

# THE BANNER

Fall 2012

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

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## NBTHS Congratulates 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program Students

Mr. Joseph P. Clark, Principal of North Brunswick Township High School and Mr. Kevin P. Farrell, NBTHS Director of Guidance, announced that four students have been identified as National Merit Semi-Finalists and twelve students have been named Commended Students in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program. Letters of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, were presented to our scholastically talented Commended seniors. (The four Semi-Finalists will continue in the 2013 competition

for National Merit Scholarships).

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2013 competition for National Merit Scholarships, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2013 competition by taking the 2011 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

In the same competition, two NBTHS seniors were

recognized by the 2013 National Achievement Scholarship Program as an "Outstanding Participant". The National Achievement Scholarship Program was initiated in 1964 specifically to honor academically promising Black American high school students. The annual scholarship competition is conducted by the NMSC. Outstanding Participants will not continue in the competition for Achievement Scholarship awards, but are being referred to higher education institutions because of their academic promise.

"Recognition of high-achieving students is essential to advancing educational excellence in our nation," commented a spokesperson for NMSC. "As demonstrated by their outstanding performance in our highly competitive program, the young men and women named Semi-Finalists, Commended Students and Outstanding Participants represent some of the most academically talented students in our country. We sincerely hope this recognition will enhance their educational opportunities and encourage them in their pursuit of academic success."

## R.I.S.E. Above

*Harrison Kaye, Contributing Writer*

Respect. Integrity. Service. Excellence. These four words are the qualities sought-for by the school administration for student leaders. Together, they are the foundation of the R.I.S.E. Program, brought to our school by NJPBSIS (New Jersey Positive Behavior Support In School).

R.I.S.E. at NBTHS was started in 2011, and has flourished since its birth. Features like RISE tickets and the RISE Assembly have been wildly popular and fun for all students.

This year's RISE Assembly acts included singing, dancing, rapping, and a performance by the NBTHS Varsity cheerleaders. While that was the more entertaining aspect of the assembly, some other portions were very important as well.

In between the acts, students and teachers read passages that explained each word in "R.I.S.E."

One of these students was senior Ray Habib, who explained what "excellence" meant to him. Habib mentioned "We have the same amount of hours in the day as Albert Einstein, Picasso, and the guy who invented Nutella." He conceded that the last was slightly a joke, but his intentions were evident.

"I had fun speaking in front of the school, but I was really nervous because I didn't want to mess up in front of all of my peers." Habib added.

Considering Habib was

nervous just reciting a speech, one could only imagine how nervous one of the performers felt.

Erica Cha, a freshman, admitted that she felt the nerves as she walked onto the stage in front of her peers.

"It was more difficult singing with my sister [senior Corianne Cha], but I felt the adrenaline once I started and it went by quickly."

Unlike the performance, the preparation for the assembly took diligent efforts from many students and staff members. Habib also helped on the R.I.S.E. committee for SGO, and played a big role in planning the event.

"Planning the assembly was the most thrilling combination of stress and excitement. It took a lot out of us to get everything together, especially because of the last minute changes."

The hard work paid off, as each performance was responded to with a standing ovation.

Habib agreed that it was worth the effort, saying "Seeing everyone's reaction was humbling. It showed that all of our hard work brought unity and fun to the school as a whole."

That is really the goal of the assembly, to bring the school together and unify the student body.

"It would not be possible without Ms. Marx, Ms. Van Langen, Ms. Wright, and Mr. Dawson," Habib concluded.



## Another Year at New York Comic Con

Chyna Woods, Contributing Writer

New York Comic Con is back for another year of excitement as thousands of fellow anime and comic fans come together for this event. This year, like all the others, Comic Con has out-done itself.

For those of you who don't know, New York Comic Con is a convention that is centered on the love of comic books and art animation. This year to make things more interesting, they combined two conventions: New York Comic Con and New York Anime Festival (convention for anime and manga fans), which made the con twice as large and eventful.

What attracts so many people, you may ask? Well, if the hundreds of famous movie or entertainment celebrities such as Adam West of Batman or the cast of the famous and popular zombie series, The Walking Dead, didn't make you fall head over heels, then the hundreds of people dressed as character from various series was your reason. But if not, then the talented vendors or artist, who

sells their famous creations, will probably attract you the most.

"I've been coming here for six years now, and I can never get enough of the cosplays (costume-play; people who dress up as a character from a comic or anime/manga series). They all look so amazing!" stated Katie, a fellow anime cosplayer.

"I love being able to talk to comic illustrators. These are comics that I grew up with, and to meet the man behind the pen, is just an incredible experience." said another con-goer.

Whatever the reasons is, everyone should have the New York Comic Con experience. It's unlike any other event you've ever been to. Even, if you don't meet celebrities, you are among the friendliest of people.

New York Comic Con is more than just a convention full of 'nerds', but a connection with others of the same interest and a way to rejoice your love for comics and anime.

## Care to Walk

Tiffany Smith, Staff Writer

The NBTHS Care to Walk/Run Event was held on Sunday, October 21. The walk began around



8 a.m., once hundreds showed up to support Breast Cancer Awareness.

The 5K walk took about a half hour to complete. Sophomore Josh Taubenslag and junior Austin Hernandez were of the first to finish, within 15 minutes.

With its multitude of vendors, non walkers were continuously kept busy. Vendors who set up to support the cause included Haagen Dasz, Avon, Gallery Studio Salon and other independent vendors.

For kids, they offered face painting and games. The Gallery Studio Salon applied colored hair extensions while Haagen Dasz gave out free ice cream.

The Raider concession stand gave out free food to those who

showed up. They offered pizza, hotdogs and even breakfast to the earliest of participants.

In addition, a raffle was offered for a multitude of prizes.

Aside from the upbeat music to entertain the guests, most of visitors just walked around the venue getting to know the other walkers.

While all of these distractions were intended to keep the guests from mourning loved ones, lost to



breast cancer, many stories were told to remind everyone of the cause.



## Freshman Academy Brings Much Change

Nicholas Onorati, Contributing Writer

The fall semester of the 2012-2013 school year came with many changes for the Freshman class. This is the first year that NBTHS is using the Freshman Academy.

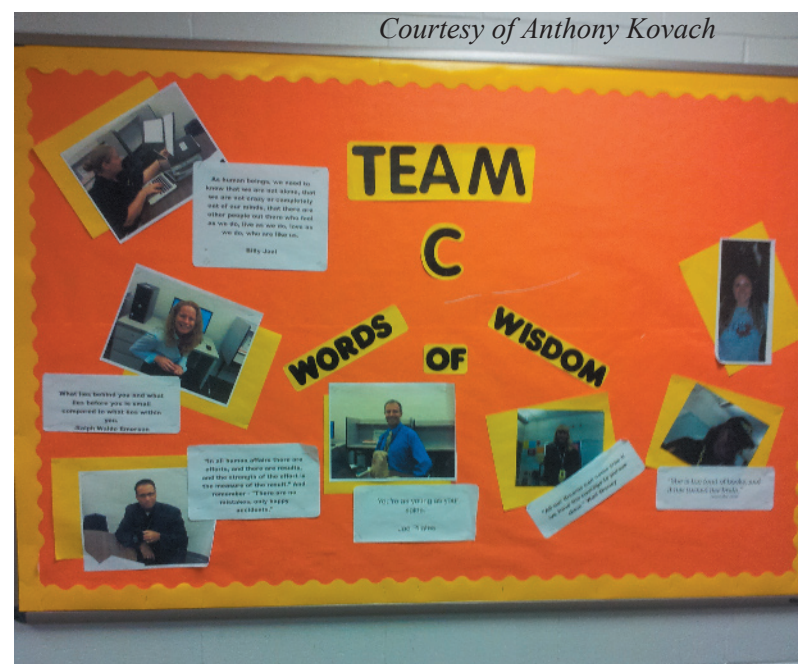
The Freshman Academy is a research-based, results-oriented transition program made up of three smaller learning communities (SLC). These SLC's are known as Houses A, B, and C.

Every house has a core team of academic teachers. These are

academic achievement and decrease behavioral incidents.

The staff is trying many methods to reach these goals. One way is with what are being called interventions. When a teacher feels it is necessary they will call meetings with struggling students and address the problems they are having, in hopes to get them back on track.

With this the staff also wants to provide a safe and comfortable environment for students to learn.



