

THE BANNER

October 2014

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

Volume 30, Issue 01

Hello, Sports Renovations!

Isha Chavva, Staff Writer

On Friday, September 17, North Brunswick Township High School opened its doors--or, rather, its gates--to two sparkling-new and solely-needed changes to the school: renovations to the football and soccer fields.

The two ceremonies took place on a sunny Friday afternoon. A small but enthusiastic group gathered first in front of the new soccer field, and later in front of the football field, shortly before the first football game of the season. Special guests who spoke at the ceremony included Stan Williston (who the football field is named after), Joe Fritzsche (who the Raider snack hut is named after), and even Mayor Womack himself.

The excitement in the air was palpable, and certainly well warranted. As one steps onto either field, the difference between past and present is immediately felt. Gone is the scrubby grass, replaced by bright, clean turf in yellow, blue, white, and, of course, green. The bleachers, too, are being improved, and the wobbly steel skeletons that once held up hundreds of Raiders fans have been upgraded to a more appealing, fortified structure. The new image--fresher, stronger--better reflects not only what North Brunswick sports teams are today, but what they aim to become in the future.

Despite the incredible aesthetic improvements these revamps bring to the school, they are not just for



Courtesy of Coogle Images

The renovation has greatly improved the quality of the field.

the fun of it. North Brunswick has been in desperate need of updated sports fields for years. Says NBTHS principal Mr. Peter Clark, "I've been in the district for 35 for years, so when you see all this progress being made, it certainly makes me very proud of our district and of our community."

The renovations to the sports fields help North Brunswick improve its image, and undoubtedly help boost the sports' teams ability

to succeed, but most importantly of all, they tie the community together. It is just like Mr. Clark said: "With the fields being named after Mr. Williston and Mr. Libro, and them coming back, it's part of the family community. And that's what North Brunswick has always been about. And sometimes you lose that tradition. And sometimes you need some sort of event like this, whether it be an addition to a building, or to

a facility... it brings everybody back together and brings them united."

There's nothing that evokes feelings of unity than bringing the people together to reminisce about the past and discuss how far North Brunswick has come as a whole. In the end, these little things in a community are what hold the fabric of our town together, and remind us of what it really means to be North Brunswick.

Pepping Up For Pep Week

Haley Adams, Staff Writer

The results of this year's fall pep rally left three quarters of the student body a little less than thrilled, because they didn't have the bragging rights which would come with earning the spirit cup. Luckily, there are plenty of things which can be improved upon to achieve better results in the upcoming winter and spring pep rallies.

Planning your outfits in advance is a great way to make sure that you're prepared for all five days

of pep week. Friday will always be blue and gold so have your Raider gear ready. Making this a group activity with your friends can make pep week even more motivating.

The senior class always has a real advantage when it comes to expendable income for things like penny wars and the other events for the school charity.

Underclassmen, don't fret, you still have a chance, make sure your friends all realize that it's a part

of the competition. If you happen to pay cash for lunch, donate the extra fifty cents you would normally spend on a cookie or something and donate, a hard, but definitely worth doing, act.

Banners are a big deal for pep rallies which most people seem to overlook, so for anyone with even the slightest bit of artistic ability help is always needed. On the actual day of the pep rally, try to have a vague idea as to who may want

to compete, because preparation is a pillar of success.

Don't count seasonal athletes, because often at times they have the talents needed to succeed for the challenges but will never get the chance because they're separated from their classes. These five steps can make or break a class for the pep rally, so follow them and keep the race for the spirit cup interesting.

EV-D68: Be Prepared

Michael Osei, Staff Writer

Infecting by the hundreds, the Enterovirus D-68 is becoming a threat to the United States. Enterovirus D-68, also known as EV-D68, is a respiratory illness that has sickened more than 500 people across the country.

EV-D68 first appeared in the U.S in California, 1968, but never before did the virus ever become so common. Those most likely to be affected are infants, children, and teenagers whose bodies would not have built up resistance to this randomly appearing EV-D68. Symptoms of Enterovirus D-68 include fever, runny nose, sneezing, muscle aches.

In more severe cases, when someone with EV-D68 already has Asthma it would cause them to have trouble breathing, some may even have wheezing. EV-D68 before September 2014 was considered a rather minor problem to people without any other existing respiratory conditions and even if it does stick around for once it will be about as threatening as the common cold to this majority of people. However, because of an unfortunate child who had EV-D68 this virus may prove to be life threatening.

Eli Waller, a preschooler, died of Enterovirus D-68 on September 25, 2014: the first person confirmed to have fallen victim to the virus. He had seemed to have been in good health when he went to sleep on September 24, but when his parents checked on him in the morning they saw their sons body limp and inanimate. While the virus had appeared to only be affective against people with existing health issues like asthma Eli had been in a perfectly healthy condition.

Right now Eli's death seems to be the sole exemption to the theories on this virus but that has not stopped it from intimidating the public. Health experts still state that having good hygiene such as washing of the hands frequently and thoroughly is quite capable of preventing infection because the virus is spread through respiratory secretions and excrements. In New Jersey, health officials are already taking precautions following Eli's death. There has been only one sighting of EV- D68 in New Jersey and none in North Brunswick Twp., nevertheless for more information on this rising virus you can check our school's website www.nbtschools.org.

NASA: Blasting Off To The Future!

Ami Patel, Staff Writer



Courtesy of Google Images

Elon Musk with SpaceX's new design for NASA

As of September 17, NASA has taken a major step towards transforming travel in space. The space exploration organization has chosen aeronautical companies Boeing and SpaceX to award with \$4.2 billion and \$2.6 billion, respectively. Not only will this mean new designs and systems from SpaceX and Boeing, but also this move could mean the end of the U.S's reliance on Russia to taxi astronauts to the International Space Station, a reliance that would cost up to \$71 million a seat for the American government.

The terms of the contracts state that the capsules that are being designed by the two companies are subject to completed safety certificates and a process of five certification "milestones". Once those milestones and certificates are completed and NASA gives its approval, Boeing's and SpaceX's capsules will be able to go on two to six human missions to deliver cargo and serve as "lifeboats", should astronauts encounter an emergency in space.

Although the awarding of the contracts would mean an end to government-only space travel, it could also bring benefits. Boeing has been supplying parts to NASA for decades, and thus was a favorite for NASA. SpaceX has proven to be a very innovative company,

with previous technological contributions like the luxury car Tesla. A company with expertise in aiding NASA and a company with inspirational promise would make a great team for the reignition of Space exploration for the US. NASA will also save \$71 million of foreign taxiing, money that can be used for investing in deep-space exploration opportunities.

Another reported outcome of the contract endowment is an economic boost to the location of Elon Musk's space company---Brownsville, Texas. Brownsville is one of the poorest cities in America, with an overwhelming amount of its citizens living below the poverty line. Musk's new company, which was given a \$2.3 million investment from the state of Texas, promises 300 jobs and an extra \$85 million for a town that needs work and income desperately.

Progress is occurring in the exploration of deep space. SpaceX and Boeing are bringing promising developments in space travel, and NASA is getting beneficial technology from both companies. With advancements coming from both companies and their capsules, astronauts on Mars may come sooner than predicted!



Courtesy of Google Images

Be sure your kids wash their hands!

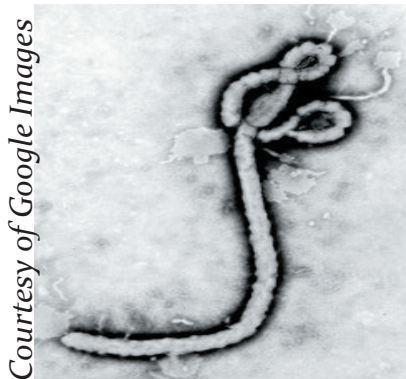
Ebola Update

Grace Chu, Staff Writer

A young man identified as Thomas Eric Duncan had taken two plane trips from Liberia to Belgium and from there to Texas, United States. He was later discovered to have contracted the widely feared Ebola disease on the first of October.

It was later revealed that Mr. Duncan had carried a sick pregnant woman to a Liberian hospital, who had already died. He consulted with a nurse who'd stated he had no sickness and so he boarded the plane. When asked if he has the disease, Mr. Duncan denied it.

After he was dropped off at Dallas, he was taken in by the authorities when the true symptoms became apparent. However, there is now a great worry that Mr. Duncan has infected around 100 passengers on board. Authorities are now tracing and investigating.



Courtesy of Google Images

Scottish Independence

Lindsey Mykiety, Staff Writer

In 1707 the Acts of Union bound English, Scotland, and Wales together. It merged England and Scotland's parliaments and eliminated trade barriers; however it allowed the countries to hold separate legal systems. A separate Secretary of State was created for Scotland due to its interest in the government in. Later in 1926 the post of the Secretary of Scotland was upgraded to Secretary of State.

The Scottish National Party was founded in 1934 even though the goal of full independence was rejected. The Scotland Act of 1978 made a provision on a Referendum where the power would be transferred to a lower level (devolution); however, it did not achieve the 40 percent necessary to stand. On October 15, 2012 an agreement was signed between Prime Minister of Britain David Cameron and Scotland's First Minister Alex Salmond allowing Holyrood, a palace in Scotland, the power to hold a referendum on independence.



Courtesy of Google Images

Scottish Independence has been sought for many years.

Scotland has always been its own country, despite its connection to Britain. It has its own cultural traditions, vernacular, and legal systems. Scotland was seeking the independence they once sought before and are struggling to rewrite history and make a following attempt. Yet, there have been many conflicts concerning the concept of granting Scotland its independence.

These problems regard Scotland's government, citizenship, currency, and defense system. The

independence campaign that Alex Salmond led shocked Britain's political elite, strengthened Scottish politics, and appeared to be introducing a more lenient federal Britain. However, the fight for independence is over and it has failed. After his failed attempt for Scottish independence, Alex Salmond announced that he will be stepping down from first minister of Scotland and leader of the Scottish National Party later this year.

ISIS

Grace Chu, Staff Writer

ISIS (short for Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) has been a terrorist group since 1999. On November 2012, the group kidnapped James Wright Foley, an American journalist, and demanded a ransom.

