

# THE BANNER

November 2015

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

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## Get Rough in Powder Puff

*Mosam Naik, Contributing Writer*

The North Brunswick Township High School's Student Government Organization held its annual Powder Puff game on November 11th.

Powder Puff is a game in which the boys are the cheerleaders and the girls are the flag football players. The game starts off with a coin toss to determine which side is in possession of the ball. If the flag, which is worn around the waist, comes off, the play is considered dead.

Each grade competes in this event, representing their class with different color shirts.

Each class is allowed four coaches. There are twenty-five spots per team, with three alternate positions on a first come first serve basis. There is no limit on the number of cheerleaders allowed to perform.

Permission slips and fifteen dollars must be given to each grade's respective class advisor(s).

The class advisors are as follows: Ms. Hassenkamp and Mrs.



Photo Courtesy of Nimi Patel

**The senior Powder Puff players on the night of the big event.**

Eaton-Mercado for the seniors, Ms. Miller and Mrs. Slingerland for the juniors, Mr. Feliz and Ms. Nunez for the sophomores, and Ms. Miliano with Ms. Sholk for the freshman.

"I like how it's interactive and allows all classes to come together for this fun tradition at NBTHS,"

says Christina Ko, secretary of the Student Government Organization.

Not only is this an event to encourage school and class spirit, but it is also to raise money for the Student Government Organization's charity.

"Powder Puff is an old high school tradition that we've been

doing for several years. It's a fun school spirit activity to raise money for a good cause," says Mrs. Meg Wright, one of the advisors of the Student Government Organization.

Ultimately, the seniors beat the juniors in the championship, 28-0.

## Murder Mystery: Whodunit?

*Hiba Akhter, Staff Writer*

The annual Murder Mystery is an intense, yet humorous, interactive play that gives a role to the audience. The play starts out with the characters Delilah and Richards who are in a meeting with potential investors – which is actually the audience – to convince them to buy their research on cloning and everlasting youth.

In reality, the two characters are conning the investors and stealing research from the world-renowned scientist, Wilbur. The con gets even more scandalous when it is revealed that Delilah is Wilbur's wife and Richards is his lab assistant. As Delilah and Richards continue their sales pitch to the audience, Wilbur shows up with his lab partner, Melody.

Melody quickly realizes what is going on and tries to tell Wilbur that his research is being stolen. Yet two more characters,

Brit and Katrina, are introduced and they pose as humanitarians against Wilbur's research; they soon reveal themselves as another party interested in Wilbur's research.

While the characters argue about who the research really belongs to, Melody suddenly finds Wilbur dead. At this point, the audience members were astounded; the distraction of the argument had been so well timed, that no one noticed Wilbur's death, even though it was in the same setting.

Upon Wilbur's death, Deputy Pix arrives on the scene, adding an aspect of humor as she constantly tries to further her campaign during her investigation. She even had a photographer to take shots of her as she worked. Richards also ends up being a part of FBI, telling the audience that he was undercover the whole time, and then helps Deputy Pix with the investigation.

The play takes a new twist as Wilbur's clone, Wilbet shows up on the scene adding yet another person interested in Wilbur's research. Eventually, Wilbet is found dead just like Wilbur was. The characters grow more agitated, and sure enough, another character is added to the mass mystery. The character, Wilbu, is also a clone of Wilbur but he too dies shortly after he arrives. At this point, the audience can see that anyone that has a real claim to Wilbur's research is targeted.

Everyone's on edge and grappling for Wilbur's research and the investigation grows. Deputy Pix then requests the audience to share their thoughts and questions on the investigation and handed out a few index cards.

When the cards were handed back to Deputy Pix, she read some of them out loud and

asked the characters to answer. The improvisation was excellent—everyone answered in accordance to their character's personality and came up with their answer instantly. The questions helped to narrow down the investigation and the real killer(s) was revealed. It was an unpredictable, yet satisfying end, and definitely worth the time numerous plot twists.