FRESHMAN TEAM C'S BULLETIN BOARD FEATURING TEAM TEACHERS AND THEMATIC QUOTES.

teachers of English, History, Math, Science, and the Learning Center. The teachers meet daily to talk about students' progress.

Mrs. Serafin, the supervisor of the Freshman Academy informed, "Research has shown that placing students into smaller learning communities provides the more personalized attention each student needs to make the successful transition into high school."

Serafin also explained the goal of this new program, "The mission of the NBTHS Academy is to provide a SLC atmosphere and comprehensive program that focuses on ensuring a smooth and successful transition for all incoming ninth grade students, which will specifically address their academic, behavior, and social needs."

Mrs. Passner, a History teacher in the Freshman Academy, explained, "Ideally this program shrinks the school. We are trying to prevent students from getting lost, getting overwhelmed, and falling through the cracks."

The main goal of this program is the smooth and successful transition into the high school. Another goal is to improve

Moreover, they are trying to foster greater extracurricular and school community involvement for all ninth graders.

The school would also like to organize and host team activities as a means to build teacher-student relationships and student connections with the school community.

A freshman student Brian Cha feels, "So far the school is very successful in promoting a sense of community among the freshman."

The faculty has created new bulletin boards, class competitions, awards, and other social opportunities to build this sense of community.

All the hard work that is going into this program is to benefit the freshman class. The staff is working rigorously in the hopes that their hard work will pay off and make this transitional period easier on freshman.

The Freshman Academy has many goals and means to reach these goals. Everyone is working to promote a positive learning experience at NBTHS starting from the first day of the four year journey.

## Marylynn Muldowney

*Nicole Howlin, Contributing Writer*

Marylynn Muldowney is currently a Senior at North Brunswick Township High School and has stood out these past four years as a very successful student here at NBTHS. High School can be a very difficult place, especially when juggling three sports a year while being a part of NHS and Treasurer of the class of 2013, makes it even more difficult. Although, Marylynn makes it look like a cake walk.

Marylynn plays varsity basketball, soccer and softball. Marylynn states that her favorite sport of the three is softball because it's competitive and it teaches you that you have to fail before you succeed. She recently signed with The University of Rhode Island, with a full Softball scholarship and a majoring in Education.

Muldowney's dad inspired her to play all these sports because he was able to play two division one sports in college and is now known to be a good coach. Seeing that her dad could do it, it motivated her to do so as well. When asked what do you envision yourself doing ten years from now, she says "Graduating college, teaching,

hopefully coaching, and trying to settle down."

Being a teen athlete has its disadvantages too, especially when you have to give up on your social time. Marylynn said one year she had to



*Photo courtesy of Nicole Howlin*

miss homecoming which happens only once a year because of a sleepover tournament. Even though everyone was going to Homecoming, Marylynn put her responsibilities first and went to her softball tournament. She also misses out on hanging out with her friends because she would have softball or

## Miss Perry

*Dhaval Patel, Staff Writer*

Born and raised in Iselin, NJ, Amanda Perry was an aspiring and passionate student growing up. She attended Robert Mascenik Elementary School, Iselin Middle School, and graduated from John F. Kennedy Memorial High School in 2003, where she displayed outstanding efforts not only in academics, but also as an exceptional cheerleader and spring track runner. Following her high school years, Miss Perry majored in Math Education at the University of Delaware graduating in June 2007.

In Sept. 2007, Miss Perry began her career as a NBTHS math teacher meanwhile, receiving her Master's degree from Kean University. This year marks her 6th year teaching and she certainly enjoys her experiences here at North Brunswick. "Working at NBTHS is a fabulous experience! I really enjoy working with students especially because of the academic mix and cultural diversity among students."

Aside from teaching, Miss Perry is also very involved and active as the Class of 2014 advisor and Varsity cheerleading coach, something she believes helps develop strong relationships with other students.

As the Class of 2014 advisor, Miss Perry puts a tremendous effort planning and managing fundraising activities for the Class of 2014 prom, one of which was the Basket Auction. Class of 2014 President Megan Brewi says, "Miss Perry is very hard working. Whenever we need help with anything, she never says no and always sacrifices her own time to improve our class events and activities."

Since high school, Miss Perry pursued a career in teaching especially because of her love for math and helping students. She tutored her friends in high school and college and tagged along with her mother, who was also a teacher, to school on Take Your Child to Work Day. "I feel like it is rewarding and satisfying when you convey a message you have learned to another individual," says Miss Perry.

Today, she really enjoys working throughout the school year and the simple joy of a summer off. Last year, her class was filmed by the CBAL program, a program ETS runs for algebra. "She is a very dedicated teacher who is willing to make sacrifices to help her students and clear their concerns," says her

another sport that she had to do.

Everyone has a goal that is set when they are trying to achieve something. Marylynn was taking on two varsity sports as a freshman, and three her sophomore, junior, and senior year, and she had a goal. Her goal was to improve, meet new groups of people, become a leader, and stay active, and she feels that she has definitely reached those goals.

Marylynn thanks her friends and family, who have supported her tremendously through all of her sports. They always come to her games to support her, her parents drive here wherever she needs to go, they motivate her to do better, and are always pushing her to do her best. When times get hard Marylynn thinks about her coaches, family, and friends, and knows she will never give up because she doesn't want to let herself or the people that mean a lot to her, down.

Four words that would describe Marylynn would be a leader, responsible, driven, determined. SGO, PUSH Honors Society (NHS) Heros and cool kids Senior leadership Deca Soccer Basketball Softball All area for softball All division for soccer.

former Honors Algebra II student, Conan Chen '14. "I expect all my students, whether they are in honors or general, to push themselves and rise to the challenge," says Miss Perry.

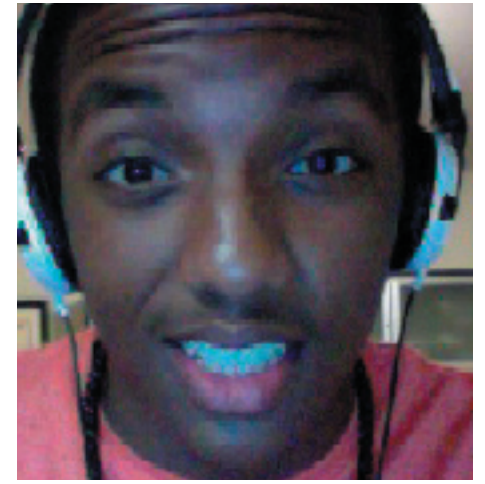
Outside of school, Miss Perry enjoys a variety of activities. She loves shopping, owning over fifty pairs of shoes. She also enjoys reading on her Kindle, staying outdoors during the summer, eating Chinese food, and watching T.V. She loves the beach and apple-picking and loves spending time with her cat, Percy. Miss Perry is very dedicated, enthusiastic, and outgoing and the students and staff members really appreciate her efforts and services to the NBTHS community.



*Photo courtesy of Amanda Perry*

## Romello Belton

*Gabrielle Jarvis, Staff Writer*



*Photo courtesy of Twitter*

North Brunswick Township High School has their own musical star, and his name is Romello Belton '15.

Belton, who goes by Mello B, recently released a mix tape named "The Prophet" with his partner Andy Rodriguez, who no longer attends school at NBTHS.

Belton, who has been rapping since he was six, was very pleased with the end result of "The Prophet".

The project took approximately one month to make and was made in its entirety at Rodriguez's house. Belton explains that it took him, "half an hour" to write some songs and "a few days for others".

"The Prophet" includes 16 tracks with great beats and real lyrics as well. Belton even sings during the chorus of one song.

"The Prophet" is like a "No Ceilings" kind of project, where Belton and Rodriguez take beats from popular songs like, 'Rigamortis' by Kendrick Lamar, and rap their lyrics over it.

The writing process came easily to him and his favorite song off of the project was "Boom" which is an introduction to the tape. 'Boom' explains Belton's life on the playground as a small child and how he used to get in trouble during school.

Belton, who is expecting to put out another mixtape in a month or so, admires Kanye West, Notorious B.I.G and Lauryn Hill. However, he says that his mother is his "inspiration."

In one track off of "The Prophet" Belton says, "I made it and I ain't even famous." while speaking to his mother.

At the end of it all Belton says, "I'm happy for how all of my music came out whether it's a single track or a mix tape, because at the end of the day it makes me a better artist."

