unhinged as Lanza may have been. Secondly, a banning of such games would cause civil distress.

The gaming community is quite large when taken as a whole. Finally, it is clear that violent games did not influence a violent action of any sort. To point blame to games as the catalyst for a terrible tragedy is seeking nothing more but a relieving scapegoat to be publicly aired as opposed to a shocking truth.

## What Sells: A Pretty Face or Talent?

Chyna Woods, Contributing Writer

What makes someone attracted to an artist? Is it the genuine talent or the artist's alluring features behind the instruments or microphone? It's a question that seems to be on everyone's mind these days.

What determines your fame? Some may say it's the record that you put out. You can't make money without selling records and concert tickets. But, are fans just buying records to gaze at the pretty boy face? A pretty face sells posters and shows just as fast. I'm sure teen pop stars would agree.

Talent and looks are involved in the possession of fame. In some cases, once fame is achieved, a new look and style is created for a person.

Although talent and looks will render a person famous, the level of fame they acquire will depend on what they are famous for. People constantly under the watchful eye of the public benefit from their looks because their appearances boost their popularity.

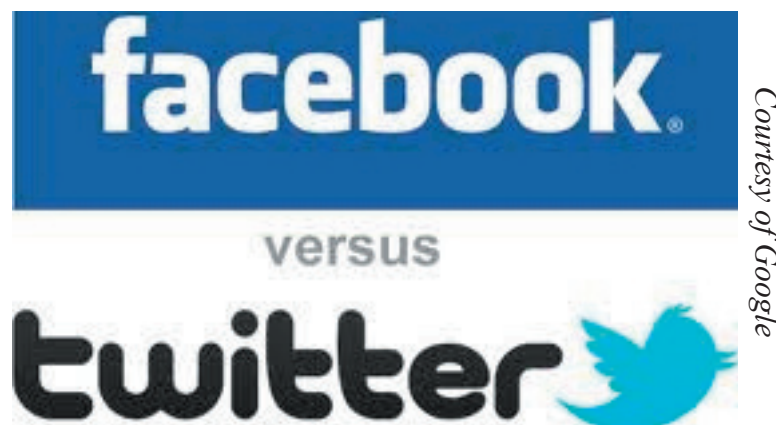
Looks can also be considered superficial and if one lets their talent be defined only by looks, their fame will most likely be short-lived.

The field of marketing has helped create styles and those who were not blessed with natural good looks. Writing, directing, photography and drawing, to name a few examples, have defined looks in terms of style. Some people have famous names and works of art and

faces. Some people only achieve one or two of the previous three.

Genuine talent will get you further in your musical career than good looks, although this path to success is more of a struggle. You know fans are there because they love your inspirational music rather than your body. You can actually connect with your fans, instead of calling security on some crazy fan girls.

Musicians are not called "musicians" because of their looks, but rather their skills with an instrument and a voice. True fans are what make you famous, not your looks. Without your fans, you are nothing but a talentless, pretty face.



## Pretty Little Liars

Tiffany Smith, Staff Writer

The season premiere of *Pretty Little Liars*, “She’s Better Now”, aired on January 8th, 2013. The long anticipated return of the show created much excitement in the hearts of fans.

At the start of the episode, we see a hooded figure we’ve all become so familiar with on a skateboard, getting chased down by a black SUV. Later as the skateboarder narrowly escapes, the camera zooms in on the mysterious driver, who turns out to be Toby.

Elsewhere in Rosewood, Mona visits Hanna in the middle of the night. She tells Hanna that after getting out of the Mental Institute, she’s being forced to return to Rosewood High. She claims to be a changed Mona.

As we recapped with the various lives of the girls, the underlying secrets and ulterior motives began to resurface. Some of the events included someone placing a brain in Mona’s locker, a fire nearly killing Meredith, and Mona and Jason caught hugging and conversing.

Also, a notebook is found in the Janitors office. At first it appears to be Mona’s, but it turns out to be an old journal of Ali’s.

Who started the fire? Aria’s father had a hitch that it was Aria and her friends. Byron made a misstep here, allowing Aria to question his secrets.

Also, Mona’s return caused incredible judgments. No one was able to see through her façade, other than the girls.

The episode ended with A tampering with someone’s bike. The unknown rider soon rode away, falling off shortly after.

Of course the shows fans will never die, one can’t help but to feel a bit let down.