When the government failed to help, as paying the terrorists would fuel more terror-

ism, the Foley family felt helpless. Finally, on August 20, a video surfaced on the web, showing James Foley being beheaded by a hooded ISIS recruit.

In the video, they had also announced they were holding a second journalist, Steven Joel Sotloff, who had disappeared

last year in Syria, August. The hooded ISIS fighter said: "The life of this American citizen, Obama, depends on your next decision."

However, no efforts were made and Sotloff was executed on September 2, despite his mother's pleadings.

**Join Banner
after school
on Tuesdays!**

Room 868

**Reporters,
Photographers
and Artists
are needed.**

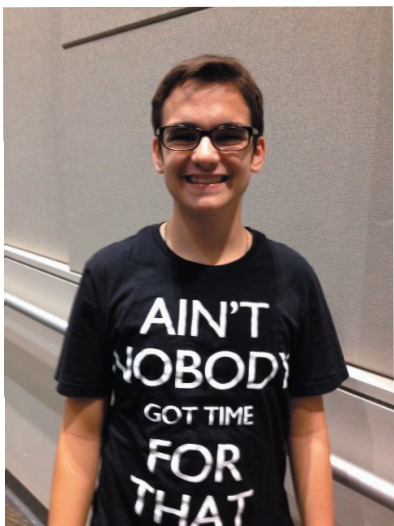
Sidewalk Survey

Which is better: the iPhone or Galaxy?



**Jason Bonsu
2018**

“Galaxy, because it sounds cool.”



**Frankie Marrone
2017**

“iPhone, because that’s what I was given.”



**Pranay Bhandare
2016**

“iPhone, because I like the way it bends when it’s in your pocket.”



**Katie Siegel
2015**

“iPhone, because that’s what I have.”



**Mrs. Gilliland,
Social Studies**

“Galaxy, because I think it’s less complicated for people who did not grow up with technology.”

Internet Blocks in School

Sneha Vijayakumar, Staff Writer

There seems to be a misunderstood conception at North Brunswick High School, and all high schools in general, that students can’t be trusted. And let’s be honest--most of them can’t. One ounce of privilege could spark a flame to an absolute wildfire. However, not all students are the same; not everyone has been cookie-cut into one shape. Some can actually handle the responsibilities given to them. Schools seem to forget this fact and assume that all students are out-of-control and cannot, at any cost, be trusted.

This controversial topic is exactly what has been dictating most of our school rules and policies, like the internet blocks. Why are they there in the first place? It is presumed that some students will take advantage of the computers that are given and will access inappropriate websites that shouldn’t be visited on school premises in the first place. Some of these sites are a distraction to the learning that the usage of the computers was intended for. So--yes, maybe those site blocks are necessary, but are they also defeating their purpose?

Those blue blocks show up whenever a site has even the slightest reference to a social media site (Tumblr, Facebook, Twitter, etc.),

Too Young to Date?

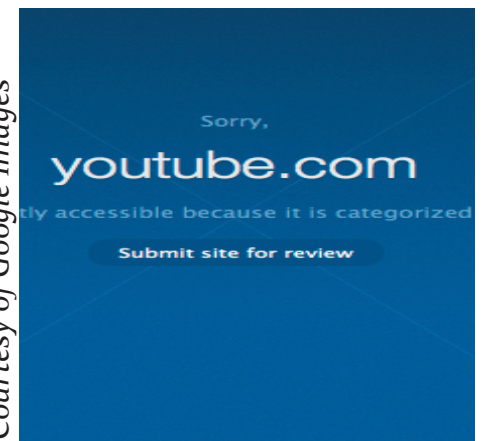
Samantha Persaud, Contributing Writer

Students these days believe that having a boyfriend or girlfriend is a necessity of life. But what really is the appropriate age to have a significant other?

The answer is simple, High school: freshman year and onwards. Younger ages may just get fooled by the lust of having a “boyfriend”, or “girlfriend.” This age gives students the opportunity to be exposed to the good and the bad of dating.

High school students also happen to be lot more mature than younger students, so they know how to handle themselves better. The hype of having a companion during middle school--a time where younger children throw the word “love” around loosely--is just a way for them to tell others they have someone to hug next to the bus stop.

Middle school is actually still considered elementary level, so their relationship cannot be as real as it seems. It’s more like a fantastic



Courtesy of Google Images

The NBTHS wifi blocks many commonly-used sites.

but it not only covers the portion of the site in which the media name is written but also, obnoxiously, a great portion of the page itself--sometimes even hiding the information the student may need in order to complete an assignment. In this way, the blocks defeat their own purpose. What good is a blocker if it does not enable students to get their work done--canceling itself out?

This topic, however, sits right in the middle line. If students are privileged with more freedom and more sites are available to use, there may be some issues. However, on the other hand, if the blocker is left to work as it is now, then using computers in school will be useless. Why would anyone think to go to a computer when one will inevitable be unable to use most resources?

dream of having a so-called “soul mate”. But many middle schoolers don’t know that dating is a serious topic. They don’t see the dangers of dating at such an early age: the many broken hearts, the burning anguish and pain, and the floods of tears. High school years are the earliest years during which one can actually figure what the phrase “soul mate” means to them, and brave these dangers with stride.

High school years are better for dating just because that is the time when students are really finding who they are and figuring out what they may or may not like. These aspects are not easy to decipher during middle school years.

Although having a relationship sounds intriguing at a young age, dating really shouldn’t be started until high school. So tell your little siblings to be careful, because they don’t know what is coming for them.

Dress Codes: Sexism at its Worst

Isha Chavva, Staff Writer

We've all heard the speech already: zip up your shirt, pull down your dress, make sure your shorts are at least as long as the tips of your fingers. It's nothing personal, of course; it's simply a matter of allowing everyone to get the wholesome education they deserve. And visible shoulders on girls--they compromise the education of everyone in school, don't they?

Shockingly, the answer is no. In fact, the girls aren't the ones who are detracting from others' education--the schools who enforce strict and sexist dress codes are. The excuse schools use to justify their dress codes is that revealing clothing disrupts a learning experience. However, when schools take girls out of class and force them to change into gym clothes, or to wait for their parents to bring them a change of clothes, they are not only, in turn, disrupting girls' learning experiences, but effectively telling students that boys' education is more valued than girls' education--that it's unacceptable for boys to be "distracted" and have their precious education interfered with, but completely acceptable for girls to be forcibly taken out of class in order to make themselves less "tempting" to their male classmates.

This double standard is especially troubling because it reinforces the sexism that is already inherent in the nature of dress code justification. Girls don't wear short dresses and low-cut tops to tempt boys--they wear them because those

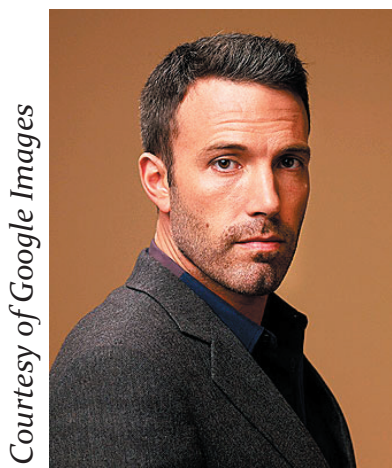
clothes are fashionable, or simply because it is hot outside. One girl at a Staten Island high school told the Staten Island Advance, "That's what girls wear when it's hot out. It's unfair to them." A student at NBTHS, Saumya Tom Thundyil, adds, "Why can't I wear what I want without being told it's inappropriate when it's just comfortable to me?" The real question is, why does the school value the supposedly nonexistent attention span of boys to the physical comfort of female students?

By telling girls to cover up in order to protect the "helpless" boys, schools are sending the message to students that boys can't be blamed for not being able to control themselves--an idea which, if taken further, ties in with the idea that sexual assault can be justified because, say, a girl in a short skirt was "asking for it".

The justification for dress codes is weak at best and appallingly sexist at worst. Instead of teaching girls to cover their bodies and make themselves unnoticeable, unremarkable, why not teach boys not to sexualize girls' bodies? Student Ami Patel agrees, saying "Teach guys how to behave, not girls how to dress." The path to gender equality starts, at its roots, in places where few consider discrimination an issue at all--such as schools. In order to create a fully equal learning experience for all, the idea of school dress codes needs to be completely re-evaluated and perhaps even removed altogether.

Superman V. Batman: Dawn of Justice

Aldo Battle, Contributing Writer



Courtesy of Google Images

Ben Affleck is now Batman.

In the movie industry, much news has been released about highly anticipated movies coming up in the near future. However, only one movie has been receiving a lot of mix reviews for its choices in casting and plot details lately. Superman

V. Batman: Dawn of Justice has been receiving those mixed reviews. For example, NBTHS senior, Jesus Flores stated, "I will not be watching the movie because it's for squares."

Everything seemed fine when it was first announced at Comic-Con of last year and it was confirmed that award winning director Zack Snyder would be directing it. But the mixed reviews started when Ben Affleck was announced as the new Batman. They continued when it was announced that many other superheroes would be featured in the movie. But it doesn't end there, the casting choice of Gal Gadot as Wonder woman sparked even more negativity, as well as when Jesse Eisenberg was announced for Lex Luthor. However, there are few loyal fans that are more excited about this film

The Treaty on Drugs

Jesus S. Flores, Contributing Writer

The Councilmen of Philadelphia have passed a bill to decriminalize marijuana, and Mayor Nutter is on board to sign this new bill. With 4,000 arrests alone each year, many Philadelphians speculate this will be good for the city.

Now the only question is, what exactly does "decriminalization" mean? This is how Merriam-Webster defines "decriminalization": to remove or reduce the criminal classification or status of; especially to repeal a strict ban on while keeping under some form of regulation. This is exactly what the government aims to do.

Still doesn't make sense? Now, one can get off with a \$25 ticket if you possess less than an ounce of marijuana. Now if one is caught smoking marijuana publicly one will be fined \$100, whereas before one would be punished with a \$200 fine and a three-hour class on drug abuse. But the question remains: now that marijuana has been decriminalized, is it less dangerous and 'totally safe'?