NBTHS can see Belton in the hallways and look forward to a brand new project coming out before the New Year!

## New Students? Oh Boy!

*Harrison Kaye, Contributing Writer*

When a new student comes to school, everyone goes crazy, asking questions about who they are, what classes they are taking, who their friends will be, and similar general questions.

So imagine what will happen when seventeen students from Germany come to NBTHS.

Junior Sai Gundlapalli, who takes German class but did not go on the trip, mentioned, "Last time I thought it was pretty cool. I only saw a couple of them, but even then it was a unique experience."

Gundlapalli brings up a good point, that not everyone gets a chance to see students from another country, let alone interact with them for three weeks.

Before the German students come to the US, however, seventeen of NBTHS's own students visited Germany during the summer. Not only did they tour the country, but they spent most of the time with one of the German students and their family.

Hank Schwab, the supervisor of the trip and one of the German teachers at NBTHS, enjoyed seeing the students' reaction to the country. "They're not just touring the country; they're living the German lifestyle," he added.

With almost 5,000 miles in between the two countries, there are many differences in the way the people live. For example, the school that participates with NBTHS in the program is a specialty school, focusing and preparing students to enter college. It is also about half the size of ours.

Although the students lived with the German families for most of their time across seas, they did take trips to certain landmarks in Germany with their American classmates.

"My favorite place was Bayern Munich's stadium," Jason Levash, '14 explained. As an international soccer aficionado, Levash particularly enjoyed this

trip to the arena of one of the best soccer teams in Germany.

Like the Americans, the German students will be visiting U.S. landmarks in New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington D.C., along with any places that the host families choose.

These optional trips include a night at "Frightfest", at Six Flags Great Adventure. "I know they went last time, and from what I've heard the Germans had a great time," Levash noted.

To add to the uniqueness of Levash's trip, he got to experience the country with his twin sister, Kim. "We always have fun together and this trip was no different. We

also helped each other out because we were more comfortable together and I didn't feel as homesick with her around."

However, this was not the case for the other 15 American students. Joey Ikuss, a senior at NBTHS, said this was the first time he had ever been away from his family for that long. "I missed them a lot, especially because my brother was leaving for college soon after I got home; but I would never have passed up the opportunity to go to Germany."

Ikuss's older brother Tommy went on the trip two years ago, and Ikuss mentioned that he saw how much fun his brother had and wanted to create bonds with international students as well.

Ikuss concluded that, "It was the best three weeks of my life. If I ever had the chance to go back I would do it in a heartbeat." Obviously this trip means a lot to the students and is a great way for them to open their minds to the rest of the world.



*Courtesy of Mr. Schwab*  
NBTHS STUDENTS POSE WITH THEIR GERMAN FRIENDS

## MediterrASIAN Sensation

*Ankur Sharma, Contributing Writer*

When you hear the club name, MediterrASIAN, throughout the halls of NBTHS, you might ask yourself, what is that? For years, the students of NBTHS have known it as the Asian-American Club. That was until last year when the Asian Club merged with the Mediterranean Club.

Two clubs came together to form one club that is committed to developing an appreciation for Asian and Mediterranean cultures through community service, social activities and cultural education.

The Asian-American Club puts on its annual show, InnovASIAN, every year in March. The members of the club embrace Indian culture in the show through different dances such as Bhangra, Garba, Classical, an entertaining skit and a dazzling Fashion Show, showcasing different styles of Indian clothing. The Mediterranean Club embraces Middle Eastern cultures.

InnovASIAN 2K13 is going to exceed everyone's expectations. The whole change within the club has shocked a couple of students especially those who have been with either club for more than one year, mainly sophomores and upperclassmen.

When asked about his thoughts on the progression of the new club, President Shafan Khan said, "This is my final year

in this club. I've come to know so many people [...] it's been a great experience." Khan, a senior at NBTHS, has been with the Asian-American Club since his freshman year and believes that "Besides pride, loyalty, heart and mind, confidence is the key to all the locks." As president of the newly formed MediterrASIAN club, he works hard to ensure that his last year in the club is not only a memorable year the seniors but a wonderful experience to the underclassmen.

Jay Shah, a senior and one of the executive choreographers of the club, said, "The changes made really don't matter. What matters is the hard work we put in to make a great show. The hard work pays off and in the end; we're all one big family."

Freshmen, new to the school, are curious as to how they will do in the club. MediterrASIAN offers a new opportunity for freshmen to celebrate the diverse traditions of Asia and the Mediterranean through dance, acts, fashion and community service.

Though there may be people who have mixed reactions towards the club, it looks like the club has a bright future ahead, judging by the new faces that joined and the huge number of returning members. The road to InnovASIAN 2K13 has begun.

## The iPhone 5: Biggest Thing To Happen To iPhone

*Mark Loshak, Contributing Writer*

"18% thinner, 20% lighter, 12% less volume, the biggest thing to happen to iPhone since iPhone." All this and the "200+ new features" seem like too much for some people but it is worth it.

Freshman Akshay Malavade, was asked on his thoughts on the new IOS6 operating system that comes with it, "It's a big improvement to the last update but it takes away some originality."

Apparently some of the features are disliked, but the look of it is not the only new thing. With "a larger display, a faster chip, the latest wireless technology, an 8MP iSight camera, and more."

All these features come in a sleek aluminum body designed and

made with an unprecedented level of precision. iPhone 5 measures a mere 7.6 millimeters thin and weighs just 112 grams. That's 18 percent thinner and 20 percent lighter than iPhone 4S.

Being that the new iPhone is almost 9 millimeters taller than the iPhone 4S, but the same width so there is another row for apps, 326 pixels per inch to watch videos better and an all-new original headphone designs that fit perfectly in a person's ear and sounds great.

All these features plus more than 200 more puts the new iPhone into a whole other level. Sophomore Moksh Gudala says "I believe Steve Jobs would be proud."

*Photo Courtesy of Google Images*



## Wanting More Halo 4

*Nolan Salus, Contributing Writer*

The newest game of the year, Halo 4, is scheduled to release this coming fall and is said to be groundbreaking in sales. Justin O'Donnell, Halo enthusiast said. "This is the game I have been saving my money for since the day it was announced".

Justin is a definite Halo fan and has loved it since the first game in the series hit the shelves in 2001. Halo 4, a game made by 343 Industries follows space marine John-117 when he crash-lands on a artificial planet built by a ancient species called the Forerunners and his many encounters with opposing alien force the Covenant and The Forerunners.

"The Halo franchise has been known universally for a ground breaking FPS (First Person Shooter) and overall good graphics. The newest Halo 4 is introducing many new enemies, weapons, vehicles and maps that would make any gamer drool, not to mention the final climax to the ever-running Halo saga!

If anyone has any pocket money I would recommend pre-ordering this game before it flies off the shelves." Answers Justin, regarding reasons for buying the game.

After the thorough explanation I wanted to see what is his favorite part of the new 'blockbuster game'.

"I would have to say that the customization takes my vote, they have really upped the ante in this release and added even more customization to your multiplayer avatar. From helmets to shoulder pads the possibilities are endless".

Along with all these new features the plot line is going to be on a grand scale compared to

Halo 3, where Master Chief has to fight on an ancient alien planet filled with creatures, bugs and viruses that want to kill him and anyone close to the protagonist. Master Chief's artificial intelligence known as "Cortana" also has a conflict that includes her life span as a piece of technology running short.

"I do not believe that this would be the end of the Halo saga, as I know from 'sources' that there



*Photo Courtesy of Google Images*

are two more games to be pumped out from the company"

Along with plot, characters and other entities in the game there is one thing that my friend has been pretty interested in, the soundtrack. The infamous soundtracks to the Halo saga is another reason why my friend and many people like him love the game for what it is today. I myself love the iconic humming of the Halo 3 main menu.

"I just love the soundtrack 343 Industries and Bungie has produced over the previous decades. They know when the right song is to play and the right instrumentals for the perfect experience. I loved the soundtrack so much I even bought

## Food Quality

*Jordan Grant, Staff Writer*

North Brunswick Township High School has changed drastically. Many students have had different opinions about the change in the food that is being served.

Senior, Shannon Outlaw stated that he doesn't eat lunch as much as he used to due to these changes. He believes that the food now tastes artificial and nasty.