All in all, the Murder Mystery was a great play and the audience generally had a great time and loved being a part of the show. The actors did a fantastic job and kept the audience engaged at all times; the included dinner was nice as well. The servers worked quickly, efficiently, and were more than helpful. I would definitely recommend going to next year's show.

# NYC Fashion Show

*Deina Jovani, Contributing Writer*

On September 21st, 2015 the 10-year annual anniversary for the NYC Fashion Show week began. Fashion Designers from all around the globe were bringing the latest styles in fashion for the Fall and Winter Collection of 2015.

The purpose behind the Fashion Show was for foreign designers to experiment with American designers to attain knowledge of their fabric, style, pattern, textures and put it all on one dress.

Experts like Alexander Wang are partnering up with Evian. Wang's exclusive packaging of Evian's bottle scheduled to be available at the 2016 fashion show after party, and will be available at select retailers. "There's a tendency to think that young designers only do fantasy fashion, but I'm more interested in making clothes that women can afford," says Alexander Wang.

Even grander events are happening in the fashion industry. Creator of Givenchy, Riccardo Tisci, was nominated as King of Fashion Week because of his commitment to diversity, which



Photo Courtesy of Riya Maniar

had boosted him up to a high position in the industry.

In addition to his diversity, his ad campaigns have helped him in the Fashion World. "I never bought fashion for myself. The only things I was obsessed with when I was young were Helmut Lang and Versace. At Givenchy, they asked me to do the men's for so long, but I didn't want to do it," says Tisci, who created Givenchy.

New York Fashion Show week can also be considered a reflection on the general population because the collections for 2015-2016 have given society a plan in changing their style or trying something new out other than what they normally are comfortable with. Clothes can really change people and boost their self esteem.

While fashion can provide so many different obstacles for people around the world, it can also encourage them to get in touch with different modeling agencies around the world.

# Financial Aid Made Easy: Through Text!

*Aissatou Diallo, Contributing Writer*

High school students no longer have to worry about questions they have about financial aid. All of the questions they have can be answered through text on their cell phone.

Beginning Monday, September 28, the Get Schooled Foundation released a texting service that can answer any question a student might have about applying to college, and for

financial aid and scholarships. They also provide the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, which guides students to finding out if they are qualified for student financial assistance.

The Program is benefiting thousands of students and families around America, because it gives them quick access to answers. "I think this texting service would benefit students because

they can learn which colleges offer financial aid," said Diamond Brown, NBTHS Junior.

Marie Groark, Get Schooled executive director shared, "It is important that all students can get their questions answered so they can make informed decisions." Students can text 335577 for questions. Questions can be asked in Spanish in addition to English. College education just became significantly easier.

## 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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## The Question of Academic Integrity

Deeksha Ajeya, Contributing Writer

Administrators are stressing the topic of academic integrity in the 2015-16 NBTHS school year.

Academic integrity is a moral code that aligns with being honest and responsible, and not cheating or plagiarizing. Student work will accurately reflect how much understanding they have and how much effort they put in, if this moral code is followed.

Many students violated the policy of academic integrity in the 2014-15 school year. "There were around twenty cases during the course of the school year and an additional ten during finals," according to Mr. Aaron Speller, Assistant Principal of the Class of 2018.

The punishment for cheating and plagiarizing often depends on the case specifically. Generally, cheating on homework (a minor violation) results in a referral. Cheating on a test or plagiarizing a major paper results in two days of "In School Suspension" (ISS).

In order to avoid further infractions, administrators have been reiterating the importance of academic integrity. Mr. Peter Clark, principal of NBTHS, makes daily announcements to bring this point across to students.

"These actions are being taken now to prepare students for college," Speller shares why having academic integrity will benefit students. Cheating and plagiarism is taken very seriously at the college level. These offenses can be as serious as a student getting expelled from a class or the college entirely.