Marijuana still is a drug--only now, the punishment isn't as severe. The dangers of marijuana

Courtesy of Google Images



Philadelphia's Mayor Nutter has joined the fight to decriminalize marijuana.

as a gateway drug still exist. Other questions persist as well: "Will other states or cities follow suit?" and of course "WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN?"

This is a gray area on both sides of the spectrum, considering the economic growth that could possibly come out of this, as well as whether or not this will affect the new generation of teens. In the end, only time will tell, but the overall results so far mean that at this rate, the "war on drugs"--or, should I say, "war on marijuana"-- may officially be ending.

than anything else. As a loyal fan of DC comics myself, I am looking forward to this movie very much.

Let's start with the most talked about topic, *Batfleck*. At first, most people were distraught with the idea of Ben Affleck replacing Christian Bale as Batman. This is mostly because of his horrible performance as the Daredevil back in 2003.

But people fail to see that Affleck's acting has improved tenfold and he has the looks (and chin) for Batman, going as far as to bulk up for the role. He's even an Oscar winning director!

Gal Gadot for Wonder Woman really struck a lot of nerves for some reason. Even though she is not as voluptuous as the female superhero is meant to be, but she has the acting skills to pull it off and she knows how to

kick butt too. As a former Israeli Commando, I'm sure she can kick butt both on and off the screen. There is one thing I have mixed thoughts on though: Jesse Eisenberg as Lex Luthor. To me, it just doesn't sound right. Even though Eisenberg has proven to many people that he has amazing talent in acting, I just fail to see how he can pull off the bald, tough, superman bad guy.

However, people should just wait until the movie comes out so that they may give a fair review on it. For example, when Heath Ledger was chosen to be the Joker, a majority of people got mad at the decision but when *The Dark Knight* came out, everyone was proven wrong by his mind-blowing performance as the Joker.

Trends in Music

Kena Chavva, Staff Writer

2013 was one of the best years of the twenty-first century, musically speaking. From Kanye West's *Yeezus* to the debut album *Days Are Gone* from HAIM, it seemed as if 2013's musical brilliance was setting up 2014 for failure. Now, autumn has brought a slew of musicians exploring new ideas and mediums.

The recent career arcs of Rostam Batmanglij of indie rock band Vampire Weekend and frontman Julian Casablancas of The Strokes seem to be polar opposites-

sic for a play. Casablancas, on the other hand, has remained in the familiar territory of albums--but he is experimenting with a completely different sound. With his new band, Julian Casablancas + The Voidz, Casablancas uses more electronics than any Strokes song has ever contained. The ultimate sound is dark and heavy.

Signed to the same record label as Julian Casablancas + The Voidz (Cult Records), the singer/songwriter Karen O (frontwoman of Yeah Yeah Yeahs) has released a

solo album as well, titled *Crush Songs*. With Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Karen O was known for intimidating, loud music with a hard edge. *Crush Songs* is the complete opposite. This compilation of short, gentle songs bares a completely different side of O. Solo records are often places where

musicians are able to show different aspects of their persona that they normally wouldn't be able to explore with the group, and Karen O does exactly that with hers, beautifully and effectively.

Maybe these musicians are getting tired of their groups, and it may be time for a change. Independent projects reveal more about individuals than a group effort ever could. Hopefully, this isn't just a trend, and instead of retiring from the music industry completely, musicians remain active and involved in whatever way keeps them interested.



Courtesy of Google Images

Julian Casablancas + The Voidz, with frontman Julian Casablancas of The Strokes.

-Batmanglij recently stopped touring with his group after releasing the universally acclaimed album *Modern Vampires of the City*, while Casablancas has barely toured at all after receiving mixed reviews for The Strokes' 2013 album, *Come-down Machine*. However, both of them are now pursuing independent projects.

Batmanglij scored the Broadway play "This is Our Youth", which opened over the summer. Batmanglij has previously contributed single pieces to films, but "This is Our Youth" marks the first time he has composed all of the mu-

The Influence of Education

Avery Blue, Contributing Writer

There is a difference between being educated and being influenced. The way our society teaches children about history isn't educating them--it's corrupting them. This planet is filled with humans who cannot develop their own opinions because others have always made opinions up for them.

War is a perfect example of this. Teachers joke about war and battles as if it is perfectly normal. They never speak about the concept of war itself--they never explain the loss of humanity; they don't tell stu-

dents about the children who had to grow up without parents. The aftermath of war is taught in economic figures and presidential elections, not lives lost and ruined. Teachers mention war casually, as if it is amusing dinner-table conversation.

Most kids start to learn about war in elementary school, but don't develop opinions on it (if they ever do) until much later. Until then, opinions are forced into their minds like facts, and dirty meanings behind actions are glossed over. Children are taught that it is normal to

New AP Course Policy

Deep Patel, Contributing Writer

AP testing and GPA policy have recently changed at NBTHS and the subject has gotten both students and faculty buzzing.

Previously, students enrolled in AP classes were automatically given a one point weight added onto their GPA on a 4.3 scale while the AP test for the course remained optional. The new change now requires students to take the AP exam in May to receive the extra point. All students who sit for the test will be given the point regardless of what they actually score on the exam. According to the AP College Board website, each exam fee is \$91 and students who qualify for financial aid receive a \$29 fee reduction for each exam. These changes are effective as of the 2014-2015 school year at NBTHS.

When asked about how they feel about the policy, AP students generally responded that the biggest change was that now they feel like they are being required to "pay for their grade". Few others believe that it is simply a ploy to solicit money for the school and some even said it is an attempt for the school to climb the rankings amongst other high schools. According to the AP College Board website however, the school only retains \$9 as a rebate to help with administrative costs of the exams. Despite being required to take the exam to get the GPA bump, a majority of students said that it would not dissuade them from signing up for AP courses.

A majority of the faculty at NBTHS said that they were more able to see the pros and cons of the new policy. Veteran AP U.S.

Government and Politics teacher Mr. Chesler said, "I understand why the goal is to get more AP test takers but I also think there are reasons against it." He noted that the policy would attempt to prevent students from taking classes simply to get a GPA bump but would also discourage kids who might be interested in the subject but didn't want to take the exam from signing up from the course.

Other teachers also mentioned that when a student who mostly cares about boosting his or her GPA fills a spot in an AP course, that student might be taking away the opportunity for someone else who is genuinely interested in the subject. Newly appointed AP English Literature and Composition teacher Dr. Ellis holds a similar point: "Advanced Placement students should concentrate on bettering themselves as readers, writers, and leaders rather than on GPA weighting or end of the year assessments." Mr. Cox, an AP Psychology teacher, mentioned that he too saw both sides of the argument but would have liked to hear about the new changes or have had some input as an AP teacher before they were implemented. He said the "philosophy at North Brunswick is a professional learning community, and this is not what we should be doing; therefore, we aren't a professional learning community." He raises a valid point as students were not told of the policy prior to signing up for AP courses for the current academic year.

Whether the opinions are for, against, or indifferent to the the new policy, it definitely has NBTHS talking.

kill for what they want, because that is expected with war. In this way, kids are not taught to think.

The way we should teach war is no different from the way we teach religion. We should mention it subtly, as it is our history, but educators shouldn't indoctrinate it. Children should be taught the facts and led to form their own opinions in a thoughtful and open environment.

Courtesy of Google Images



Education is a controversial topic in today's world.

Good Luck, Mr. Cokeley!

Isha Chavva, Staff Writer

This January, North Brunswick Township High School is in for a big change. It is a loss, in some respects, of a valued teacher and member of the North Brunswick community--but it is also a gain for students, and even the citizens of the world.

Mr. Wayne Cokeley, NBTHS's valued biology teacher and robotics supervisor, is retiring after a whopping twenty-four years of service. In his time, Mr. Cokeley has simultaneously educated and entertained generations of biology students with tales of fictitious sheep, dead cats, angry wasps, and countless other stories--and he has led the North Brunswick Raider Robotics team to extraordinary levels of success, taking them to the World Championships a total of eight times. Mr. Cokeley, however, remains modest about these triumphs, saying, "I'm just the guy who makes sure they get on the bus."

For a guy whose only job is to make sure kids get on the bus, Mr. Cokeley's wisdom, coupled with passionate students, has gone on to impact hundreds, even thousands, of lives.

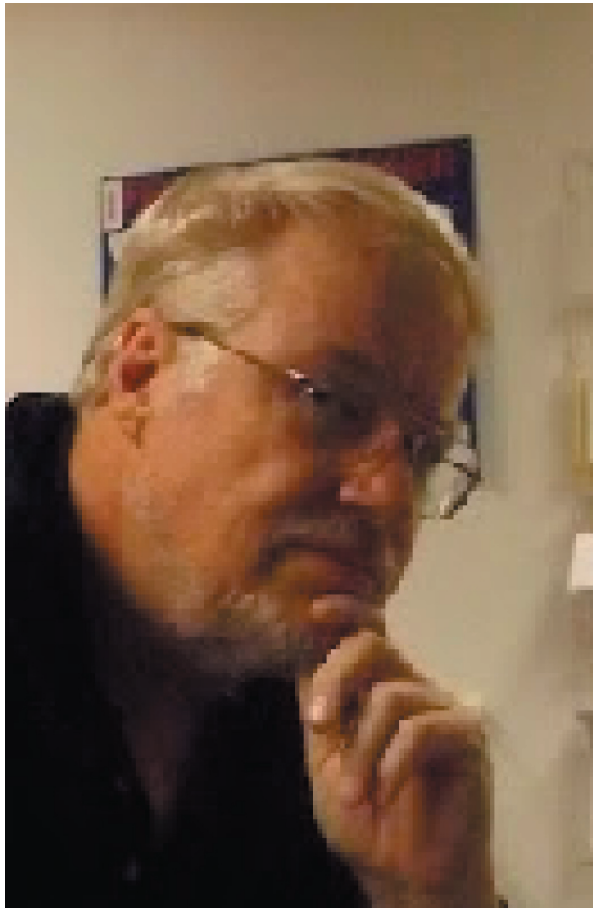
Of all the memories he has of North Brunswick Township High

School, it is the memories of the students that he will cherish the most: "You remember kids [who] went on and did something good... When kids do show interest in our part of what we're doing, it's a lot of fun."

