

THE BANNER

January 2017

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

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Photo Courtesy: nbthclassof2019 Instagram Page

The NBTHS Class of 2019 held The Spirit Cup once again after the Winter Prep Rally. Here they sit all smiles in front of their banner

Obama's Farewell

Deina Jovani, Contributing Writer

As you may know, Barack Obama's presidency is coming to an end. The man who has been behind the ideas of putting the American people first before power and privilege. The man who has fought for the rights of minorities and our LGBTQ community.

During President Obama's farewell address he implied that throughout the toxic presidential election the economic inequity, racism, and close mindedness that has threatened our nation's democratic fabric it is best to say we can and we did.

"Not that our nation has been flawless from the start, but that we have shown the capacity to change, and make life better for those who follow.", says President Obama while talking upon American exceptionalism and how our nation has grown for the better despite the racial tension that has formed throughout the year of the presidential election.

The Talent Show of 2016-2017

Kevin Robayo, Staff Writer

Another successful year of the SGO Talent Show/ Auction has gone by. The talent show participants included: Muse A Cappella Group, Baboki, G-Money, Midnight Friends, Trinity Mills, Sharif Williams, Kayla McCargo, Jersey Club Everything, Daytime Television, Pramila's Stand-up Comedy, Black Cultural Alliance's Afro-Girls, Lauren Wilson & Christian Yoo, Sagar & Arushi, Nicole Vega, InnovAsian, and Bongo Fuzz.

Acts ranged from singing, dancing and stand up comedy. NBTHS Junior Kayla McCargo was the reigning champion from her dance performance.

A highlight of the show was when NBTHS Principal Mr. Clark did a dance number with students. It's fair to say that students were certainly overwhelmed and excited with the performance.

One to note was the performance of Daytime Television where they started off by singing the old meme song "All Star" by Smash, commonly known as the Shrek Theme Song. They followed through with "We Will Rock You" by Queen and had a feature with Natalie Pereda.

Throughout the show there were many strong fan favorite performance, to some less noticeable performances, to some lighted hearted performances.

Fan favorites of the Talent Show were performances by Nicole Vega and Samantha Maty. Nicole Vega did a solo number that floored the show. Samantha Maty did a twenties spin on Justin Bieber's - Love Yourself, which caught a respectable amount of attention on social media.

Near the end of the show there was a surprise performance by photography teacher Ms. Molina and senior Natalie Pereda. They would go on to sing the same song that Ms. Molina and former student Rosy Rodriguez sang last year.

At the end of the show, Kayla McCargo would go on another year to hold her championship.

The Referendum Has Passed

Kevin Robayo, Staff Writer

After its second time being voted on, North Brunswick Township Voters have approved a \$68.4 million referendum to build a new seventh- and eighth-grade middle school and renovate an existing middle school.

This vote follows last years attempt on passing a similar referendum. Since that referendum failed, government officials would go on to review and make changes on the plan.

Specially by spreading more public awareness to voters and NBTHS students of the vote. The history department had utilized class time to inform them about the positives of the referendum and made student's take a survey.

On Dec. 13th voters approved the referendum by a vote of 1,807 to 1,648. Superintendent of Schools Brian Zychowski expressed satisfaction with the approval as it would solve an impending problem of the growing school population and the inability to expand existing schools.

The overall cost of the project will amount to \$77.3 million, with \$68.4 million to be funded by township taxpayers and \$8.9 million to be paid for by state funding. This means that taxpayers in North Brunswick will increase by \$19 on a home valued at the township average of \$314,000.

The new middle school is planned for a vacant 33-acre site on Renaissance Boulevard near the Renaissance development. Design work is expected to be underway over the next six months, with plans for the new school to open in September 2020.

RETRACTION: The Banner staff would like to correct the information contained within the captioned photo of the art mural printed on page 2 of last month's paper. The mural is being completed by the National Art Honor Society, advised by Ms. Lachow and Ms. Molina.