When asked why he thinks students cheat, Speller responded, "Students cheat because of a lack of preparation and effort. But in most cases, they cheat because they put too much pressure on themselves and don't always believe they can succeed." Hopefully, the greater emphasis on academic integrity this school year will teach students to deal with pressure and succeed in the right way.

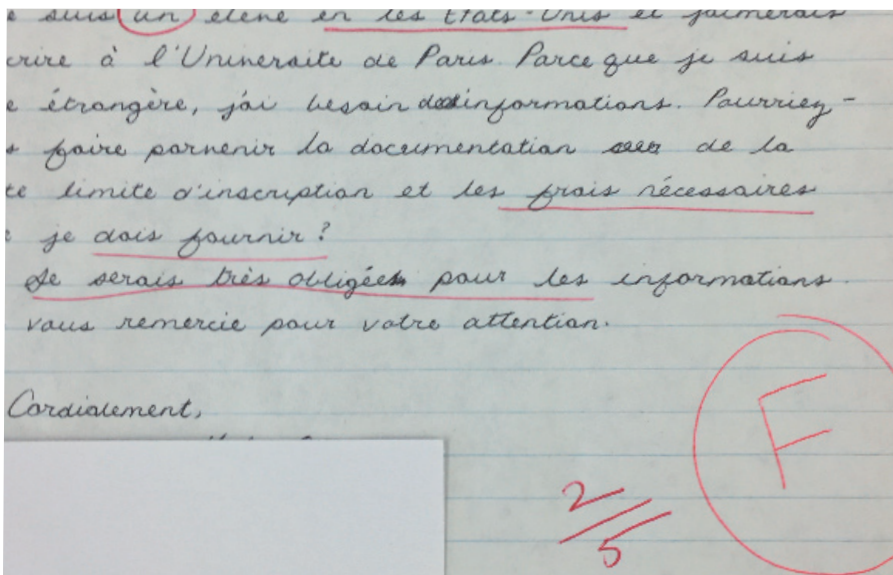


Photo courtesy of Kena Charva

This student received a poor grade.

## That's So Racist

Neha Ahmad, Staff Writer

Raven-Symoné was one of the only Disney Channel stars who grew up to have a reasonable lifestyle, or so we thought. Raven hosts a popular talk show, "The View," along with Whoopi Goldberg, Joy Behar, Candace Cameron Bure, Michelle Collins, and Paula Farris. These women give tips about things such as beauty, relationships, health and fashion.

On a recent episode of "The View," Symoné stated that she discriminated against "ghetto" names such as "Watermelondrea". This created much controversy on social media. Many people called her a hypocrite referencing back to an

episode of That's So Raven, season 3 episode 10: True Colors. In this episode, Raven Baxter wanted to get a job at a clothing store, but the boss didn't hire black people. This caused Raven and her friends to feel angry from the discrimination.

Not only did Raven experience racial inequality herself, but the TV show uses her real name—this shows that traditional names do not have to be assimilated into white American culture. Furthermore she was the main character of the show, which proves that people with "ghetto" or traditional names can still be hired.

## Student Spotlight: Evangelia Marin

Anthony Kovach, Staff Writer

Four years at North Brunswick Township High School (as well as any high school) would normally have a typical student griping day in and day out, fantasizing about college and drooling over the dismissal bell. Not Evangelia "Lia" Marin.

Sure, aspects of that may be true for her, but for the most part, Lia is as enthusiastic as they come and is a great deal involved in the school community. Not only is Lia a senior leader, doing our school atmosphere a great service by working tirelessly to inform the freshmen class about the dangers of sex and pregnancy, she is also a member of the Honors Choir, providing our school with one of its many powerful and beautiful voices. Lia is also the Treasurer of the Student Government Organization. She has a say in most, if not all, of the proceedings of the school's social events.