While Mr. Cokeley's past achievements are great, what he has yet to accomplish in the future is even more impressive. No longer burdened with the restrictions of being a public school teacher, adventures he has had since he was of high school age--"Swim with dolphins and whales in the sea of Cortez... drove across Baha California... hiked into the mountains of southeastern Brazil to develop land for a national park... spent a month in Costa Rica in the jungle..."--are the new focus of his life.

His recent adventures, such as working with scientists who later went on to excavate a Tyrannosau-

rus Rex fossil, occurred because he was a teacher, and "had opportunities to get grants to go on various



Courtesy of Geoffrey McFall

Mr. Cokeley has no intention of dialing down his ambitions because of his retirement; in fact, he plans on stepping it up, working to make drones to perform aerial surveys from a distance using robotic technology, as well as building another greenhouse. He adds that he may be writing a book--but whether that is true or not, judging from the expression on his face as he says it and the laugh that accompanies it, is debatable. As any biology student will attest to, learning from Mr. Cokeley is an experience that requires a working brain. "You never know if I'm telling you the truth," he says, snickering. "It'll be up to you to figure out what [the lies] are before you make a fool of yourself."

Mr. Cokeley will continue working with Raider Robotics, but though his formal teaching career is up, Mr. Cokeley believes that he will never truly be finished with teaching. His words are ones for teachers and students alike to live by: "There's a lot of adventures that you can get out of teaching... it's gonna be something I miss. You always teach, you're always gonna be teaching somebody something. It's just a matter of who and when."

trips over the years. So I've been taking advantage of the summers off to go on these... y'know, expeditions with scientists and work in the field. And do things that normally people don't get a chance to do."

Senior Spotlight: Tara Viray

Haley Adams, Staff Writer



Courtesy of Geoffrey McFall

editor and dance captain for the Alchemist Theatre Company in addition to being involved with DECA, PUSH, and orchestra.

When she isn't at a meeting or other event for one of those six clubs in the fall she can be found either with the marching band as a member of the color guard or at varsity volleyball. During the winter she is a cheerleader.

As if all this isn't enough to keep Tara busy, she also volunteers at a soup kitchen and a hospital, as her dream is to go into medicine and hopefully save lives as a part of the program Doctors Without Borders.

But just as important as everything else, Tara Viray is just a normal, coral wearing, manatee loving girl. Her advice to freshmen, "Get involved, but don't take on more than you can handle." Tara Viray is the girl who has managed to do it all.

How much can one person really do? When looking at the life of senior Tara Viray, it seems like she can do it all. Holding a double presidency in SGO and Key Club is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to Tara. She is a yearbook

2018 Spotlight: Nicole Ilicic

Chioma Iheanacho, Contributing Writer



Courtesy of Geoffrey McFall

coaches.

Introduced to the sport by her brother, this athlete has been dedicated to her sport for four long years. Aside from school athletics, Ilicic is an honor roll student coming from Linwood Middle School. At NBTHS she is a member of DECA and Key Club. Outside of school Nicole is a first degree black belt in taekwondo, a Korean martial art combining combat and self-defense techniques with sport.

When asked about her opinion of her team and its role in her transition into the high school, Nicole says "They are all amazing; I love them all. They're great players and there when anyone needs help. I couldn't ask for a better team."

Nicole Ilicic is one of the many fresh new faces of the class of 2018. Playing JV (and Varsity) volleyball as a setter and libero, Nicole has shown off her remarkable potential to both her teammates and

Fall Football is More Than Back

Haley Adams, Staff Writer

Football dominates American culture in the fall all but two days a week. Fridays are for High School, Saturdays for colleges, and the NFL has Thursdays, Sundays, and Mondays covered. NBTHS has a game just about every Friday night at Seven and the guys are steadily improving from where they were a year ago. This is a great chance to show off some school spirit and is a great transition into football for people who normally don't find themselves interested in the sport. There is a lot less commentary, the half time show keeps the attention of anyone interested in music, thanks to the marching band, and it brings up school spirit with the varsity cheerleaders.

Upperclassmen are probably most interested in college football. If you have any interest in going to a large school, football will be a huge part of their culture. These games are a great way get a feel for how into it they are. The Ohio State vs Michigan game, this year being played on November 29, is probably the finest example

of a college rivalry and is a must watch even if you don't plan on going to either school. This will be the first year that college football will have playoffs instead of the usual bowl system based on rankings, so the way that all pans out is something to keep an eye on.

The NFL is going through a bit of a rough patch with publicity but that hasn't changed the amazing quality of play. They've changed quite a few policies which are allowing players to have the opportunity to play when previously they would have been out for weeks. Locally, the Giants and Jets are somewhat following what everyone would expect. The Giants have been gradually improving but admit that this year has, and will continue to be, a learning curve, under the direction of their new offensive coordinator, Ben McAdoo. Vital acquisitions in the off season, like Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, helped boost the defense.

The Jets have their usual multiquarterback factor and Eric Decker on the other end of a decent

amount of passes. Rex Ryan being a more defensive minded head coach wants them to be a defensive powerhouse. Across the league there are some teams that aren't doing what anyone expected. The Arizona Cardinals did better than anyone would expect with their backup quarterback, Drew Stanton.

The New Orleans Saints aren't looking nearly as hot as expected. The defending champion Seahawks are still looking good. As the season progresses, teams across the league will further develop so make sure to keep an eye on what's going on.

Football and fall are almost interchangeable, so grab some boots and a scarf and go catch an NBTHS game with some friends. If you'd rather watch from the comfort of your own home, curl up on the couch almost any day of the week and see what the pros and colleges have going on.



Fall Fashion

Jennifer Carbajal, Contributing Writer

As the season starts to change, many other things change as well. The weather goes from hot and sunny to cool and cloudy. Leaves undergo a change as well--resulting in bright colors that eventually fall. Most importantly, our wardrobes change. We go from shorts to jeans. Tank tops to long sleeves. Everyone's covering up! Fall is the perfect season to experiment with clothing. The possibilities

Photo Courtesy of Google Images



are endless when the temperature is just right. There are a variety of colors that are in for the fall season. These colors include burgundy, navy, oatmeal, olive, and orange. Last year, oversized knits made a comeback and are here to stay. Anything oversized or layered is

still in style! Plaid print, long coats, and leather jackets are also trendy for this season. Flannels have also become a fall favorite due to its versatility. You can dress them up or wear them with a graphic tee and some comfortable shoes for a more relaxed look. The monochrome trend that made its debut in the spring-summer has also extended its visit. One can never go wrong with a plain white, black, or gray look. It's simple yet stylish if you

pair up the right combination. As for shoes, oxfords and boots of any sort are a must for fall! Leather and suede Chelsea boots have become more popular this season as seen on Kanye West in countless appearances this month. Have fun with your wardrobe this season!

Halloween History

Alexandra Villalba, Contributing Writer

Halloween is near, which means a night full of spooky costumes and delicious candies. Also known as All Hallows' Eve and Witches Night, it is among the world's oldest holidays. It is a time for remembering the dead, saints, and martyrs. There are many activities to do on this night, such as trick-or-treating, carving pumpkins into jack-o'-lanterns, visiting

Photo Courtesy of Google Images



haunted houses, and attending costume parties. Christian religious observances include attending church services and lighting candles on the graves of the dead. Western Christian denominations encourages the abstinence of meat on Halloween.

Different people celebrate All Hallows' Eve differently.

This begs the question, how exactly did Halloween begin? According to many academic scholars, Halloween is a Christianized feast influenced by Celtic harvest festivals with Pagan roots. In the modern day, this holiday has become more about candy and costumes. For the Celts, this day marked the end of harvest season and the starting of winter. They believed the transition of the seasons was a bridge to the world of the dead. Back then people didn't dress up in costumes for fun, but instead to mimic the evil spirits or to win them over. Halloween is a rich holiday that is enjoyed by many people world-wide.



FANGtastic Halloween

Chioma Iheanacho, Staff Writer

October 30th 31st are two of the most anticipated days of the year. With these next few Halloweens been many of the students' last chance to celebrate as children, why not go out with a bang?

The goal is to get as much candy as possible. In three easy steps:

1. Have a costume that makes you stand out. Make people ask questions. Go scary, like a home-made grim reaper costume. Buy a simple mask, wearing all black and try to give people a good scare. If scaring isn't your thing, go for cute. There are many cute outfits to get, perhaps impersonating your favorite cartoon style. Some students are able to create spectacular costumes, modeling after cartoons like anime and manga. Either way you go, you're sure to stir up conversation.

2. Be prepared. Map out where you want to go, know the best places to go get candy, and conserve your time to get the most out of your night. If you stay in North

Brunswick, the best places are near the high school, near Independence Blvd, and near Colonial Gardens. In addition, Governor's Point and the Renaissance are great areas to visit, as they are highly populated. Be sure to carry a large, sturdy, portable bag for your collection. Try a bookbag or the good old fashion pillowcase. (Try emptying your bag every once in a while to make it look like you're not getting much candy. Some people may pity you and give you a little extra.) Be sure to start early when candy is plentiful, so you can be off the streets by the town curfew of 8 o'clock pm.

3. Use good manners. Adults like someone who is respectful. Be sure to always say thank you after you receive your treat, as some adults are known to reward you with an extra treat or two. Look genuinely glad to be out.

Be sure to follow these steps for an amazing trick or treating experience.

Summer into Autumn

Niha Manubolu, Contributing Writer

Fall is here! Goodbye summer shorts and hello sweater weather. With fall comes activities and food-my favorite! Fall is a great time to hang out with friends and family. Whether it's casual pumpkin picking or haunted corn mazes, it's all there in North Brunswick. If you're getting into the fall spirit and want to experience any fall related activities, visit Habiak Farms in East Brunswick. They have apple picking, pumpkin picking, hayrides, corn mazes, and every Friday night starting in October, they have haunted houses.

Hanging out with friends and family during the fall time is a great way to stay connected during the school year, and if you're one to enjoy autumn colors, this is the season for you. Besides, they do say that autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all the other seasons.