FEATURES

Best of 2016

Olaedo Ukanwoke, Staff Writer

Movies:

1. *O.J.: Made in America* (100 on Rotten Tomatoes)
2. *Tower* (100 on Rotten Tomatoes)
3. *Only Yesterday* (100 on Rotten Tomatoes)
4. *Things to Come* (100 on Rotten Tomatoes)
5. *Cameraperson* (100 on Rotten Tomatoes)
6. *The Wailing* (99 on Rotten Tomatoes)
7. *Don't Think Twice* (99 on Rotten Tomatoes)
8. *Zootopia* (98 on Rotten Tomatoes)
9. *Moonlight* (98 on Rotten Tomatoes)
10. *Almost Holy* (98 on Rotten Tomatoes)

TV Shows:

1. *Fleabag* (100 on Rotten Tomatoes)
2. *Atlanta* (100 on Rotten Tomatoes)
3. *Speechless* (98 on Rotten Tomatoes)
4. *Horace and Pete* (98 on Rotten Tomatoes)
5. *Luke Cage* (96 on Rotten Tomatoes)
6. *Stranger Things* (95 on Rotten Tomatoes)
7. *The Night Of* (95 on Rotten Tomatoes)
8. *Lady Dynamite* (94 on Rotten Tomatoes)
9. *Better Things* (94 on Rotten Tomatoes)
10. *Pitch* (93 on Rotten Tomatoes)

Books:

1. *Truly Madly Guilty* by Liane Moriarty
2. *All The Ugly and Wonderful Things* by Bryn Greenwood
3. *The Girls* by Emma Cline
4. *The Nest* by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney
5. *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult
6. *Eligible* by Curtis Sittenfeld
7. *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett
8. *Lily and Octopus* by Steven Rowley
9. *My Name is Lucy Barton* by Elizabeth Strout
10. *What Is Not Yours Is Not Yours* by Helen Oyeyemi

Looking Forward to 2017

Yarely Galindo, Contributing Writer

Some will say 2016 was the best and the worst year for them and hope 2017 would be better. What do you think? Would 2017 be a victorious and amazing year filled with Joy, or would it be filled with disappointments and expectations that never came true?

Of course everyone has their own opinions and resolutions for 2017, and it would either go successfully right or incorrectly wrong. Well, let me tell you how you can be optimistic about this new year and how it won't have so many bad turns.

The old tradition when there's a New Year ahead is to make resolutions, goals you want to accomplish. But let's be realistic, majority of the people don't follow their resolutions and leave those goals until next year.

Instead of writing or saying what you want to do, just do it when

the situation is in front of you, and if one of your goals is impossible to do for certain reasons, then you can do something else that is up your alley. Always view the positive in all and avoid the negative.

This is important to do when doing something for the first time because then all these emotions emerge in you head yelling: Fear, Scare, and Trouble. However, you could replace those thoughts by thinking to yourself that you will accomplish it no matter what.

"I'm hoping for the best but I feel it may turn out bleak or average" Britney Kelly said what she expects for herself in 2017. "I think somewhere in between" Kelly said how the year would turn out for her.

As you can see, 2017 may turn out different for many people, but you can choose what to do in 2017 and turn it out as the best year for you, even though you may experience ups and downs.

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 online; throughout the year, the staff maintains a circulation of an electronic publication among NBTHS, the Board of Education and other areas in the community.

Advisory Board:

Rebecca Rouantree

Editorial Board:

Kevin Robayo
Oleado Ukanwoke

Staff:

Iftikhar Ali
Keris Calhoun
Kena Chavva
Sabrina Joval
Keshav Mukundhan
Shaniah Stokes

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

Pep Rally



OPINIONS

Rogue One: A Star Wars Story

Keshav Mukundhan, Staff Writer

Rogue One: A Star Wars Story fills in the pieces of the puzzle that were missing in the *Star Wars* universe. The mystery that was left hanging in the saga was finally answered: How did the Death Star's plan get stolen? This movie showed the first step of destruction of the Death Star. Even though many fans weren't sure what to think of the prequel trilogy, this prequel was worth watching. This film fills in the gap between episode 3 and 4 in the saga. This film is one of the best prequels of the *Star Wars* saga that answers one of the biggest questions in the franchise, how does Leia get the death star plan?

The best things about this *Star Wars* film is that it has amazing acting, musical scores, action sequence, and darker tone.