Students have the same opinion as Outlaw as well as students that disagree completely. Ashley Mckoy, a junior at NBTHS,

says that she enjoys how healthy the food is now.

She states that the food is "more energizing and fresh". As an athlete, it is McCoy's job to stay in shape and the food in the cafeteria helps here maintain her figure.

Good or bad, students at NBTHS have very different outlooks on the menu changes. Some students are either optimistic or pessimistic about the changes. The food is definitely healthier than before. As of now, more than one

the album on I-Tunes!"

Him and many other gamers around the globe are greatly anticipating its release and hope to get their hands on it the day it lands on their doorstep. GameStop, a game distributing company already has Halo 4 among its top 5 most anticipated games on their website. Most avid gamer consumers have been familiar with reserving their games and getting

them on the release date, along with exclusives for preordering. When I ask Justin if people should pre-order Halo 4 for the bonuses, he raises his eyebrows and says.

"In my opinion if you are willing to go top dollar for this you can reserve the game and get some goodies once the game comes out, such as exclusive armor and anesthetics. Just like all pre-orders they go for the price of 60\$. I of course have already pre-ordered since the day it was announced, if you are really a die hard Halo fan I recommend you go to

your local GameStop or whatever and reserve it now!"

In video games throughout our childhood we can remember the voices we heard from our favorite characters, such as Mario from Super Mario Brothers, Solid Snake from Metal Gear Solid, or the foreign accent of Niko Bellic in Grand Theft Auto IV. Just like those famous characters there were voice actors who brought those characters to life. Justin says:

"The voice actors are going to be incredible this year, there are going to be some new guys such as late night host Conan O'Brien and Steve Downes, I am eager enough to play it on November 6, 2012."

## Safety First

*Jaclyn Carlsen, Contributing Writer*

Around the world, most schools have been increasing their security systems; starting with school ID's. This is mainly for safety reasons to protect the students and staff.

Children have been kidnapped from school, shootings have occurred, and no one knew what to do. These school IDs keep people out of the school that do not belong there.

At North Brunswick Township High School, school ID's are required for all students and staff to wear.

"As part of our school safety plan, with over 1,750 students and 160 faculty members, it is the feeling of our School Safety Committee that we can recognize all students and staff in the building.

"Our North Brunswick Township Police Department supports this safety initiative, especially if they ever needed to respond to an evacuation or lockdown, so that they can identify students and staff having their IDs visible," states NBTHS Principal, Mr. Clark.

ID's are very similar to driver's licenses; you need them at all times, during school.

This year, students at NBTHS have been carrying them, but teachers and staff like the visibility (students do not have to wear them around their necks) that creates school unity as well as school safety. In the future, the students will need these school ID's to enter school and bathrooms with the installation of security pads.

If a student does not have their ID on the first or second offense, they will get lunch detention for that day. On the third offense, the student will be escorted to the school's reception booth to get a new ID.

"Lunch detention averages to about 11 students a day. From the beginning of the school year to now, the numbers of lunch detentions have greatly decreased. To improve our ID situation, we will continue to issue Lunch Detentions and have the homeroom teachers as well as all subject teachers continue to check each day for IDs until we have 100% compliance. This is a safety issue. We need to know that every person in the building belongs in the school," explains Dean Mrs. Barkley.

At school, every student is under great protection of staff, and police, but also themselves. It is we who make our school and protect it.

quarter of Jerseyans are obese. New Jersey's obesity rate is ranked 47th in the nation.

Staff at NBTHS has taken these statistics into consideration especially Mr. Clark, the principal at NBTHS. Mr. Clark and The Board of Education took this problem into their own hands and came up with the solution to change the way students at NBTHS eat. Students now make healthier choices about what they put in their mouth.

## Homecoming: A Bust or a Must?

*Taylor Ann Winkler, Contributing Writer*

Friday afternoon, the Commons was filled with its usually chatter about classes, sports, and drama, but one subject seemed to slip into everyone's conversations: Homecoming.

With this year's theme being 'Wild Wild West', there were a lot of skeptics.

Victoria Ko, a sophomore stated "Homecoming was so stupid last year, there is honestly no point. Not only was it boring but the decorations and music sucked. There is no way I'm going this year." However some people were excited; Tara Viray, a sophomore said "I'm excited for it [Homecoming] this year. We danced and sang to good music last year and I think it's going to be fun."

It seemed like there were just as many skeptics as there were optimists this year.

While everyone went shopping for their outfits, SGO members were at NBTHS day and night decorating to make this Homecoming better than any other. Executive Board member Hope Yuhas said "We have all been here late hours and early mornings, making decorations, decorating, and preparing for Saturday night. We are working harder than we have ever worked this year." Their hard work paid off on Saturday night.

Walking into the building Homecoming night, the Commons was unrecognizable and was transformed into the "Wild Wild West". Every wall was covered with a huge hand painted poster, the snack station transformed into 'Clark's General Store', and completed with a saloon door at the bottom of the staff's steps. These attentions to detail truly made you feel like you were in the West, and made the night special.

If the decorations didn't get you excited the music definitely would have. The DJ played hits from Rihanna, The Black Eyed Peas, Nicki Minaj, 'Housemusic', and of course a slow song. Everyone seemed to be on the dance floor the whole night, dancing their hearts out. Everyone was just enjoying themselves and having a great time.

Monday morning the topic on everyone's mind was Homecoming. Freshman Lindsay Mancini stated, "It was so much fun! I didn't expect the decorations, music, nothing. I'm so happy I went and will definitely be going from now on, no question about it."

Overall Homecoming was a major success. Not only was it better than last years but it set the bar higher for years to come.



Courtesy of Jordan Grant

MRS. WRIGHT AND MR. DAWSON COLLECT TICKETS AT THE HOMECOMING DANCE

## Disappointment Rains on Raiders

*Darron Baity, Contributing Writer*

The homecoming weekend was kicked off by the swirling bonfire; where football captains, Ron Nazzaro, Justin D'Amore, and Tim Parson set fire to their enemies' jersey and mannequin as a form of disrespect and a start of the fire.

The fire symbolized the unity of the NBTHS team and the fire in our souls that we all share.

Following the bonfire was the PEP Rally where our football team was showcased to the school.

It is also where our football team uses to gather energy and confidence before the big game.

Later that day, around 7 our team went to battle, a war not only to obtain a victory but one to amuse our fans and raise our pride.

Our Raiders fought until the end but ended up on the bottom of the pile.

The score 40-22, Edison came out victorious with their hands raised and energy and pride. The Raiders moping, walked off the field

heads down and filled with emotion, and went back to their locker room, where they released some tension. Some busted out in tears and some remained silent ... most threw their helmets and banged lockers.

Our raiders suffered a very disappointing loss. They deserved to win that game but it just didn't turn out that way. After this loss our raiders have a record of (1-5), meaning one victory and five losses.

Check out the team as they try to defeat the other schools and change their record for the better!

# Fall Ba



Courtesy of George Stillwell

TIFFANY SMITH, JORDAN GRANT, AND GABRIELLE JARVIS POSE FOR A PICTURE AT THE HOMECOMING DANCE

## Pep Week

*Jordan Grant, Staff Writer*

Do you have school spirit? Well North Brunswick Township High School certainly does. Pep week is taken very seriously here at NBTHS.

Pep week is a little different from other schools because pep week lasts for one week. We all do very different things that support a certain cause. On the first day it's dress to impress day. Everyone gets to show off their stylish side and wear their best outfit.

On Tuesday also known as "Breast Cancer day" everyone gets to wear pink. NBTHS is a very big of donating and charity so this is our way of showing compassion for the people suffering from cancer.

On Wednesday, it was college day and everyone shows off their favorite college attire. The 4th day is hat day. That's everyone's favorite.

Nicole Howlin, a fellow NBTHS student, loves showing off her different snapbacks at school. Nicole states that, "she's swagged out on hat day when she wears her favorite snapback hat". She definitely enjoys hat day.

The final and last day, is blue and gold day. Marylynn Muldowney, a softball player for NBTHS, paints her face blue and gold every year for pep week. Pep week is just a huge celebration to North Brunswick.

## The New Spirit Cup Winners

*Isabella Evangelista, Contributing Writer*

As students from each grade fled into the gym for the first pep rally of the year it started to get packed and loud. Students were very excited to come together and enjoy the games.

The pep rally started off with the national anthem and The Star Spangled Banner sang by our beautiful choir, which was followed by the wonderful performance by the color guard.