While the Mr. Santa Maria from the English Department said “I feel disappointed in the outcome of the show. There wasn’t enough clarification”.

In the weeks since, the suspense has been piling up. Secrets are coming undone.

In the episode titled “Mona-Mania” the girls return to the Janitors office in the hopes of retrieving Ali’s journal. It turns out to be wiped clean, or entirely replaced.

Spencer is concerned about her position as Academic Decathlon captain as Mona has tried to run for the spot after the previous captain got into a bike accident.

Aria asks her mother about her fathers whereabouts on the night of Ali’s death. She’s convinced that her father got her mother drunk so he could sneak out and meet Ali.

Spencer is later defeated by Mona in a head to head Decathlon competition after getting too cocky. Hanna visits Lucas’ house and finds that Mona has been blackmailing him. In addition, Byron rummages through Arias things to find torn out diary pages of Ali’s, containing juicy information about him.

The episode ends with Aria and Meredith talking over Byron’s motives. Aria begins to

trust Meredith. Finally, A is seen burying masks from the night of the Halloween Train party.

The next episode, titled “Misery Loves Company”, causes some real commotion.

Aria begins to get comfortable around Meredith. Down with the flu, Aria begins drinking Meredith’s “remedy”.

Hanna gets knocked over with a line of mannequins at a job interview at a shop downtown. A throws a set of keys her way.

Toby is revealed as A by Spencer, after sneaking into her house, searching for the keys given to Hanna. Spencer is utterly heartbroken.

Later, Aria is found trapped in the house by Meredith. She had been drugging her. After Hanna and Emily go to see how she’s doing as she wasn’t picking up her phone, they get trapped in the basement with Aria before Aria’s dad came to the rescue.

“Out of the Frying Pan, Into the Inferno” revealed some of Spencer’s deepest fears. After the realization that Toby is A, Spencer is bitter and withdrawn from all her friends.

A disguises his or her number as Aria’s, and proceeds to text Spencer a lie about Ezra breaking up with her. In rage, Spencer confronts Ezra and slips the secret about his child. Spencer doesn’t realize what had happened until the damage was done.

In addition, Spencer hires a private investigator to see where the

key Toby was looking for led to.

At the end of the episode, Ezra tells Aria that he was finally going to meet his son.

As for the rest of the season, I hope you tune in to see the rest of the twists and turns of PLL.

TV S

## Sidewalk Survey:

What show do you enjoy watching during the evening?



“Spongebob Squarepants”

Bianca Rodriguez ‘15



“Big Bang Theory”

Gabby Gallardo ‘15



“House”

Maleyni Nunez ‘13



“Dance Moms”

Kaila Vannoy ‘14

## Catfish: The TV Show

*Gabrielle Jarvis, Staff Writer*

Catfish: The TV Show airs on MTV every Monday at 10 pm. The show reveals people's relationship drama via the internet.

A "catfish" is a person who creates a fake profile on a social network, using someone else's pictures and information to meet random people.

Nev Schulman and his cameraman Max Joseph travel around the country meeting hopeless romantics who believe their significant other is hiding their identity from them.

Schulman's brother Ariel taped him while meeting the woman who "catfished" him. The random tapings became a documentary named "Catfish", it was a huge success.

After Schulman's ridiculous experience he decided to help people in the same predicament. The season includes many different twists and turns. In every episode there is a different experience.

The happy endings vary, most of the time the couple

decides to continue a friendship. Rarely does the friendship blossom into a relationship.

Catfish: The TV Show has truly taken America by storm. The first show's airing received over 2.68 million views and on December 19, 2012 MTV revealed the show will be on for a second season.

Catfish explains that people don't pretend to be someone else for no reason. The people that appear on the show have legitimate reasons for hiding their identity. Everyone is just looking for love and their place in the world.



*Courtesy of Google Images*

eries

## The Walking Dead Overruns!

*Anthony Kovach, Staff Writer*

The infection has been steadily spreading and encompassing many of the world's population along with a good chunk of the NBTHS students. The Walking Dead (the television series based on the comics by Robert Kirkman) has certainly left a lasting impression on TV and its viewers. The show has created nothing a zombie flick has before: a social craze for zombies!

The grotesque undead creatures made their way from the screen in our homes to a plethora of aspects of daily life mostly due to the airing of the award-winning and astonishing series from producers Frank Darabont, Gale Anne Hurd, Robert Kirkman, Glen Mazzara, David Alpert, and Charles H. Eglee.