This is the first live action *Star Wars* film in an anthology series. It is a stand-alone film, without an opening crawl making it unique and stand out against all of the *Star Wars* movies. This film lives up to the expectation of the *Star Wars* fans. This film turned out to be a big hit. It has grossed over 983 million worldwide. The space set design and visuals were stunning, but there wasn't much character development since many new characters were introduced.

Rogue One is still a tremendous film to watch with your family and friends. *Rogue One* shows the first step of the rebels destroying the empire. While watching the movie, you will keep on wondering what is going to happen next. *Rogue One* is definitely a must-watch film in 2016.

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them

Parnika Jain, Contributing Writer

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them is about Newt Scamander, a British traveler, who has just completed a global journey to find and document a lineup of magical creatures. Arriving in New York, some of Newt's fantastic beasts escape which could spell trouble for both the wizarding and No-Maj (American for Muggle) worlds.

This novel has been made into a movie, and released on November 10 in theaters. Many *Harry Potter* fans have seen the movie and have enjoyed it.

Suhani Baranwal, a senior at NBTHS says, "The brilliant animation, combined with the subtle hints from the first movie here and there were a crowd pleaser, both to original *Harry Potter* fans and new ones. The one complaint I did have

was that the filmmakers did not use the "fantastic beasts" portion of the movie well enough. They did not focus enough on the animals. It was mostly about the characters. I think they should have explored the characteristics of the animals a little more so that the audience could root for them and sympathize with them. More on screen time for the creatures was much needed."

Saher Aziz, a senior at NBTHS, says, "We get to see what the American wizardry does instead of the English wizardry. It uses satire, the use of irony, sarcasm, ridicule in exposing, denouncing, or deriding something, to make fun of American wizards with actual America."

Regardless that the movie has complaints, both girls would recommend the movie.

The Spectacular Revival of Old School Musicals

Kevin Robayo, Staff Writer

Go see *La La Land*. That's really the best way for this review to start for people who haven't seen the movie; just stop reading and go into the movie knowing as little as possible. The experience you will have, with the little information you hold, will be unique to you. It won't be contrived by other's opinions, a luxury I had when I saw the film in December.

La La Land is one of the best films that came out in 2016, the movie greatly captures the style and tone that musicals in the past decade have lacked. As a movie buff it is clear that the film is inspired by many great musicals such as Jacques Demy's *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* and *The Young Girls of Rochefort* while also having visual allusions to Hollywood classics such as *Broadway Melody of 1940*, *Singin' in the Rain*, and *The Band Wagon*. Director Damien Chazelle takes the color palette, the lighting, and more importantly the feelings that those movies evoked in order to create something with heart and

passion.

A passion that is clearly engraved in the script and music of this movie, Chazelle has taken a common love story between two beautiful people and made something that everyone can somehow relate to. Whether it be: the feelings the characters experience, the relationship they share, the dreams they hold, or the struggles they face. The characters are relatable in every possible way to the common man.

Despite how common the story is, Ryan Gosling and Emma Watson have proven to clearly be this generation's Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall. One cannot not help but fall in love with the singing, dancing and chemistry these actors share. With the aid of Chazelle's flawless script, both actors have the material needed to create a relationship that would lead one to question whether it exists outside of the film.

The look of this film is also another fantastic thing that

separates this musical from most. Movie buffs will realize the consideration Chazelle put into the: color correcting of the film, the choice of clothing he puts on characters for musical numbers, the music score that is subtly played in the background, and the lyrics that allude to the coming events in the movie.

The cinematography is something that also can't be ignored as it's probably one of the important reasons the film's tone is strong as it is, the movement of the camera is something similar to that of *Birdman* or old great musicals. The choice to have the musical numbers be shot in long takes is one that lets the viewer experience the full uninterrupted feeling that the songs evoke.

La La Land is really a movie for the ages in the genre in musicals. It's what musicals should strive to be, a piece of art that takes characters and music to evoke strong feelings and themes that people should be able to relate to.