When the games began, students first competed in The Dizzy Bat. It was a close call between the seniors and juniors, but the juniors were first and had the crowd thinking they won. When it came down to the judges they decided that the freshmen won and were the only ones that did it correct.

They announced the so far winners with juniors coming in second place and freshmen taking the lead once again in first place.

Cheerleader, Cassie Carlino says, "I think this year's decision on the best banner was rigged. The seniors and freshmen's banner did not seem creative at all. I do agree with the sophomore winning first

place because their banner was the most interesting. The juniors should have won second place because the theme went well with their banner."

This year's banners were the most creative and original. It seemed like each grade worked really hard and wanted to win. It should have been a four-way tie.

"The pep rally got my adrenaline rushing with all the tense (moments) coming from the competitors, who were all determined to win. I believed that one hour and 15 minutes is not enough to determine who exactly deserves to win the Spirit Cup," states freshmen, Camille Lustre.

When Mr. Chesler announced the winners of the Spirit Cup, no one, including the freshmen thought that the freshmen would win because it's their first pep rally. But, in the end the freshman came one top, surprising everyone.

Many students are excited for the next pep rally to see who will win the Spirit Cup. Or will the freshmen be able to keep it in their hands?



THE 2012 HOMECOMING COURT

Courtesy of Kyle Kriegl



Courtesy of Kyle Kriegl

KATIE SIEGAL AND JENNA GASTON WORK TOGETHER TO HELP OUT THEIR CLASS

# Back to School

## Homecoming Bonfire

*Nick Onorati, Contributing Writer*

After two canceled Bonfires, the Homecoming committee continued to disappoint the students of North Brunswick Township High School.

Bonfires of years past are remembered for their size and excitement. Nothing could live up to the expectations of the students' long awaited homecoming ritual.

Alisa Adwaney, a senior at NBTHS informed, "When I heard the Bonfire was coming up I was so excited to go with my friends. Sadly, this year's Bonfire did not deliver." Many students feel similarly to Alisa and were unimpressed and unexcited.

A sophomore at NBTHS, Nolan Salus, explained "hearing the seniors talk about past Bonfires got me so excited. All we did was stand there. There was no activity or spirit being shown."

The Bonfire was notably

smaller than previous Bonfires. Also, there were no activities in which to partake. The spectators simply stood there and looked at the fire.

Adwaney also contributed "the size of the fire was a fraction of those in the past. I understand the fire hazard, but still expected a bit more."

Many students agree with Adwaney and Salus that this Bonfire did not motivate them or give them any pride in their school. The point of the Bonfire during the Homecoming Weekend is to promote pride and spirit throughout the school.

Unfortunately, in the eyes of the students, this Bonfire was uninspiring. This did not urge them to go out and support our teams or promote a sense of community. To them this was just another school event that fell flat.



THE DIZZY BAT RACE WAS ONE OF THE EVENTS IN PEP RALLY

Courtesy of Kyle Kriegl



Courtesy of Kyle Kriegl

THE RAIDERS BIRD POSES FOR THE CAMERA DURING OUR FALL PEP RALLY.

## This Generation Should Vote

*Luz Diaz, Contributing Writer*

On November 6, 2012, President Barack Obama will be up for re-election against the Republican Party's nominee, Mitt Romney, Governor of Massachusetts. Why should our generation vote? In a competition for young voters, Obama and his team are trying to expand Pell Grants to lower-earning families. Romney, on the other hand, is trying to curb the rise of tuition costs by minimizing the amount given to families in need.

“We should not be upset if

the person we want does not win, if we don't go out to vote.”) explains Kaveena Bullock, a senior raider at North Brunswick Township High School, “It is tough for an eighteen year old to go out into the real world without financial aid. We all need money and support.”

For the seniors who just turned eighteen, financial aid next year might be cut down significantly if Romney takes office.

“I really do not want to leave college buried in debt! It is just not

fair,” exclaims Chyna Woods, a senior graduating this coming June.

The first step for beginners who want to vote in this year's election is to apply for a Voter's Application Form. Once it is sent or obtained, the applicant must send in the form to the address given. The next, and easiest, step is to wait for November 6th. Keep in mind to first locate the location of the polls. On the day of, the applicant must obtain the ballot. After you apply and are approved, the applicant should enter

his or her own booth to vote for the next President of the United States.

Yes, the process is tedious, but worth it. This generation is going to be living in the real world in a few months or years, experiencing all the struggles and financial situations adults face every day.

Seniors who are graduating should not let the adults say how they live the next four years. It is a choice, a privilege, which not many people in the world have today.

## Motives Behind Lunch Detentions

*Louis Reyes, Contributing Writer*

At NBTHS, lunch detentions are handed out like flyers. Students can get lunch detention for just about anything and everything “Unexcused Tardiness to School” or “Failure to Have a School Issued ID”.

But to what extent does that “logic” make sense? Still to this day there are more than a handful of students who don't have their IDs, so how do they know those students aren't aliens?

the teacher in charge of lunch detentions.

But is that really having sympathy if the student's words are not believed and are being checked?

Plus, the amount of lunch detentions you get are recorded not only on Parent Portal but, also on your record. When parents or even college admin look at your record they will note down how many lunch detentions you were given in your

## NBTHS Decreases in School Spirit

*Bree Hanson, Contributing Writer*

Throughout the years, school spirit has decreased immensely. In previous years, students were overly thrilled to “Dress to Impress,” celebrate Hat Day, and even wear blue and gold for the pep rally.

“People used to wear school colors ALL THE TIME. I was a cheerleader, so I obviously loved Pep Week,” NBTHS class of 2005 graduate, Sasha Hanson, stated.

In a poll of 20 students, 17 of these students stated that the decline in school spirit was due to the fact students just no longer care. The other 3 students concluded that the cause was the new schedule.

“Students are so overwhelmed with all of the new school policies and rules.

Everyone has either lost pride in the school because of all the rough changes, lost time to show school spirit because of how overworked we are, or a combination of the two,” said Dean Pidgeon, Junior.

In one homeroom in the school, it was calculated that the amount of students who participated in Pep Week was quite low. Out of 24 students, 9 participated in “Dress to

Impress,” or for Breast Cancer Awareness Day, also known as “Wear Pink” Day and a mere 4 for Hat Day.

“During Pep Week, half the school goes along with dressing up or wearing a certain color, but many have not involved. It should be a huge competition between the grades where everyone goes over the top and has fun with it. That will bring our school so much closer together and make it more fun for everyone. The more school spirit, the better,” stated

Megan Brewster, 2014 Class President.

It is important to have pep not only during Pep Week, but also throughout the school

year. Instead of leaving the stands “with lots of spaces,” as cheerleader, Anika Hamilton, a junior at NBTHS, should called them, come support Raider Nation and join the Bleacher Creatures as they cheer on the school's sports teams.

All in all, everyone wants to learn in a fun and pride-filled environment. To do so, one must try their very best to promote school spirit, and enjoy themselves as they do. And remember, “WE ARE NORTH BRUNSWICK!”

**“It is important to have pep not only during Pep Week, but also throughout the school year.”**



A DOOR LIKE THIS CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING- YOU'RE IN TROUBLE

*Courtesy of Anthony Kovac*

When asked why IDs were so important Principal Clark replied, “It's a safety plan, visibility, unified, no hassle intended.”

Tardiness is also a reason to get lunch detention. Students all have days where they wake up late, lose things, forget things, get stuck in traffic, miss the bus, or get into an accident. Is there any sympathy for students who encounter these circumstances?

“Yes of course, but I am sure that if you get into an accident, you'll have a police report. You can bring a letter from home or have a parent call, and I'll call them that same morning” added Barkley,

high school career. What makes this situation pathetic is that, you only got them because you came into school late or because you do not have your school ID.

Most of the student body has complained about lunch detentions, so when asked if students can come up with an alternative for lunch detentions Clark replied:

“Yes, we are open-minded, in fact we did come up with an alternative and that's how we came up with lunch detentions.”

Well, until the school learns that lunch detention is not an effective means of teaching students “lessons”, we will just have to stick it out.



# Sidewalk Survey

## “What do you think of school ID’s?”



Zakiyyah Mcleod,  
'16

“I really think that they’re stupid because why do we have to have ids during school if we are already registered here?”