Definitely Dunkin

Chioma Iheanacho, Contributing Writer

Pumpkin Spice season is here which means people everywhere are flooding into stores to get a seasonal dose of the flavor loved by children and adults the same. Although the most popular restaurant is the coffee chain of Starbucks, I am telling you to save your money and visit Dunkin Donuts for cheaper and better tasting coffee. I sampled the iced versions of both restaurant chains' pumpkin spiced drink, plus the warm version of Dunkin Donuts, and can honestly say that Dunkin Donuts was far better than Starbucks.

Starbucks gets five stars for presentation, but only one star for taste. The drink was nothing like pumpkin spice, missing even the simple aroma. It tasted like black

coffee, something that could easily be made in one's own kitchen for free rather than throwing away almost \$5.00 of one's own money for a small, (or a "tall"). The drink is warm at best, and the ice waters it down greatly.

Dunkin Donuts gets three stars for presentation, nothing special, but five stars for taste! The smell of both the warm and cold drinks reminding one of autumn. The taste is amazing! It brings you almost to paradise as you enjoy every moral of your delicious, reasonably priced drink, only about \$3.00.

Save your money and just go to Dunkin Donuts. Starbucks is overrated, overpriced, and simply not worth it.

Starbucks PSL

Liz Ruffe, Contributing Writer

It's that time of year again. Starbucks has come out with its famous Pumpkin Spice Latte, but this year, Dunkin Donuts has come out with a drink to rival it: The Pumpkin Crème Brulee Latte.

Personally, I enjoy Starbucks' latte better, and not just because it's Starbucks. Though it is a bit more expensive, and a bit more calorie filled, the Starbucks PSL is sweeter and actually has more of a pumpkin taste.

The Dunkin latte is bitter and has a slight taste of autumn spice to it, whereas the Starbucks latte has a much sweeter taste with both autumn spices and pumpkin spice

incorporated. Now I know, not everyone wants a super sweet drink, and many prefer the bitter coffee taste of the Dunkin Latte.

In a comparison, a large sized PSL from Starbucks contains 50 more calories than its Dunkin counterpart. Also, the price difference of the two drinks is a dollar and change when buying a large, with

Starbucks (as usual) being more expensive. However, I for one am a firm believer that you deserve to indulge yourself every once in a while, and would order the sweet, delicious Starbucks latte over the Dunkin latte in a heartbeat.



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

Bullying: Fact or Fiction?

*Amber Nicole Ramos,
Contributing Writer*

Nowadays, bullying doesn't just involve getting pushed against lockers and asked for lunch money. It evolved to something more complex and sinister over the years.

Bullying isn't just physical abuse as portrayed in the movies, --that's hardly ever seen in school, the new form of bullying is verbal abuse. This isn't just name calling, but hurting someone's self-esteem.

The students of NBTHS believe that there is a lot of pressure put on them depending on what clique they associate with or the people they talk to. If someone is wearing any type of generic name brand they are instantly called out on and laughed at for the rest of the day.

Photo Courtesy of GoogleImages



A stereotypical example of bullying.

A bully's sidekicks don't only come in threes but in group chats. Thanks to social networking sites, many people can egg on the bully by favoring their tweets and adding comments. Twitter feuds are popular and are often talked about the next day in school. Vial things are exposed on Twitter, whether it be secrets, rumors, or lies just to hurt one another.

Females are often times bullied by both the girls and boys at school. On multiple occasions there have been pages on twitter and Instagram named, "NBTHS HOES EXPOSED," where students' naked photos have been leaked. Other times girls are judged based off their looks. A girl at NBTHS had witnessed a group of guys looking at another girl walk by. They commented on her nice body, but said how ugly she was facially. The bystander had wanted to stand up for her but feared that she would be called ugly next. This is a real experience that happened in the halls of NBTHS.

Bullying is real. It may not be in the same form like in movies, but it's happening everywhere.

The Bakery Inspiration

Suhani Baranwal, Staff Writer

The life-changing combo! While most of us barely find the time and talent for regular work, Sweta Nangar- an indian-descend New Yorker- has found her own inspiration and a way to preserve her culture by baking cakes.

In today's fast-paced world, it's getting undeniably difficult to keep track of the latest happenings.

Forget holding on to our cultures! "One language goes extinct about every two weeks, more frequently than bird-species extinction." According to a prediction, more than half to today's cultures will be extinct by 2100.

In order to preserve her culture, Sweta Nangar fused together both her passions- bakery and henna-designing- to create an alternate line of cakes. She mastered the art of printing henna designs using various colors of icings. Starting from a small in-home business, she has come a long way to her own shop in New York

Photo Courtesy of GoogleImages



The cakes of Sweta Nangar, sold in her store, Crème Delicious, combine a love of baking with Indian culture.

named Crème Delicious. Her avant-garde ideas were not only adored by Indians, but everyone.

Her vision provided me with the inspiration to follow by dreams and a new-found respect towards my culture. She is a living example that one isn't required to abandon their culture in order to be a part of

this world. Instead, we should try to incorporate our culture with our daily requirements.

She did it, so why can't we? Follow today's customs, adore your dreams, and respect your culture- because these three, jointly, will take your soaring to heights unthinkable!

Revival of the Cookie

Anthony Kovach, Staff Writer

Photo Courtesy of Google Images



The return of cookie sales in North Brunswick Township High School has almost unanimously delighted students.

No treat has ever graced the student body at NBTHS as much as the classical and much beloved cookie. The round and flat structure appealed to students and adults alike and the cookie instantly became not only a culinary staple, but a staple within the hearts of many.

These relics of the old world were lost two years prior when Chartwells made an effort to ameliorate the health benefits of its meals, beginning with the omission and clear destruction of the joy-bringing piece of Heaven.

"I'm so pumped that the cookies are back! Lunch is no longer desolate and arid. There is hope! The cookies bring back hope!" shouted one passionate student. These sentiments, perhaps less vehemently, are echoed in the attitudes of most NBTHS students.

However, not all students are thrilled about the return of the

cookie. Reviews are mixed. "I think they bring back old memories of delicious cookies," eagerly says a thrilled junior. "They are not the same as what they used to be, but they are still rum-tum-tummily delicious."

More critical still is student Haley Adams, who says, "Cookies are yummy, but I don't like how they brought them back as whole wheat, because it ruined the integrity of them. The taste isn't there anymore."

In the end, however, the reality of the situation is that children love cookies, no matter what they are made of. With the advent of the new school year and the providential promise of great things to come for all students and staff, the reimplementation of the Outtakes delicacy is a surefire way to promote happiness and a general appreciation of the finer things in life in the school atmosphere.

Transgender Students in High School

Contributing Writer

To quote a sophomore at North Brunswick Township High School, “There are transgender people in this school? Who?” You’d be surprised. You may have a transgender peer in your homeroom, in your chemistry class, or at your lunch table and not know it. The common cisgender student may not understand the need for secrecy, but in reality, public schools can be a terrifying place for transgender youth.

A transgender person, unlike a cisgender person, identifies with a gender different from the one assigned to them at birth. This “different gender” could be within the gender binary of male and female, or it could be nonbinary, meaning that the person’s gender is not strictly male or strictly female. Though this concept is not incredibly difficult to grasp, the vast majority of the population is cisgender, and many of those cisgender people have been raised to believe that being transgender is wrong, disgusting, and abnormal. Bring this intolerance into a school setting where

students will already judge one another at the drop of a hat, and it is a recipe for anxiety and depression among the gender-nonconforming students who are confused enough as it is.

According to the Gay, Lesbian, & Straight Education Network’s fifth National School Climate Survey, “Though LGBT students overall reported high levels of harassment and assault in school, transgender students experienced even higher levels than non-transgender students...Less than a fifth of transgender students said that school staff intervened most of the time or always when hearing homophobic remarks (16%) or negative remarks about someone’s gender expression (11%)”. Mentions of physical harassment were especially prominent.

Schools are meant to be a safe place where children and teenagers come to gain knowledge that will help them in the future. Public schools in particular are equalizers. No matter what background the student is coming out of, that indi-

vidual will be given the same chance as everyone else to learn and progress in their studies.

However, transgender youth are at a disadvantage. They are the students, yet they are expected to politely educate countless others who ask rude and unnecessary questions regarding their gender identities. They risk getting horribly bullied for saying that they prefer a certain name or certain pronouns. They sit down in health classes and biology classes where the words “sex” and “gender” are used interchangeably, and they know better, but their teachers - more often than not - say absolutely nothing.

As a society, humanity is taking steps forward into the realm of acceptance, especially the acceptance of LGBT+ individuals. That



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

The symbol for transgender shows that all identities are equal.

in itself is undeniable. However, the existence of transgender people often gets lost in the din. Someday, public schools may take on the role of teaching those who are unaware, readily supporting each student that steps through the doors with bravado. But until then, transgender students will go on as quietly as they had before, for their own safety.

NBTHS Takes on Germany!

Ashley Garcia, Staff Writer

This summer, NBTHS students who were enrolled in a German class visited Germany! As part of the German exchange program, on June 27, a handful of students landed in Pforzheim, Germany. Host families opened their houses to North Brunswick students, giving them a home away from home in Germany. The students then lived the everyday lives of German students with their new families.

NBTHS students traveled around Pforzheim and learned more about the German culture there. As well as traveling around Pforzheim, students visited other places as well. Since Pforzheim borders France, some host families took their guests to France. Many students also got the opportunity to visit the Alps as well.

Students also visited Cologne, a major and bustling city in Germany; students were also able to visit the Cologne Cathedral.

As much fun as Germany was for NBTHS, they had to return to the US on July 21. Still in contact with their wonderful host families, NBTHS students are eagerly awaiting October 17, which is when the German students will come to North Brunswick to complete the exchange. Be sure to make the Germans feel as though NBTHS is their home away from home!



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

Students from Germany and the United States will be united in the quest for education!

Environmental Club

Renee Benkovics, Contributing Writer



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

The tenets of environmentalism are here in simplified form.

Recently, NBTHS’s Environmental Club has started a new program to reduce the amount of waste being wrongly disposed of. NBTHS is known for its lack of recycling, and the Environmental Club, is working to change the way we throw out our trash.