As if juggling all that was not enough, Lia takes another officer position in that she is the President of the Alchemists Theatre Company, managing the wonderful crew of students that make up NBTHS's star-studded,

award-winning drama club. If it was in any way unclear so far, Lia is destined for greatness, hence why The Banner chose to spotlight this magnificent senior in this issue. Those who know Lia describe her as lovely, kind, sweet, funny, caring and a great person overall. It is hard to match her determination and spirit when it comes to either academics or the arts.

Lia constantly challenges herself with a tough curriculum and tough roles in her plays. In fact, she recalls her first fall production with the Alchemists as the most vivid memory of her high school career that will stick with her into college. Leaving behind her colleagues, fellow students, and friends will be no easy task, as anyone who has had the pleasure of meeting Lia instantly feels attached to her bubbly personality and blissful attitude. Lia makes it known that she feels the same way about them. Lia's advice to her classmates and future students is to "chase your dreams because they're only dreams until you do something about them."

## Stay Trendy with New Fall Fashion

Arisleida Gonzalez, Contributing Writer

Don't stay behind! Pull out the trench coats, bomber jackets, and warm boots for this season! Here's the personal guide to the latest trends for this upcoming chilly weather. Stay tuned for this season's colors, with a stormy gray, cool colored outfit to make any pair of vivid shoes pop or any accessory, like a floppy hat, finish the look.

A safari tone, or olive green outfit matches with the mood of this season and according to the author of "Fall/Winter 2015-2016" on "style.com", Tamar Najarian, this shade is "a sophisticated and chic color that brings a cool undertone to any garment while still showing it off as a strong piece." Nonetheless, this shade can be simple and neutral as a blouse for a female and a detailed necklace will make it come together nicely. As for a guy, the safari green

shade on pants and a plain collared shirt will present a professional attire.

Leather garments are also becoming more popular for the season. Don't leave out the leather coats to add the edgy look on an outfit as well. Any local stores like H&M, Forever 21, and Urban Outfitters etc, will include all different styles of a leather jacket if interested. The writer of the website "bestfashionblog.com," Leo, states "What I love the most about leather fabric, is the way it can be translated to more chic and smart looks, as well as more professional and sophisticated ones." Scarves, for both men and women, also pair up perfectly for the breezy weather that's on its way. Stay active today with trendy fall fashion!

## The Problem With White Feminism

*Isha Chavva, Staff Writer*

Feminism is winning. Look around you. Films like *Mad Max: Fury Road* are finally presenting women as powerful heroes; artists and musicians like Taylor Swift and Lena Dunham are proving that relationships between women are just as important as those between men. Just a few weeks ago, Sarah Gavron's film *Suffragette* powerfully depicted the struggle of women earning the right to vote in Britain.

Feminism is mainstream now, right?

Wrong. Correction: white feminism is mainstream now.

Take a closer look at everything that's presented to you as feminism, and the problems become more apparent. Yes, Taylor Swift's *Bad Blood* video brought to screaming color a duel between powerful women--but she gained used her newfound platform to silence female rapper Nicki Minaj.

Swift interrupted Minaj's comments about bias in the Video Music Awards, shutting Minaj's discussion of race and body size down with a simple "I've done nothing but love & support you. It's unlike you to pit women against each other."--ignoring the fact that Minaj's comments were general critiques of the industry and not directed at Swift.

Yes, *Suffragette* portrayed harrowingly the measures women had to take for voting rights--but excluded all suffragettes of color, ignoring Indian suffragettes, including Princess Sophia Duleep Singh, the daughter of Maharaja Duleep Singh, who was a prominent suffragette and member of the Women's Social and Political Union.

Not even the extras in the factories saw a drop of color, despite the fact that East London in the early 20th century was a prime location for migrant and ethnic communities.

What's the big deal? you might be asking. Just because these specific examples focus on white women doesn't mean that all of modern feminism is. "There's no such thing as white feminism--we're all standing together to take down the patriarchy!" you cry. "Let's destroy the wage gap!"