Chris Young, '15

“I think they’re ridiculous. They’re unnecessary and an easy excuse for teachers to say, ‘We want to see you in the school,’ but where would we sneak out to?”



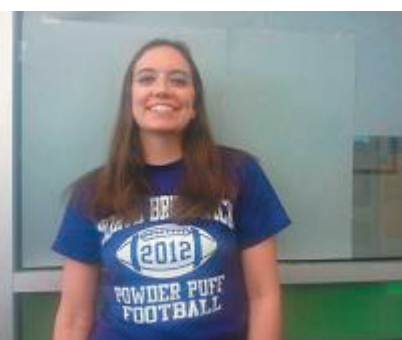
Treasure Eno, '14

“It’s fine,  
I just clip it to my bag.”



David Coffie, '13

“They are annoying, but it secures my safety and protection.”



Mrs. Wright,  
Social Studies

“I think they’re fine, it takes three seconds to check them in the morning.”

## Negative Effects of the Rotating Schedule

Nicole Fosko, Contributing Writer

Every student can remember his or her first day of high school in freshman year: the confusion, the chaos, and the new atmosphere. This year, freshmen, as well as upperclassmen and even teachers, experienced that first-day-of-school feeling – every day for the first month of school.

This year, NBTHS switched from a standard nine period schedule to a rotations schedule, a huge jump for returning students and staff members. Employing rotating sessions, dropped periods, a five minute homeroom, and shortened lunches, the new schedule drastically contrasts the previous schedule, which was consistent from day to day with nine periods.

Although the new schedule provides several benefits for NBTHS, the frustration of transitioning detracts from the advantages for many students.

“It was hard to adjust, but it’s not as bad as it first seemed. I still wish it was the same, though. A lot of my friends have early-out, but they can only use it three out of four days,” explained Morgan Comunale '13. Seniors are surely hit the hardest by this change, for they were used to the previous schedule for the past three years. “Early-out,” the privilege for seniors to leave if they have a last period study hall, has changed along with the schedule. Michael Brandefine '13 states, “The new schedule is not as bad as I thought it would be.”

Freshmen must also deal with the bewilderment of starting high school and adjusting to the rotating schedule. Although they were never exposed to the old schedule at NBTHS, they have a lot of troubles of their own. While getting lost, adapting to the work load, conforming to high school life, and trying to figure out what extracurricular activities to do .

“Three negative things about the new schedule [first] know what classes you have. [It] is very confusing, so you have to do homework the night it’s assigned, which is very time consuming (especially if you play sports),” states Epiphani Miller, '16. “Second, dropping periods every day causes many of the tests to land on the same day (which make

exams harder). Third, it’s really hard to determine what day it is because there are so many. The teachers tell you (sometimes), but if they don’t, you’re lost.”

Although school is already in its second month, everyone still struggles to get used to the rotational schedule. Common complaints from students address not only confusion, but also aspects of the school day that posed no problems in previous years. Some students had trouble focusing for just forty minutes of class time, and now they struggle to remain attentive for nearly an hour.

As each day changes, there are no set routes for getting to class on time or visiting one’s locker. Lab periods are now almost the length of time of three periods from the old schedule, and students who take science classes that require a lab must take a study hall, as well. Since there are less periods, students must take fewer classes and have a harder time fulfilling requirements.

Since there are only two lunch periods this year – as opposed to four in previous years – half of the school’s students eats lunch at one time. Many students buy lunch and consequently race to avoid waiting in line for half of their lunch period. Lunch, a time to reconnect with friends and take a break from the stress of the school day, has become a rushed and lost experience.

Aside from students, teachers also suffer in many ways from the new schedule. They must change their lesson plans and adjust their tests. They must take into account what days they drop certain classes. Teachers must figure out how to avoid having classes fall behind. Jason Levash '14 points out, “All my teachers are behind on their lesson plans, so by the time AP tests come around, we’ll be in trouble.”

Clearly, the rotational schedule has affected NBTHS negatively. Although there are benefits, students tend to see only the negative aspects. Those who enjoyed the standard nine-period schedule now feel nostalgic for the old schedule. Since it appears that the rotational schedule is here to stay, the best strategy to is to accept it and adjust as well as possible.

## Ambar Pardilla's Psychic Corner: November

**Aries** (March 21-April 20)

Your dreams to reach the top has gotten in the way of the things right in front of you. Pay close attention to the surrounding emotions right in front of you, such as your friends and your family. By the 13th, one of your loved ones will need you. Instead of dreaming about the future, focus on the present and the people around you. Just like you need them, they need you.

**Taurus** (April 21-May 20)

Your stubborn nature gets in the way for accomplishing a goal. However, by the 16th, you will need to compromise in order to get what you want. Although it might be difficult to give in order to get, your deal will eventually pay off. Your reward will be in the form of money and you'll be glad you compromised.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20)

Being the multi-tasker of the all the zodiac signs has caused some problems in your life. You love to do ten things at once in order to have time to relax later. The problem you are currently having is being bored and not challenged in the past month. Be careful what you wish for because by the 20th, you will receive a challenge that you are not prepared for.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22)

Although you are quite defensive on the outside around everyone (including your loved ones), inside you are a fragile, delicate soul that is easily wounded. With your highly sensitive nature, you get offended easily. By the 18th, you will be wounded by someone near and dear to you. However much you try to hide your pain, confronting your loved one is the only way to truly solve your problem.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22)

Having such an open kindness has not worked out well for you in the past. Although it is admirable to be such a kind and generous soul, you have been known to give too many chances and attention to people who have eventually wronged you. By the 22nd, you will again meet someone who will strike up your fancy. Don't be too quick to shower them with your attentions because they may turn out to be a master manipulator.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Procrastination has cost you many hours of sleep in the past. Not being well-organized and not using your time to the best advantage has given you mini heart attacks as well. By the 17th, you will receive a project that you really can't handle to do the very night before. Be careful and use your time wisely because you won't be able to get a break on this one.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Your ability to relax and let fate take its course has gotten you many hours of de-stressing. That chill approach to life will let you excel at your next assignment. While everyone is ripping their hair out, your relaxed outlook will let you be able to get work done and have time to paint your nails or shoot hoops.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 22)

You being overly aggressive has led others to quickly judge you and walk away. Although they are missing a very unique and complex individual, you need to give a less forceful first impression and let yourself relax in front of others. By the 23rd, a new friend will walk into your life, try to relax and just simply talk to them without being aggressive.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

Practicality and candor have always been priorities to you. That tongue of yours has gotten you in trouble before. By the 19th, you have to learn to hold your tongue in front of a higher authority. Don't say anything you'll regret. Being too honest it might cost you more than you think.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Although you work very hard, your tendency to think too highly of yourself has pushed people away. You may not set out to look arrogant but that is how people interpret your personality. By pushing people away, you have become quite lonely. A potential friendship has a chance to bloom on the 23rd and you should take the opportunity to hang out with someone is completely different than yourself.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)

Being confined to a set of rules isn't really your style. You prefer to be an individual and fight for your rights. By the 24th, you will be presented with a great opportunity. However, you must choose between being yourself and conforming. Choose wisely.

**Pisces** (Feb. 20-March 20)

Excelling in creative tasks has always being an important part of your personality. You don't give yourself enough credit. Your modesty can be interpreted as being shy but you have a voice so use it. By the 15th you will be given a creative task that you will do beautifully. Give yourself a pat on the back and admit that you are brilliant.

All Aboard the  
A-Train

*Tiffany Smith, Staff Writer*

On October 23 at 8p.m, ABC Family aired their *Pretty Little Liars* Halloween Special. After months of anticipation, the fans sat on the edge of their seats.

Being an avid fan of the show, my level of excitement was very high since last season's cliff hanger left me guessing. I anticipated a lot from this episode, in order to clear up my suspicions.

"This is A Dark Ride" began with an eerie scene starring Mona, painting a face onto a mask, singing and speaking to an unknown figure in her room.

They all got ready to attend a Halloween party on a train, each dressed up as a character from a movie.

Aria was Daisy from *The Great Gatsby*, Hannah dressed as Marilyn Monroe. Spencer, accompanied by Toby, arrived as Bonnie and Clyde, while Emily showed up with Paige as a pair of circus show girls.

As the party escalated, the suspense heated up. Viewers witnessed Aria get drugged and tied up, and thrown into a box.