We’re all guilty of throwing out trash improperly from time to time. Be it because another trash can was closer, or we just couldn’t distinguish the difference between the bins, we have all thrown recycling into a trash can at some point.

The new program being im-

plemented consists of bringing awareness to which bin student’s throw their trash into. Blue bins with clear bags are to be used as recycling bins, while the grey bins with black bags are to be used as garbage bins. Signs are to be posted to help students remember this information. Recycling stations, an area for students to specifically throw their recycling into are in the process of being created.

This program will help students fall into a routine of recycling, and make it easier to distinguish the bins, reducing the amount of recycling and trash thrown into the wrong bins.

Recycling is the first step that NBTHS’s Environmental Club wishes to take in making our school greener and eco-friendly. Further programs are in the process of being created to put NBTHS at its full potential for recycling. With the help of students and staff the Environmental Club sees a green future for NBTHS.

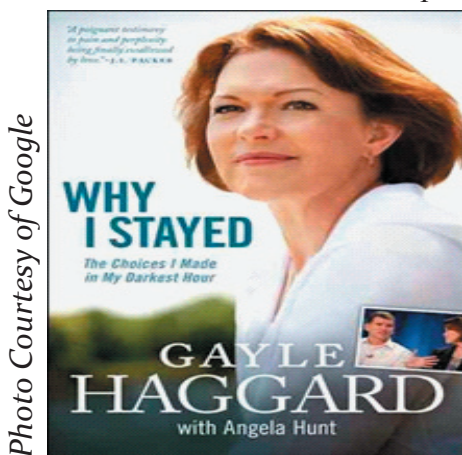
#WhyIStayed and #WhyILeft

*Megan Kaltschmid,
Contributing Writer*

Recently, a new media trend has hit the home screens, twitter feeds and Facebook profiles of thousands of Americans. This trend is not your usual fun, music or sports related but a heartbreakingly real issue. #WhyIStayed and #WhyILeft is a hash tag which brings attention to domestic violence against women in romantic relationships. The trend tells stories of physical and verbal abuse between couples.

The reality of these hash tags is hauntingly real and chilling. One woman's tweet read, "#whyistayed Because when he said he was sorry, I trusted that meant it wouldn't happen again. Again. Again. Again." It is challenging for the general public, mostly the people who haven't experienced abuse to understand why these women stay, why these women don't leave, why these women still love their abuser. Society will continually blame the victim, the woman, a double standard among sexes.

It is important that this issue is brought to the attention of both men and women. We must teach student our age and younger that abuse physically or verbally is unacceptable. We must change this double standard and this hushed subject. Bringing this heart wrenching topic into main stream media is changing people's ideas and opinions on the topic by educating them on the real, raw facts of abusive relationships.



Poster of Why I Stayed

#WhyILeft reveals the final straw for these women, a monumental moment in their eyes when they realized why and how they are going to leave these men and get the help that they need. A woman from Pittsburg wrote a status saying, "#WhyILeft I realized death was preferable to being his girlfriend" Let that be heard, let that be thought about. Death, the ultimate ending was more appealing than living a life of emotional and physical hell with a man she had loved. #WhyIStayed #WhyILeft

iPhone's New Generation

Malcolm Wooten, Contributing Writer

The new iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus were recently released Friday, September 19, a week after they were first available to be pre-ordered. Within the first 24 hours of availability over 4 million iPhones were pre-ordered, two times the amount of the iPhone 5's pre-orders after 24 hours. What's the hype around these new phones?

The design and size are a noticeable difference between the new iPhones when compared to its predecessor. The new iPhone 6 comes with a 4.7" screen and iPhone 6 Plus feature, a phablet sized, 5.5" screen. The squared design of the iPhone 5s will be swapped for a more rounded, slimmer body. With the slimmer body, 6.9mm thin, the iPhone 6 is one of the slimmest smartphones on the market.

The power/lock key has been moved from the top of the device to the right hand side, making it easier to hit during one handed use. On the left side there are two volume keys below a mute toggle switch.

The rear camera on the new iPhone is again 8MP but it's not the same as the one you'll find on the iPhone 5S. The camera features a new wide angle iSight lens, true tone flash, f/2.2 aperture, greater noise reduction, digital image stabilisation and a 2 x faster autofocus to capture even better images.

The camera can also shoot 1080p video and now shoot Slo-mo video at either 120fps or 240fps. Along with these minor updates, a new time-lapse mode has been added to the camera app. Time-Lapse is the method of filming a slow

process such as clouds moving by taking a series of single exposures, then showing them at higher speed to stimulate continuous action. This feature can be extremely useful for anyone interest in photography.

The new iPhones offers Apple's latest operating system, iOS 8. iOS 8 adds some useful new features and improvements: third-party keyboard support, more interactive notifications, a new Health app, and the ability for third-party apps to use Touch ID. Buying the new iPhone isn't required to have these features, iOS 8 is available for any iPhone 4s, iPhone 5, iPhone 5c or 5s owner.

The iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus starts at \$199 for the 16GB model on a two year contract, \$299 for 64GB and \$399 for 128GB of internal storage.

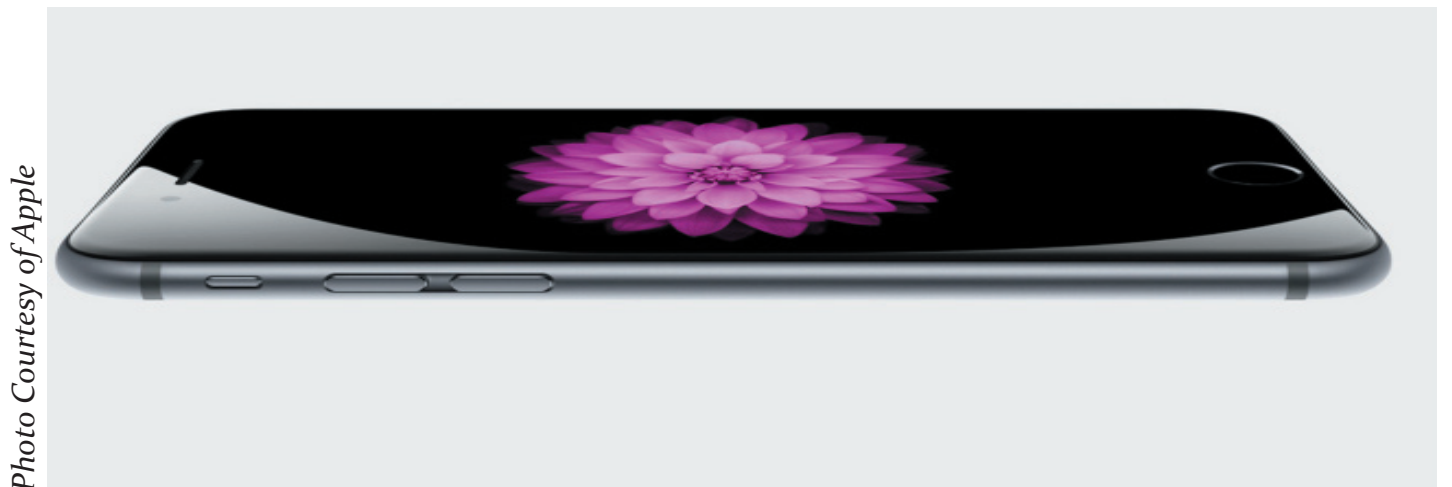


Photo Courtesy of Apple

The iPhone 6

iOS 8 Is Gr8

Nolan Salus, Contributing Writer

Announced in the beginning of June, iOS 8 the newest operating system (OS) for the iPhone generation. Following the release of the iPhone 6 and 6+, iOS is said by Apple to be "the biggest iOS release ever". The nearly 7 Gigabyte (GB) update includes major improvements to the user interface to the Safari internet browsing app, Photos app and the addition of a few new apps never seen before.

The largest addition to the new iOS, the iMessages app had some major features added. The much demanded of removing or adding people to existing group chats within the iMessages app has been received with much positivity. Also what was added was the featuring of sending voice or sound recordings instead of actual text messages. The real time sharing of the people's locations within the conversations and the sending of multiple videos at once were also added to the iMessages.

In the Photo and Video department it also got some improve-

ments. The photos app now includes a favorites section for when a person likes an embarrassing picture of their friend or when finding a picture that they use often. What were also added were more filters for selfies and more complicated editing tools for photos. Videos can now film in Time-lapse mode where a picture is taken in intervals, to be made into one large video.

A few small additions are also added within the new iOS update. The ability to lock and unlock apps through Touch ID on the iPhone 5s models and up is included in the system. Looking up recent contacts when calling or texting someone were added. Lastly was the addition to answer a text from any app is one of the most popular features also.

Aside from the large amount of space some users have to remove in order to download the update. Some people view it as annoying or easier to use. Download or not iOS 8 is the newest and biggest software update for Apple Inc.

Guardians of the Galaxy

AJ Savage, Contributing Writer

When I and a friend went to Regals in the late summer we had no intentions of seeing a movie with a talking raccoon, that awesome dude from Parks & Rec, a confused buff alien guy, a green spunky alien chick and an adorable tree. But thats what we fell in love with.



Courtesy of Google
The Guardians of the Galaxy poster

A bit of advice: Don't take this movie too seriously but also don't walk away without having learned something. This movie is much more than its outrageousness, it really drives home the idea of true friendship, sacrifices and perseverance. Plot twists are abundant and the soundtrack favors your parents fave oldies.

NBA 2K15

Monzel Brown, Contributing Writer

This new NBA 2k is set to release on October 7th in game stores all over the US. Kids and adults will be camping out in these long lines for this waited for game of the year. NBA 2k has a lot of competition this year but the reviews on 2k15 have made it seem like this game really is the best.

Bringing back the best feature of all 2k's, MyCareer, a lot of people will be creating their own look-alike characters and be drafted to the NBA. Now a lot of people in the age range form 13-21 constantly play 2k. This one is said to have brought back a bunch of legends from the earlier times.

With Kevin Durant of the

Oklahoma City Thunder on the cover this will bring a lot of attention to his play style in the game. A lot of people like to play on the team as the best person in the game but bringing the legends back will change all of that. Video games all around the world are played everyday and its different kinds of games.