Wrong, again. Those, like Swift, who complain about "pitting women against each other"--are also the first to deny the very real disparities that women of color face, even within a "feminist" society.

The oft-complained about wage gap between men and women, a man's \$1 to a woman's seventy-nine cents, is actually the wage gap between white men and white women. Seventy-nine cents to a dollar is certainly a problem--but what about Hawaiian and Pacific Islander women's' sixty-five cents to a white man's dollar? What about African-American women's' sixty-four cents, Native American women's' fifty-nine cents, and Latina women's' fifty-four cents?

The problem with white feminism is twofold: it either ignores the struggles faced by women and people of color entirely, or uses it to further its own, white, agendas.

White feminists cheered when Miley Cyrus embraced her sexuality in her *We Can't Stop* music video but ignored her rampant use of black women's bodies as mere props to twerk with.

When Beyonce identified as a feminist, however, the media was

quick to criticize her and question this self-identification. Even UN Women Goodwill Ambassador Emma Watson said that "her message felt very conflicted... it felt very male, such a male voyeuristic experience of her."

White feminists laugh at the names and lifestyles of black culture, but are quick to appropriate black fashion, music, and speech (see: Kylie Jenner's cornrows paired with the trending tag #whitegirlsdobetter.)

Even more frustrating than mainstream media's ignorance the complexities of women is color is its fascination with smothering those stories with stereotypes.

We're all familiar with the reductions, the exotifications--the "spicy" Latinas, the Asian girls who are all quiet geniuses, the loud and independent black women. The "white girl stereotype", however, is simply an affinity for leggings and Starbucks--not a complete erasure of their personalities. Where is the outrage?

If personalities can be crunched into ignorant stereotypes, so can struggles. Many feminists, even well-meaning ones, buy wholly into the idea that all women outside their "feminist" home country are more oppressed than they are.

One example of this is the idea that all Muslim women are oppressed. Says one Muslim student from North Brunswick Township High School about the myth that Muslim women have no rights whatsoever: "I hate when ignorant people try to teach people... When they teach it, everyone gets messed up, and everyone gets more ignorant... everyone's getting misinformation that gives them

a bad view of Islam, which hurts Muslims, because we're always viewed negatively. We're not as negative as everyone assumes."

Now, before getting upset, remember: being white and being a feminist does not automatically make one a White Feminist.

White feminist, and white feminism, are names given to a brand of feminism that focuses on the differences between men and women without stopping to consider, purposely trying to smother, or taking advantage of the differences between women of different races, ethnicities, socioeconomic levels, sexualities, and other marginalized groups. In essence, white feminism doesn't care about examining intersectionality carefully and respectfully.

White feminism says that splitting into separate groups is pointless, and that the only way we will be able to accomplish anything is if we work together--ignoring that this exact philosophy is what got American white women the vote in 1920, while black women weren't free to put their votes in the voting box for the next thirty-five years.

"There's a higher cause," they say. Sure, we're all united under the name of feminism, but that doesn't mean that we have to ignore the struggles of women of color.

In fact, the only way that feminism will make a global difference in the long run is if it expands to be intersectional, to view the problems faced by poor women, brown women, gay women--all women--and seek to educate, make aware, and create change.

## How Much Information is Too Much?

*John Onuorah, Contributing Writer*

Information! People nowadays feel like they need to know everything, but how much information is too much information?

These days, people tend to "stalk" others on social media or interfere in others' personal space and privacy. This behavior proves that people no longer respect

boundaries; they always want to know more. Sometimes, however, the coin is flipped--sometimes it is those very "stalkers" who give out personal information to others. Having all this information readily available for unknown people may not be a wise decision. We should always respect our own boundaries and not give out our personal information online.

"Although social media tends to be fun, it can be harmful due to the information we expose," states Hiloni Kapadia, a North Brunswick Township High School student.