Spencer finally found out the truth from Garrett, a previous suspect in Allison DiLaurentis' murder.

The crippling facts about the night of her death caused the girls to get a hold of Aria, whose father is now a prime suspect in the investigation.

Spencer was almost killed by a mysterious masked figure beating her up. She was saved by Paige, but in vain. The attacker got away only leaving behind her nail.

In the search for Aria, viewers watched the box she was held in almost pushed off the end of the train. Luckily her friends found her just in time, opening the box to find Garrett's dead body inside with Aria.

Later a fight broke out, knocking over an ice box full of refreshments. The ice spilled out to reveal a body bag.

This episode proved to me a compilation of all that should have taken place in the past few seasons. Although it was a very enjoyable episode, I can't help but feel like the show will continue to go in circles.

Everyone's opinion on this show is different. While some have given up on the show already, viewers like me can't stop watching until we finally find out who A is.

Everyone tune in on January 8th, 2013 to watch the continuation of this series!

## Celebrity Corner

*Ryan Lehnau, Contributing Writer*

longed to MLB star Alex Rodriguez."

This was proven true because the home on the show was listed by A-Rod in August for \$38,000,000. In Spears's case, the home that she actually owns is in Calabasas.

TMZ concludes that the houses of the other two judges may be "bogus, but [they] assume that none of the judges wanted their real homes on public display."

In other celeb news, La Toya Jackson has recently been accused of robbing Michael Jackson's home just hours after his death, pillaging plastic bags filled with cash.

Ms. Jackson insists however, she "did not raid Michael Jackson's home just hours after his death."

In retaliation, she is threatening to sue *Vanity Fair* magazine for saying otherwise.

The article framing her was entitled "Estate of Siege" and in her letter La Toya Jackson describes this article as "replete with misstatement of fact, false innuendos, and defamatory insinuations."

Ms. Jackson is strongly offended at the accusations of "scrambling for money" and is willing to sue *Vanity Fair* if the magazine does not comply.

Many celebrities face exposure because of media and paparazzi. Three celebrities in particular, face this "exposure" in recent media.

The *X-Factor*'s Simon Cowell and Britney Spears faced an embarrassing incident of assuming houses that did not belong to them.

On a recent episode of the *X-Factor*, the four judges invited contestants to their homes, except in the case of Cowell and Spears.

TMZ said "Simon Cowell and Britney Spears' mansions on the show weren't their homes at all[...] in fact, one actually be-

## The Raider Boys Clinch Red Division Championship

*Dhaval Patel, Staff Writer*

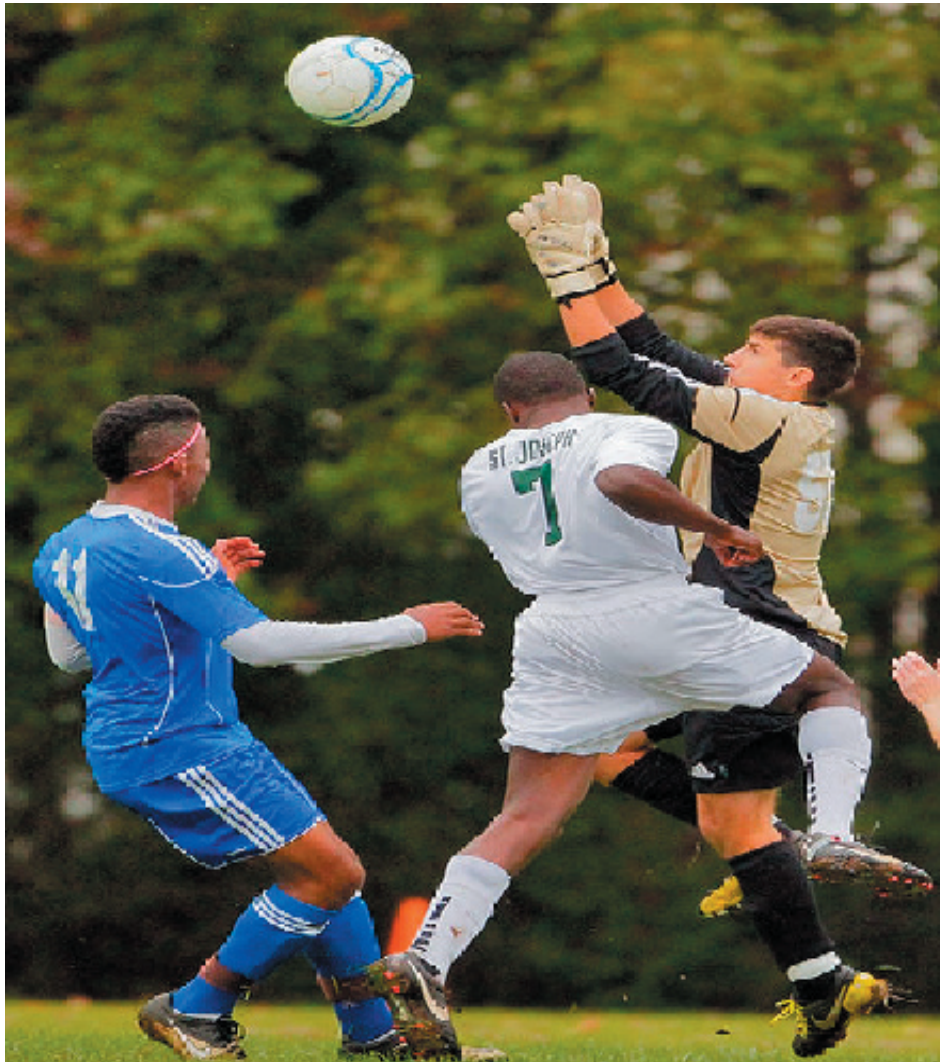
The Raider Boys Clinch Red Division Championship

The Raider boys have shown their utmost effort and have put on a tremendous performance on the soccer field this season. Under the guidance of Coach Paul Liddy and Captains Anish Baweja '13, Anish Roy '13, Kyle Telfer '13, and Amir Toloue '13, the NBTHS Boys Varsity Soccer team has been an outstanding team bringing pride to the NBTHS community. With an 11-3-2 record, the North Brunswick Varsity Soccer team also stands in the top three seeds of Middlesex County. "A lot of seniors have stepped up and have done a nice job in leading the team even though they did not receive much playing time last year," says Coach Paul Liddy, who has been one of the most significant assets for this team.

Many key victories throughout the season are cherished by the team and are looked upon as great accomplishments. On September 11, the team beat East Brunswick 2-1, an all-rounded, very competitive team, where Anish Baweja '13 and David Coffie-Owusu '13 each scored a goal. Moreover, on October 2, the team beat East Brunswick once again 1-0 in a very close match-up, where David Coffie-Owusu '13 scored a game-winner.

These victories have been very significant to the team because East Brunswick is one of the strongest teams in the county

and beating them twice is a major accomplishment. Just recently, the team beat St. Joe's 1-0 earning the title of the Red Division Champions.



STEPHEN SZAKACS, GOALIE FOR THE RAIDERS, REACHES FOR THE BALL BEFORE THE OTHER TEAM GETS THERE

*Courtesy of Dhaval Patel*

Two years ago when the team first entered the Red division, they had a tough time competing with the strong teams in the division.

Last year, they had a decent year and improved greatly from the season before. This year, however,

with hard work and dedication in every practice and game, the team has progressed to the top of the table certainly setting themselves

up as contenders for the county tournament as well. After advancing to the GMC tournament, the team took on one of their biggest rivals in the county, Spotswood, in the Quarterfinal Round on October 23rd. With many proud NBTHS

fans' support and enthusiasm along with the team's consistent effort, the team clinched an outstanding victory of 3-0.

A three-year Varsity player with 6 goals and 13 assists this season, Anish Baweja '13 says,

"My goal as a player is to help my team win. As for the team, we can't dwell on these victories for long. We just have to take it one game at a time and play every game like it's our last." Captain Anish Roy '13 says, "The driving force behind our great record is the togetherness of the team. We are always supporting one another.

Before every game, we always huddle up in the middle of the field and say 'family', because essentially, that's the key to playing well." Experienced players like David Coffie-Owusu '13, with 11 goals and 4 assists, as well as goalkeepers Brandon Shamy '14 and Stephen Szakas '14, and even young players like Jordan Luthers '16 have all been very essential to the team's success.