2k has introduced over 5,000 more animations to the gameplay and added MyPark, an online MyPlayer battle ground. A lot of the My Features from 2k14 have been redone and look even better. This is game is a good game and it will definitely have people wanting more.

Super Smash Bros WiiU and 3DS!

Lam Jah, Contributing Writer

Photo Courtesy of Google



The cover images for the 3DS and WiiU

A sweet new game will be hitting the shelves in about 2 weeks' time. This game will consist of your favorite characters from the multiple game platforms of the Nintendo Franchise. It's got your favorite Super Mario characters like the protagonist himself, his twin brother, the demon monster, and the blonde haired princess. The game also extends to other platforms like Zelda, Pokémon, Star Fox, and many, many more characters. It's the successor to the Wii game Super Smash Bros. Brawl, its Super Smash Bros. 4!

Gamers all over the world have been waiting for a new installment in the Smash Bros. series. There have been flash games that consisted of characters from all over the Nintendo Franchise. The creator of Smash Bros. is Masahiro Sakurai. He states that this will not be like any of the previous smash bros. games that before. It will not have any story mode, but instead a new feature known as Smash Run.

Smash Run is a new addition along with the new game. Smash run pits you on a random stage

where you battle enemies. Upon defeating these enemies you will be rewarded with attribute boosts. The attributes increased vary from heavy attacks, light attacks and specials. Depending on what boots you acquire from the defeated enemies will aid in your victory or defeat in the second portion of Smash Run.

A second feature developers added that fans have been asking for ever since the Wii made this an official installment of Nintendo's gaming consoles. It is the Mii fighter. The Mii fighter is any of the mii's you have created to fight as an actual Smash bros character. There are three types of the mii fighter. Type one is the brawler. This is basically a hand to hand fighter like Mario. Second type is Sword type. The last type is the Gunner type.

Thanks to the new additions of the Smash run game mode, the Mii Fighters and new characters, fans can't wait for Super Smash Bros. 4 to come out. The release date for the game is October 4th on the Nintendo 3ds. The release date for owners of the Will U is going to be determined during the holiday season of this year.

No Good Deed

Zeriyah Biena Griffin, Contributing Writer

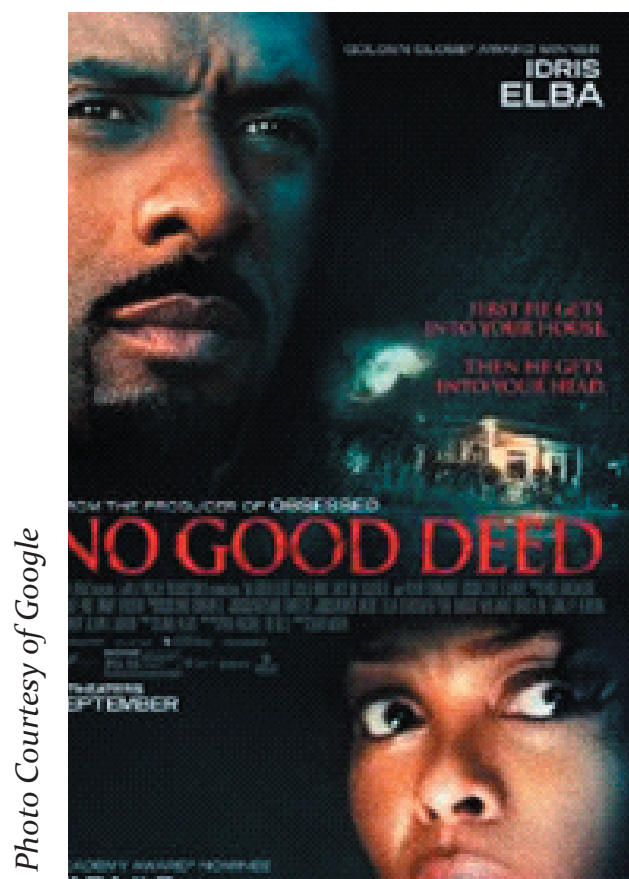


Photo Courtesy of Google

Poster of No Good Deed

No good deed is about a woman named Terri Granger (Taraji P. Henson) who's house is invaded by an escapee Colin Evans (Idris Elba) who escaped from prison after 5 years served. I'm not going to tell you why because that would be a total spoiler alert. After he escapes he crashes his van in the rain. Then goes to the house of the women Terri Granger. Thus begins the night of horror and thriller. The following review was written by: Bill Wine

No Good Deed is a clunky suspense chiller about a former district attorney named Terri, who is now a housebound mother of two young kids in suburban Atlanta who answers her door one stormy

evening to a stranger in need. But the actors are soundly defeated by a script that gets more ludicrous as it proceeds – there doesn't seem to be anybody at all at the wheel in the third act — and has no internal logic whatsoever: the two main characters behave arbitrarily and do whatever the plot needs them to.

And just in case this deeply unpleasant generic exercise in domestic violence isn't off-putting enough, the makers have included plenty of moments of children in jeopardy.

Charming.

So let's intrude upon 1 star out of 4 for a

dreadful, exploitative home-invasion thriller. No Good Deed is no good indeed". Personally I don't let movie critics decide on the movies that I want to see. If I think the movie might be good then I'm going to go and see it. Besides everyone has their own opinion. Any whozzies I strongly recommend the movie. "No Good Deed". If you like suspense and thriller then this is definitely the movie for you. I also recommend the movie "As Above Is Below". This is strictly only for people who like getting the crap scared out of them. If you don't maybe you should go see some action movie or something.

The End of the Rick Riordan Series

Suhani Baranwal, Staff Writer

Why must all good things come to an end!

First The Selection, then The Mortal Instruments, and now The Heroes of Olympus by Rick Riordan is coming to an end. The fifth and last installment to the well-hyped series named The Blood of Olympus is set to be published on October 7th, 2014.

The fans can't determine whether to be delighted for getting more of the seven demigods or depressed because the series will shortly be coming to an end. In the thrilling finale, seven demigods, who have been through more than their share of evens and odds, will travel of the originals home of Gods and Titans in Athens hoping

to stop Gaea, known to us as mother earth, from awakening and destroying earth in the process while Gaea goes to every extend in order to stop and take the blood of two demigods she requires. Will she be able to succeed? Will the demigods reach Athens before it's too late? Will the human race come to suffer? I can't tell you the answers to those; only The Blood of Olympus can, coming out on October 7.

What I can tell you, that The Blood of Olympus will make you laugh till your stomach hurts, make you cry till your face looks unrecognizable, and frustrate you to a point when you throw the book across your room, asking, Why did you end it, Rick?

Destiny

Antonio Gallardo, Staff Writer

Destiny has been a long awaited game especially for a new franchise; the newest game by developer Bungie and publisher Activision has confused players for a long time about what the game actually is because of the games blended mix of different genres and has been coined a shared world shooter because of its FPS and RPG and even MMO gameplay mechanics. Bungie has truly ambitious dreams for Destiny, but the game never truly meets the expectations of fans of what it is or what it can be yet.

Destiny has players start off picking from three classes: Titans, Warlocks, and finally Hunters. Players also choose from three races: Human, Exo(sentient robots), and Awoken (humans who have been altered by a mystical force). A being known as the Traveler came to Earth and sent humanity into a golden age ; advancement in technology, extended human life span, and humans began colonizing the solar system. The Traveler had an enemy though called the Darkness that had followed it across the galaxy. The Darkness fought the Traveler and humanity, the travelers made a final stand on earth and it now hangs over the city the only city left under human control.

There is so much excellent lore and stories to be told about Destiny's world that would have made the main plotline much more interesting , however a lot of lore is left out of the game. Which would be acceptable if the actual plotline of the game was good , but it is not. Most of the plot consists of bad dialogue from the games all-star cast of voice actors that the game has included, but that does not make

Destiny's writing any better with generic lines , and one of the only good lines in the game was taken out after the alpha stages of the game.

Destiny's gameplay is a mix of Borderlands and Halo. Players pick out their class choose and fight hordes of different enemies in search for better gear and leveling up their characters. In terms of shooting, Destiny leans both ways, mowing down a variety of different enemies. It is fun but it starts to become repetitive as missions become monotonous , then a boss

perience points, instead you equip gear with light and the more light your gear has the more you can level up, which is a pretty cool idea if it yet again if the loot system wasn't so poor.

Graphics are gorgeous no matter what planet you visit or what console you play on and players get to explore these world in missions or on their own though areas are confined and small they were fun to explore with friends even though there was only a handful of things to do in these free roaming areas

Competitive multiplayer

cept for a couple times i ended up on the scoreboard and didn't get anything (but the guy who wasn't even playing got a rare rifle) but for the most part i enjoyed it. I can't really imagine a esports atmosphere though since Crucible does not have private matches.

The best part of the game that Destiny offers though is the end game raid (only one raid on release date) the Vault of Glass. This is the most difficult challenge in Destiny however requiring the most out of a 6 party fireteam players can only solve the vault of glasses puzzles through cooperation and careful planning. This is really the only mode in Destiny that breaks the repetitive gameplay that was apparent in the other modes because of the interesting puzzles difficult bosses that aren't just bullet sponges (though they do take a lot of damage) and even a platforming and stealth section. It's a total shame some players could miss out on this due to there being now matchmaking supporting for the raid which would make sense if there was ways to talk to players other than four gestures (Waving, sitting, dancing, and pointing) which if you could imagine is hard to find 5 other players over level 26 to a raid via interpretive dance.

In short Bungie tries very hard to make destiny the game that was a blend of everything to mmo and shooter , but it does as much right as it does wrong, while having fun gameplay and nifty RPG and shooter infused elements and makes combat fun but, the game also has many problems like a unforgiving loot system, repetitivity, and lack of story.



Photo Courtesy of Google
Poster for Destiny

fight ensues, and the player be a level below a boss and fight them for a good half an hour. The worst part is that fighting these bosses gives you little reward compared to the time you spend fighting them and even when you play missions or strikes on a harder difficulty you still don't earn you lots of loot . The bright side is that weapons and armours have upgrade trees were that change the amount of damage the gun does or changes the rate of fire, the upgrade trees get really interesting the rarer the weapons are giving you more reasons on why you want to keep certain gear.