We give out our names, addresses, phone numbers, and more, and we often forget that not everyone should have this information about because it can be used for something dangerous.

Today, in the twenty-first century, information is everywhere; people can easily track or hack others' accounts on Google, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc.

Media users should learn how to minimize the amount of personal information they give out to people and reduce their need to know every detail of others' lives.

## Behind the Scenes of the Athletic Department

Rashaun Brown, Contributing Writer

When the topic of school sports is brought up, our hard working student athletes typically come to mind. But what about the heroes behind the athletes? Mr. Louis Emanuel, head of the athletics department, has a job that entails more work than one might realize. When asked about what the athletics department does, he responded “The athletics department is all about the dissemination of information to the right people at the right time”.

On a more detailed level, the athletes department is responsible for organizing officials/referees,

transporting student athletes, welcoming rival teams, checking for student athletes, eligibility and, recording in game statistics.

Most of all it is responsible for safety of the student athletes, both on the field and in the hallways. Emanuel credits “Billy Byrnes, John Neary, Jason Scholks, Sue Laffy, and Lorraine Knox with all the success this Department has achieved”.

The athletics department is truly at the heart of school sports and is akin to a well-oiled machine. These staff are the heroes behind the athletes.

**Congratulations to our student athletes for signing National Letters of Intent!**

**Tatum Altman,  
West Chester University**

**Samantha Mehalick,  
Marist College**

**Eric Reardon,  
Rutgers University**

## Sports Revolutionizes

Rosemary Lupovich, Contributing Writer

The revolution of professional gaming in the sports industry is constantly growing with the help of the most playing online game - League of Legends.

LoLeSports is a competitive electronic sports coasting industry that takes place worldwide. As the community grows, the competition and popularity grows as well, sparking the interests of potential players. “We are here (NA’s biggest stadium) for a computer game!” [VICE documentary reporter] As much as this documentary was narrow minded, this is how

eSports look to the average person.

It’s much more than just a computer game for these professional players. It’s their career - how they make a living.

There is still much controversy about whether or not League of Legends is a sport even though the US government has confirmed LoL as a dedicated sport more than two years ago. “...this is something we’ve been working towards for a long time and we are very happy that it has finally happened.” [eSports Manager, Nick Allen].

Photo Courtesy of Colleen Binbinon



The girls tennis team had a successful season and celebrated on senior night.

## Girls Varsity Tennis Team

Abhie Maharana, Contributing Writer

With the season almost over, the Girls Varsity Tennis Team is practicing their hardest to get the most out of it. Colleen Binbinon and Komal Grover, the captains of the team, along with the Girls Varsity Tennis Team coaches, are putting in their hard work and dedication to direct the team to a memorable and successful season.

This team of seven varsity players and two captains needs to practice its hardest in order to be prepared for any upcoming matches.

Colleen Binbinon says that “We go to the Thomas Edison Park by the Middlesex County College every day, and the first thing we usually do when we get off the bus is run a lap or two around the field by the courts. Then, we stretch and do plyometrics, like shuffling, skipping and lunging. After that, we warm up, which consists of hitting short court, and then moving back to the baseline and hitting down the line and cross court, and we also do

volleys, overheads, and serves. A normal practice consists of warm up and drilling, done by the coaches.”

As the players battle their way in the White Division, they play against different competitors, their hardest being Wardlaw-Hartridge. When it comes to matches, the captains give a pep talk before they start to play. They talk about staying confident in themselves and just playing their game. The captains of the team are persistent when working with the team, and it took some time to adjust the rankings of each team member in the team, before they started to play.

Each team member contributes to the team, and the coaches also put in their time to help give the team a direction, and enhance the teams’ overall skills. The team is pushing itself to work hard and really make North Brunswick proud to have an amazing and dedicated Girls Varsity Tennis Team.

Photo Courtesy of Colleen Binbinon



The team captains, Colleen Binbinon and Komal Grover led their team in having a good season.