The NBTHS Boys Varsity Soccer team certainly hopes to continue their outstanding performance. They have definitely made this 2012-13 season one of the most memorable seasons for NBTHS. The team hopes to excel in the GMC's and to make a run in the State tournament. We wish the best of luck to the NBTHS Varsity Soccer team.

## Replacement Refs make mistake that costs game

*Moksh Gudala, Contributing Writer*

After the Referees in the National Football League went on strike, NFL officials brought in Temporary Referees as replacement, just until a negotiation was reached. At first, these Refs were the joke of the NFL.

On Monday September 24th, The Green Bay Packers went to Seattle to play the Seahawks in the weekly Monday Night Game. The Packers were favored in what seemed like it would have been a blow out.

As the game progressed, the Seahawks fought back, and with less than a minute left, they were down by 5 points (12-7). After a few attempts and 8 seconds left in the game, rookie quarterback Russell Wilson threw a Hail Mary pass to a crowd of receivers and defenders in

the end zone.

In a catch that seemed simultaneous, receiver Golden Tate and defender M.D. Jennings came down with the ball. One Replacement Referee called touchdown, while another called interception. After a replay, fans everywhere watched and claimed the interception was valid, and even if it wasn't, there was a penalty on the play, as Tate had pushed down a Packers defender.

The referees came back and called a touchdown, causing many appalled fans to leave in anger. This was by far the turning point, and soon after, NFL commissioner Roger Goodell brought back the original Referees.

## Saints Sluggish Start

*Akshay Malavade, Contributing Writer*

The New Orleans Saints have gotten off to a slow start, with one of the worst season starting records in their franchise history. The suspension of the coaching staff is the main reason for their horrible start.

On March 2nd 2012, the NFL association said that it had evidence that the defensive coordinator Gregg Williams was paying players to hurt the opposing players. The head coach Sean Peyton should have stopped the program before it started, but instead he allowed it to go on.

"I think ultimately our goal is to get reinstated at the right time." Sean Peyton says.

They have not been playing with the enthusiasm and energy that we are used to seeing from the Saints' offense. Since the interim head coach, Aaron Kromer has taken over, the plays that they are designing, are being easily read by the defenses. This results in

shorter drives, making it easier for the opposing team to beat them.

This has affected many of the players, without having the great football mind of Sean Peyton. Drew Brees has not been throwing accurately, with his completion percentage at 12 points lower than last year.

His QB rating is 90.7, when last year he had a 110.6, a 20 point difference. Drew Brees has opened on the scandal, and you can see that it has had a negative effect on him. "It seems these punishments have been handed down upon speculation and rhetoric." Drew Brees commented.

Drew Brees is the quarterback and leader of the Saints, but it seems that without their regular head coach, Sean Peyton, they will continue to crumble under the pressure. In order to win, they must focus, and regain the dominating play style we are accustomed to seeing from the Saints.

## Tebow or Sanchez?

*Chris Iocca, Contributing Writer*

The New York Jets are faced with a very tough situation. Losing three of their first five games was not a part of their agenda. After last week's Monday night football loss, the New York fans have become angry with their starting quarterback.

Quarterback Mark Sanchez worked hard and battled with backup quarterback, Tim Tebow, all preseason for the starting position, but after two interceptions in the loss to the Texans, Sanchez is in serious threat of losing his job.

A recent poll done on ESPN asked fans which quarterback they would rather see start and Tebow won unquestionably. After conducting a poll of twenty students around school, Sanchez was the favorite by more than 75 percent.

"Even though Sanchez is going through a tough time he still is a real quarterback" stated Ethan Pardun, a junior at North Brunswick Township High School. Pardun is a loyal Jets fan and watched them succeed and fail throughout the years.

Others, like Matt Gorda, long time Jets fan, stay indecisive about the topic.

"If Sanchez continues to make bad decisions, I wouldn't mind seeing Tebow start." stated Gorda, "By the end of the year I believe Sanchez will be relieved of his duties by Tebow." added Gorda.

The Jets (2-3) still sit in decent shape only a game behind the New England Patriots (3-2). The Jets play against the Indianapolis Colts (2-2) at home this week and then go on the road to play against the Patriots in a pivotal AFC East showdown in Foxborough, Massachusetts.

Will this be when Sanchez rises to the pressure and keeps the Jets in the race? Or will there be a quarterback change in the next few weeks? Only time will tell what will happen as all eyes are on the New York Jets.



THE WINNERS OF THE DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT, TARGET PRACTICE, POSE AFTER RECEIVING THEIR MEDALS. PICTURED ABOVE: VICTOR KONSTANTINOVSKY, NICK SIDOTTI, CHRIS IOCCA, HARRISON KAYE, BRANDON SHAMY, MICHAEL PFIEFFER, NICK FERRARI, STEPHEN SZAKACS, MIKE DEMPSEY AND MARYLYNN MULDOWNNEY.

## Girls Volleyball

*Nicole Fosko, Contributing Writer*

Few sports require as much teamwork, chemistry, and communication as volleyball. From digging spikes and receiving serves to setting to attacking, every player must work together to emerge victoriously. This season, the NBTHS Lady Raiders Girls' Volleyball Team has stepped up and incorporated every single player in their game.

The Lady Raiders not only improved in each aspect of their game, but also made use of every player on the team. The head coach, Coach Biolsi, said, "Coming into the season, we only had two returning seniors and a very young team with a lot of potential. We also had the hardest schedule for NBTHS girls' volleyball so far. We knew the season was going to be tough but a great experience, and we kept the right mindset of learning and getting better on every play."

As the season progressed, each individual came together as a team. For the varsity team, three captains set examples for their teammates: Devangi Patel and Punam Patel, both seniors, and Nicole Fosko, a junior. Devangi

aided the team as the setter, attaining many assists and even some kills. Punam worked as a defensive specialist, keeping the ball in play and the momentum going. Nicole played as outside hitter and a back row defender, passing and attacking. Other players on the team were just as important. The two middles, Nnenna Ibe and Cassie Luken, both sophomores, blocked many hits from opposing players and crushed the ball for kills countless times. Other sophomores included Victoria Ko, an outside hitter with a sneaky tip-attack. Cindy Mihalenko was a tough server and also an outside hitter, and Zoey Woody specialized in serving, as well. Juniors included Emily Mercedes, the libero, who hustled on every play and not only played consistent defense, but also made spectacular saves. Yaneris Rodriguez, a setter, played the crucial role of setting up the attackers. Kulsum Khan played as a back row defender and dug several spikes. The two opposites, Bree Hanson and Aesha Patel, crushed the ball from the right side and blocked opposing spikers.

"You can see the chemistry when the whole team works together," said Emily Mercedes. "Hard

work pays off, and we showed it with key victories, such as our win against Mother Seton."

Indeed, the final home game against Mother Seton was a huge win for the Lady Raiders. Despite the pressure of senior night, the Lady Raiders beat Mother Seton in two sets, with the second set going beyond the point limit of 25 for a final score of 28-26, where a team must win by two points. This was especially exciting since Mother Seton had beaten NBTHS the first time the two played at Mother Seton. Punam Patel confirmed, "Making NBTHS history by beating Mother Seton for the first time ever on senior night was the most rewarding win because of the teamwork we developed over the past season that led to our victory."

Although this season started out tough because of the loss of four seniors last year, everyone added all the right components to make the Lady Raiders a competitive team. "The best thing about volleyball is win or lose, we still come together and act like a family," said Bree Hanson, a junior.

Playing with four of six starting players as new to the varsity

level proved to be a challenge that the Lady Raiders rose to. The two seniors integrated everyone into the game, creating a killer offense and defense. "Although we started out with such a young team," explained Devangi Patel, "throughout the season, I have seen these girls grow and reach their fullest potential." The Lady Raiders are very sad to have their two seniors graduate, but they are also excited for the 2013-2014 upcoming season, where they are sure to bring their 'A' game.

Coach Johnson, the assistant coach, stated, "We have learned so much this season, from starting out lacking communication to having a great offense. Everyone is involved, not just six separate girls. We kept up good rallies with aggressive teams, and our dedication allowed us to succeed."

As Coach Biolsi reminded his players, they compete every day for every play. Every play was a chance to get better, and the NBTHS Lady Raiders Girls' Volleyball Team embraced this motto. The Lady Raiders are sure to impress and dominate in the years to come.