The drama-horror flick has developed a massive following since its premiere in 2010. As of the second season, the properly named Talking Dead is a popular talk show which airs every Sunday night and discusses

the episode of The Walking Dead which proceeds it. The talk show is hosted by comedian Chris Hardwick and features an abundance of guests who share their own opinion of the characters and ideals of the renowned series.

The third midseason premiere of The Walking Dead aired February 10. And with its return, the series clocked a record-shattering high of 12.3 million viewers, making this the largest simultaneous viewing of a television series in history. Ironically, none other than AMC's The Walking Dead season 3 premiere of October 14 set the previous record. Entertainment Weekly raves it is "the greatest thriller ever produced for television," making it obvious the show's phenomenal ratings yield its status as a social juggernaut.

The Walking Dead revolves around a post-apocalyptic world in

which the dead masses reanimate as "walkers" or zombies. It is discovered through the plot; they feed on human flesh and can only be killed (or killed again) by the classic destroying of the brain. It is also revealed in the second season all humans are already infected by the disease causing the dead to turn. The show follows hero Rick Grimes played by Andrew Lincoln. Rick is a deputy in the Atlanta sheriff's office and awakes from a coma in an abandon hospital. He proceeds to search for his wife, Lori (Sarah Wayne Callies) and son, Carl (Chandler Riggs). The Grimes family is reunited along with Rick's fellow deputy and best friend Shane (Jon Bernthal) along with a gigantic group of fellow survivors. Rick soon rises to the position of leader of the group.

After several heartbreaking losses, frightening close-calls, hopeful new members, an

inevitable mutiny, and one steamy relationship the group is diminished to just a handful of the most careful and skilled survivors. Season two tests Rick's leadership abilities and season three tests his mental capacity. Season three also introduces the most formidable opponent of Rick: the Governor. And Woodbury, the town run by the Governor proclaimed to be the only safe haven on Earth.

In the nine episodes of season three that have aired so far, the group has witnessed some of the most damaging deaths and cheerful moments. And the birth of a beacon of inundating hope. If you are not a fanatic of The Walking Dead now is as good a time as any to become one. The Walking Dead can be seen on AMC (channel 43) at 9pm every Sunday night. Take up arms against the walking menaces and don't get devoured.

## Schools Scramble to Recover after Devastating Storm

*Akshay Malavade, Contributing Writer*

Schools around New Jersey were greatly affected by the recent catastrophe caused by Hurricane Sandy. They closed down early to give students a heads up that the storm could be something big. But one school had the problem of deciding whether or not to close the school, when every other community around them was announcing closings for the week. Finally, the morning before the day that the storm was going to hit, the school announced that they would be closed for two days.

This school and community was North Brunswick Township. They called for two days off for school, and later, ended up calling every day that week to let students know that schools would be closed. The high school was made a relief center, even though it did not have full power.

I feel that the township could have handled the situation better by making one phone call saying there would be no school for the week. They ended up making much more work for themselves, by calling

each student of the community and telling them everyday, for seven days, that there would not be school that day.

To add to that, Halloween that was supposed to be on Wednesday had been postponed till Monday for the entire state of New Jersey, had been ignored, and was officially made Friday. This added to the mayhem that was caused by Hurricane Sandy. It was another one of those things that could have been handled much more smoothly by the Township, but was not.

Because of the delays, the Township is left with no snow days, and will have to take days off of Spring break if needed.

Instead of all of this, North Brunswick could just have saved themselves much work, and could have made one phone call explaining the Halloween postponing, and schools being closed for the week. This is a lesson that must be learned by the North Brunswick Township, because storms like this could happen again, and they need to be solved a better way.

## Sleep Deprivation in Teens

*Autumn Philip, Contributing Writer*

Almost all teenagers are deprived of sleep; especially in their high school years.

With late night studying and early morning alarm clocks, it's hard to get in the recommended amount of sleep is 8 ½ to 10 hours.

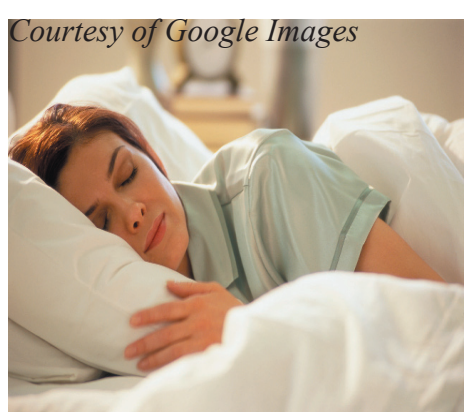
"Almost all teen-agers, as they reach puberty, become walking zombies because they are getting far too little sleep," says Cornell University psychologist James B. Maas.