After you've leveled up to 20 you stop leveling up through ex-

perience points, instead you equip gear with light and the more light your gear has the more you can level up, which is a pretty cool idea if it yet again if the loot system wasn't so poor. Graphics are gorgeous no matter what planet you visit or what console you play on and players get to explore these world in missions or on their own though areas are confined and small they were fun to explore with friends even though there was only a handful of things to do in these free roaming areas

The Freak Show Is Back

Jennifer Seitis, Staff Writer

It's under the big top for the new upcoming season of FX's thrilling and terrifying show, American Horror Story. As trailers and snippets of information surface about 'Freak Show', the official title of the season 4, fans eagerly await for the return of their favorite actors on the small screen. Entertainment Weekly Magazine writes, "The latest installment of AHS is about a titular group of misfit performers (in a freak show) led by former German cabaret star Elsa Mars (Emmy winner Jessica Lange), who arrive in the small town of Jupiter, Florida."

What makes American Horror Story such a unique show is that each season features a brand new theme, time period, plot, and

set of characters. The one element that remains constant, though, is the set of actors. Jessica Lange is known for playing her iconic roles of Constance Langdon, Sister Jude Martin, and Fiona Goode, respectively. Some faces joining her in the group of recurring actors are fan favorite, Evan Peters (who played the roles of Tate Langdon, Kit Walker, and Kyle Spencer), Frances Conroy (Moira O'Hara, Angel of Death, and Myrtle Snow), and Sarah Paulson (Billie Dean Howard, Lana Winter, and Cordelia Foxx).

According to one of the creators of the series, Ryan Murphy (creator of Glee), the villain of 'Freak Show' is named Twisty the

Clown (the show takes place in a carnival, what else did you expect?) played by John Carroll Lynch. Twisty seeks revenge on the freak show performers after they arrive in Jupiter, the exact place he decided to spend his retirement. Murphy says, "He's out to make their lives a living hell."

What drama will arise among the freak show performers? How will Twisty the Clown finally achieve his peaceful retirement? Who will live and who will die? Step right up and get your tickets for American Horror Story: Freak Show, airing on FX every Wednesday night at 10 PM beginning on October 8th.



Photo Courtesy of Google

The new season's poster.

Perlz Pointz

Living in a Fantasy World

Sara Perlowitz, Contributing Writer

I am a girl. Yes, I am a football fan and yes, I play fantasy football, but I do not play alone.

Like myself, many women are very involved when it comes to games and latest news involving the teams we have grown to love. They are slowly proving themselves as a force to be reckoned with when it comes to football. According to ESPN, approximately 5.4 million women play fantasy, making up about 20 percent of all players.

Women enjoy competition just as much as males, although they may not spend as much time each week picking up the latest and greatest player. Many people would think that men have become threatened to the rising presence of females, they are actually very excited. What man wouldn't want a girl who he can talk about sports with?

It's not just a man's world anymore.

Peterson/Rice Case

Edward Carpenter, Contributing Writer

Both men committed assault chargers where they both brutally hit people. In this case, Ray Rice beat his wife and dragged her across an elevator floor leaving her unconscious.

Adrian Peterson, beat his child with a tree branch! He claimed that he "wanted to teach him right from wrong that day". This was stated one day in court in front of a jury.

Both people being current NFL running backs made the problem look bigger than what it was. It shed down light on them making them seem as awful people.

Both players were evaluated by the NFL and authorities. The NFL had to take action on both players' protecting the due process

of the NFL making sure all players are punished due to their wrong doings and or acts of violence.

Rice was suspended indefinitely; this means that the period of suspension has no specific ending time. The suspension will continue until further notice from a higher authority.

Peterson was suspended from Sunday's game, and then later deactivated from the Vikings until the problem was solved and could be back on the team no later than a week from the suspension.

Both players asked for forgiveness at a press conference. Rice & Peterson are both looking forward to joining back into their teams and starting over again.

Fantasy Football

Andrew Flores, Contributing Writer

Anybody who currently plays or has played fantasy football before knows how stressful football season can be. People who join leagues that require betting money are prone to much stress, but the rewards of winning are fantastic.

To play, you draft players, expecting or hoping that they perform consistently well on a weekly basis to make sure you keep beating your new opponents. Sometimes, you might have to draft players that are on teams you hate.

The best thing about fantasy football is that each and every week is so unpredictable. There are always new rising stars that come out of nowhere, and superstars who find a way to not meet expectations. Any wrong flow to a game or any unexpected injuries can impact a fantasy team's day in a heartbeat.

For example, just in this season alone, there have been plenty of superstars not meeting expectations. The top 3 draft picks in almost everybody's leagues this season have all been busts so far after one quarter of the NFL season.

Jamaal Charles, who many people selected with the number one overall pick, has already had three disappointing games, and missed an

additional game due to injury. Any Jamaal Charles fantasy owner must be going crazy every week after he continuously disappoints.

Another unexpected bust this season is Adrian Peterson. He is not even currently playing in the NFL as he is on the exempt list due to severe child abuse. The 2012 NFL MVP was another sure-lock top 3 draft pick this season, and now he is most likely out for the season as he awaits his punishment in his future court dates.

The final sure-lock top 3 draft selection was LeSean McCoy, who has with his own issues. He has played every game to date, but has been highly ineffective and has not met any expectations for a top 3 draft pick.

Even though there have been plenty of busts, there have also been unexpected rising stars. Even if a fantasy football crisis occurs, there are plenty of ways to recover and still have a great season.

To be successful in this game, pay attention to the top headlines across the leagues and to the free agency in the league to bolster your squad. Remember, if you lose in fantasy, there is nobody to blame but yourself.

UCL (UEFA Champions League)

Troy Asare, Contributing Writer

The UEFA Champions League, known simply as the Champions League, is an annual continental club football competition organized by the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA).

It is one of the most prestigious tournaments in the world and the most prestigious club competition in European football.

In its present format, the UEFA Champions League begins in mid-July with three knockout qualifying rounds and a play-off round. The 10 surviving teams enter the group stage, joining 22 other teams qualified in advance. The 32 teams are drawn into eight groups of four teams and play each other in a double round-robin system. The eight group winners and eight runners-up proceed to the knockout phase that culminates with the final match in May.

The winner of the UEFA Champions League qualifies for the UEFA Super Cup and the FIFA Club World Cup.

It's been 3 weeks; Two games have been played and the leaders in the groups are right now are

Group A: Club Atletico Madrid (Spain)

Group B: Real Madrid (Spain)

Group C: AS Monaco (France)

Group D: Dortmund (Germany)

Group E: Bayern Munich (Germany)

Group F: Paris Saint-Germain (France)

Group G: Chelsea (England)

Group H: FC Porto (Portugal)

Reigning Raiders

Chioma Iheanacho, Contributing Writer

With the fall season half way completed, many teams deserve acknowledgement for their achievements. A few have already attended their sport's GMC's and come back victorious.

The girls' tennis team, lead by junior Colleen Binbinon, ranked 10th place in a conference of over 30 schools. Their score (5-2) was only slightly below Edison and Metuchen.

The girl's volleyball team, lead by seniors Nnenna Ibe, Cassie

Luken, and Zoey Woody managed to secure 5th place. Under Woodbridge and J.P. Stevens, and beating schools such as Colonia and Monroe, the girls record is (8-2).

There are many teams yet to compete in their own GMC's and are still moving up in rankings.

With the skill and determination of Raider Nation, victory is sure to be attained with the endless support of coaches, staff, and student body.

Finances of Fantasy Football

Sean Schoonover, Contributing Writer

Making money isn't always an easy thing to do. Although if played correctly, fantasy football can be money in the bank. You only need to know three simple rules to succeed.

First is to draft reliable star athletes, make sure they have little to no history with serious injuries. An injury prone player is a high risk investment not worth taking.

Step two is to always stay up to date with by weeks and in-

juries. Always make sure to have a full line up so you can optimize your chances of victory.

Finally, and most difficult, keep up with free agency. There is always someone to pick up, whether it is for your bench or even the starting lineup

As long as these tips are followed and luck is on your side, a whole bunch of money could be in your future. Good luck and draft smart.

Oscar Pistorius Murder Trial

Adil Kazmi, Contributing Writer

Oscar Pistorius, also known as the "Blade Runner" earned national fame after his triumph at the 2012 Olympic Games in London. Pistorius inspired people all around the world that anything is possible, even for a double amputee like him, run and compete with people who aren't disabled.

After his fame, Oscar began living a lavish life. Whether it came to racing horses or throwing extravagant parties, Oscar was doing it all. In November 2013, Oscar Pistorius began dating a South African model by the name of Reeve Steenkamp. Their relationship seemed to be going strong until the "early morning of Thursday, 14 February 2013, Pistorius shot and killed South African model Reeve Steenkamp, his girlfriend of three months, at his home in Pretoria.

Pistorius acknowledges that he shot Steenkamp, causing her death, but says that he mistook her for a possible intruder." Pistorius' trial began on March 3, 2014. People all over the world were shocked by this news because Oscar was loved and adored by all his fans being known as a "lovable guy."

On 12 September, Pistorius was found not guilty of murder, but was found guilty of liable homicide and one firearm-related charge, of reckless endangerment related to discharging a firearm in a restaurant. Debates have risen during Oscar's trial regarding whether or not Oscar shot his girlfriend purposely.

"I never got the opportunity to tell Reeve that I love her." No one will know for sure if Oscar purposely killed his girlfriend or not except Oscar.

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.

Advisory Board:

Rebecca Rouantree

Editorial Board:

Editor in Chief:

Liela Piracha

Managing Editors:

Isha Chavva

Ashley Garcia

Anthony Kovach

Mark Loshak

Lindsey Mykietyn

Ami Patel

Business Manager:

Grace Chu

Staff Writers:

Haley Adams

Suhani Baranwal

Kena Chavva

Chioma Iheanacho

Antonio Gallardo

Michael Kovach

Cody Lebosky

Michael Osei

Jennifer Seitis

Claudia Torres

Cristina Torres

Sneha Vijayakumar

Photographers:

Craig Fisherman

Geoffrey McFall