Researchers at the university concluded that teens that start school later compared to those who started earlier were observed to improve on average an entire letter grade.

Most teens do not make the recommended amount of sleep after taking a survey high school teenagers sleep on average 6 ½ hours on a school night.

Not getting enough sleep can be the cause of many conflicts which are very common in high school. disciplinary issues in a student can just simply be avoided in some cases by more sleep. Often more than not you find students sleeping during the day especially during the first period of the day because students are just simply tired.

Getting more sleep throughout your high school career will help improve your academics and social life.



## How Families Recover from Natural Disasters

*Amy Roth, Contributing Writer*

It is unfortunate and unforgettable to experience such horrific natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, etc. However, it is so much harder to make it out alive and deal with the lingering physical, emotional, and financial effects.

Recovering from a natural disaster may seem impossible at first, but it just takes time. Coping with such a tragedy is a gradual process that can effect the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of a person.

However, there are many ways in which families can learn to deal with their sadness and stress in positive ways. Many victims of natural disasters turn to others for help, whether it is their

family, friends, community, or even professional help.

Another way for families to recover from natural disasters is by attempting to maintain their usual traditions and routines. By giving yourself some time to relax and get back into the swing of things, you are less likely to spend your time

disasters, especially in deprived areas. With the help of funds and donations, communities are able to rebuild towns and cities that were lost due to the destruction caused by disasters.

There are many ways for families to pull through after experiencing a devastating tragedy.

With the help of others, communities, and organizations, we can help rebuild areas and give families some of what they lost.

With everyone's encouragement and support, victims can change the way they view the

situation and move forward. As much as it may seem impossible to recover from a natural disaster, with the help of others, nothing is impossible.

*Courtesy of Google Images*



grieving and mourning.

By receiving help from the community, families are much more likely to recover from natural

## The Mayan Calendar

*Mark Loshak, Contributing Writer*

For the past year there has been popular belief there will be a cataclysmic or transformative turn of events in human history on December 21st, 2012. This belief comes from recent studies of the Mayan calendar where it abruptly stops on that very date.

There is many somewhat convincing theories for why this may be. One theory suggests that this date marks a new era for humanity where all inhabitants of earth undergo a positive physical or spiritual transformation.

The seemingly more popular

belief, suggests that this date is the end of the world or some other catastrophe. Scenarios suggesting the end of the world include the arrival of the next solar maximum, an interaction between Earth and the black hole at the center of the galaxy, or Earth's collision with a planet called "Nibiru".

The Mayan Calendar was used in pre-Columbian Mesoamerica and some modern places such as Guatemala, Veracruz, Oaxaca and Chiapas, Mexico. Each tzolk'in, or Mayan year, usually had 260 days.

It is unknown what the origin of

the tzolk'in is but there are a few theories.

These theories include one that states that the calendar came from mathematical operations based on the numbers thirteen and twenty, which were important numbers to the Mayan people. The numbers multiplied together equal 260.

This date regarded as the end-date of a 5125-year-long cycle in the Mesoamerican Long Count calendar has struck fear into society, of course many are skeptical, almost as much as Y2K back in the year 2000.

## Senior Leaders Push for Positive Progress

*Nicholas Onorati, Contributing Writer*

This year's Senior Leadership group is working hard to effectively present information to underclassmen. This dedicated group of students is constantly finding new ways to help teach their freshmen counterparts.

Tracy Latchaw, one of the teachers of this class, explained "We have a really good group of kids this year and we are excited to make a difference in the school community."

The group of peer mentors helps the freshmen by performing skits, running workshops, and being in homeroom with the freshmen.

Ally Baier, a member of the group, said "the skits are my favorite aspect of Senior Leadership. It is such a fun way to get the freshmen excited and the workshops are packed with information."

But the class is not all fun and games, these students spend their class time learning the information that they have to teach the freshmen. When they are not learning new information they are practicing for their skits or trying to find new ways to help teach the freshmen.

Another member of the esteemed group, Harrison Kaye, stated us that "our main goal is to present the freshmen with as much information as possible to help them

make informed decisions and make it through freshman year."

The group tries hard to make sure that the students get as much information as they possibly can.

Latchaw explained that, "the key to decision making is that the decisions are educated and sober."

The seniors work tirelessly to promote positive attitudes in school and good decision making skills.

Freshman Erica Cha believes "the seniors do a good job of teaching us while keeping us interested."

Baier explained that "there is no point in presenting information if the students are not interested. The key is getting them interacting and excited to learn."

Baier also went on to say that the reason the seniors are in freshmen homerooms is so the freshmen can address any problems that they have and so that they have someone that they are comfortable seeking advice from.

The seniors are doing everything they can to help the freshmen. All these efforts are to help the freshmen transition into the high school, promote good decision making skills and positive attitudes, and ultimately help make the school environment safe and positive.

## Google Glasses

*Nolan Salas, Contributing Writer*

Google Inc. has introduced a brand new device. The device is a pair of glasses, but not just any glasses. These glasses could allow you to view the weather, check the news on your favorite sports teams or even just ask for simple directions to the nearest restaurant. These glasses are known as Project Glass.

Project Glass is a "research and development" program in which Google Inc. is developing an "augmented reality head mounted display", better known as a HMD. The device will have information that is fed to the user through a smartphone-like format by looking into a little glass rectangle at the right side of the device. The user will also be able to use the Internet through voice commands.

The size and appearance of the device is only a aluminum strip with 2 nose pads supporting the structure as it integrates with a user's own pair of glasses or with the devices own lenses, with a heads up display or a 'HUD' showing the information that the user needs.

Prototypes of the device have already been in testing by multiple



*Courtesy of Google Images*

applicants, such as Google Co-founder Sergey Brin and California Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom. The reception to the device has been positive and has been noted as Time Magazine's "Best Inventions of the Year 2012" next to such objects like the Curiosity Rover that landed on Mars earlier this year.

With all these features the reviews have been fairly positive and none have been targeted at the bad side of the device. The release date is in late 2013 to early 2014 for the developers who tested and made the device; the date for the consumer usage has not yet been announced.

## About The Banner

As a news publication of North Brunswick Township High School, The Banner serves to provide students with interesting, timely and important information about the school and community. Its staff covers events and stories that are pertinent to the student body at NBTHS.

While honoring the provisions the school has established to maintain a safe environment for its students, the staff upholds freedom of speech as ruled in *Tinker vs. Des Moines*.

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

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# We Are North Brunswick!

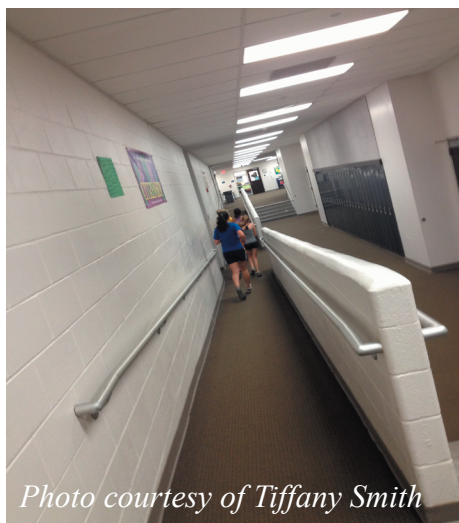
## Overcoming Failure

*Chris Iocca, Contributing Writer*

### Girls Track

*Ami Patel, Staff Writer*

Co-captains Casey DeStefano and Talyah Winston are leading their team with victories such as the White Division Championship for GMC. Since the beginning of the season, “everyone has taken a new role”. The team is close-knit, with this season bringing them together like a family. With this unity, they say, “We are track nation”.



*Photo courtesy of Tiffany Smith*  
GIRLS DURING THEIR PRACTICE

Mets starting pitcher R.A. Dickey finished off his remarkable season by being awarded with the National League (NL) Cy Young award. The Cy Young award is always awarded to the best pitcher in the league. D i c k e y finished his stellar year with twenty

Through many hours of practice and motivation, the 38 year old knuckleballer received 27 of the 32 first place votes for the most prestigious pitching award.

“It’s great to see a story like this.” Stated Victor Konstantinovsky a regular follower of baseball.



*Photo courtesy of Google Images*

wins, which was only one win behind Gio Gonzalez of the Washington Nationals for the most wins in the National League. Dickey’s 2.73 earned run average was second behind Clayton Kershaw.

This year proved to be the height of Dickey’s career which almost ended two years ago when he was the first cut in spring training for the team that he won the award with. In 2010, Dickey was the first cut of the New York Mets.

“He is a class act guy that epitomizes the role of an ace pitcher.” He went on to say.

The Mets have rewarded Dickey with a 5 million dollar extension for the 2013 season. He also has written an autobiography and is considered one of the most elite pitchers in the Major Leagues.

It is amazing how one year can change someone’s life either for the best or the worst. It’s a great story for a great man.

## F.T.W. (Field & Winter Track)

*Ryan Lehnau, Contributing Writer*

We are now approaching the 2012-2013 winter season. With this new season, another year of Track and Field begins.

For those who are not fully aware of how diverse this sport is, here is what it is all about.

Track and Field is not limited to just running. In fact, there are much more aspects to this sport than simply running. First of all, there are two categories for runners, who can run either sprint or distance.

Our team consists of runners for the most part. There is also jumping, pole vaulting, and throwing. Jumpers can be either long, triple, or high jumpers. Throwers can throw shot put, javelin, or discus.

Our NBTHS team for the winter has only high jumping for the jumpers and shot put for the throwers. As for the pole vaulters, there is only one official participant representing our school.

Track and Field is considered one of the most difficult sports. This is because of the intensity of practice and competition. This intensity is what brings the excitement to the sport.

### Junior Varsity Basketball

*Ami Patel, Staff Writer*

Captains for this season are Lorenzo Williams and Kishan Patel. Their record for the season is 12 and 3. They have been having a great season, with a victory from the Christmas Tournament. The team is very close-knit and is going for a win at the GMC Championship.



### Boys Track

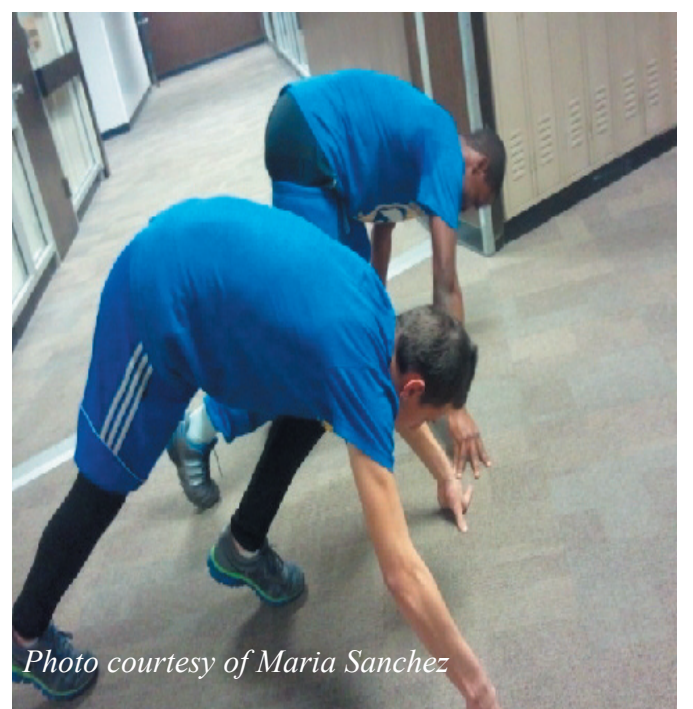
*Ami Patel, Staff Writer*

For the boys track team, co-captains CJ Wise and David Coffie-Owusu lead the team through a colossal season. Under their belts they have a victory from the White Division relay and the White Division Individual. The team is looking forward to ending the season with a worthy record.

### Varsity Basketball

*Ami Patel, Staff Writer*

The Varsity Basketball team’s captain, Jordan Gonzalez, has worked with his team through a great season. With only five games left until the end of the winter season, he is looking forward to playing at Saint Joe’s, and, hopefully, ending the season with on a good note.



*Photo courtesy of Maria Sanchez*

DAVID COFFIE AND NICK FERARI GET READY TO RACE DURING PRACTICE

### Wrestling

*Ami Patel, Staff Writer*

The wrestling team is lead by Ron Nazaro and is in need of major improvement according to the captain. The team has a 2 to 14 record. Though it may seem like a large deficit, the Raider spirit will prevail. Hopefully at their big tournament coming up in a few weeks, they will be able to prove themselves.