OPINIONS

Two Goodbyes to Barnes and Noble

Barnes and Noble Will Be Missed

Lili Santos, Contributing Writer

Barnes & Noble in North Brunswick Township has closed down after being open for more than a decade. The store had announced its impending closure near the end of 2016 by David Deason, Vice President of Development for Barnes & Noble. Deason made a public statement on the matter stating that the reason the store was closing was after having several discussions with the property owner to arrange acceptable terms for a lease extension, but could not reach an agreement.

People within the North Brunswick community have been visiting Barnes & Noble for all their daily reading, book shopping, and quiet time. North Brunswick High School and Middle School students have relied on this Barnes & Noble as a source to purchase their summer reading books and

utilize the store as an area to finish reading the book.

Students have also spent their free time after school to finish up their group projects in a quiet place and have enjoyed some refreshers. Barnes & Noble has played a huge role to all the bookworms in our community. It has helped our teachers to serve as an area to do home instruction while also serving as a quiet place to finish work. Now, the number of places in North Brunswick where students and teachers alike can complete their duties has decreased.

Citizens of North Brunswick visited their beloved town bookstore in masses after Barnes & Noble announced that it would be closing. Many lamented the fact that North Brunswick no longer houses any bookstores. Hopefully, we will be able to fill that gap in our community soon.

Barnes and Noble's Book Monopoly

Kevin Robayo, Staff Writer

With the recent closing of Barnes & Noble in North Brunswick due to poor sales, book lovers are now forced to go to the Barnes & Noble in East Brunswick or some small bookstores in farther towns. This closing now opens up a discussion on the reality that Barnes & Noble has and continues to kill the opportunity for smaller bookstores to compete in suburban towns.

It goes without saying that the consumer is not given an option to where they want to buy books. Barnes & Noble having a monopoly over the book industry has severely limited the variety that many small bookstores can offer. It limits the thought and economic opportunity that one might want to explore by opening a bookstore.

However to be fair to Barnes & Noble that can't be fully blamed

as the success of small bookstores relies on the varied culture of the area; culture that severely lacks in suburbs across the country.

But still, Barnes & Noble have made consumers rely on them for too long that it severely drains any new experience one might want to have in a book store. The store takes away an exploration of culture or storytelling that one may want to find themselves. It takes away any experience that one might want to have as they browse through books.

The store overall ruins the possibility for economic opportunity, cultural exploration, and experience that smaller bookstores offer. Now with the recent closing of the Barnes & Noble in North Brunswick, booklovers are left with a bookstore close to shop at. Now they move on to the next Barnes & Noble.

SPORTS

NBTHS Raiders Swim to Victory

Iftikhar Ali, Staff Writer

Let's start off with a recognition of the swim team's hardwork. The NBTHS swim team practices after school from 4 to 6 p.m or 3:30 to 5:30p.m. The girls team have a record of 3-5, but hopefully that will turn around. While the boys have a 5-3 record overall including in the district. The entire swim team is practicing for the girls GMC on January 27th, followed with the boys GMC on the next day. The swim team is not only working hard to do the best they can, but is also helping the community. Recently, on Sunday, January 15, the swim team volunteered at the Special Bowl, an event where they played with the special needs

children and helped with other tasks. They also have another exciting event—Senior Night on January 17, which will occur during their meet against Old Bridge.

When asked how has the team improved from last year, one of the three managers, Kena Chavva replied, "The swim team lost some really great swimmers that have graduated, but we still have amazing ones, and the new additions to the team are incredibly valuable too. Everyone is working to maintain our fantastic team." Undoubtedly, the NBTHS swim team is a wonderful group of hard-working and honorable students.

Raiders Track Hard at Work

Sabrina Joval, Staff Writer

Winter track is one of the many sports provided at North Brunswick Township High School for students to participate in. Track at North Brunswick High School requires focus and concentration.

What is track really about? "What is running about? Running is about asking yourself

each and everyday are you going to be a wimp or are you going to be strong today." stated by Ohene Sah-Adubofour, a senior and the boy's track team captain.

Track is an individual sport but does require team effort when it comes to relays, distance and sprint medleys. Track is all about endur-

ance and stamina especially when running in competitions against other runners. Not only do the track athletes run, but a majority of them also participate in sports such as soccer, tennis, volleyball, and cross country, showing how committed they are to athletic success year-round.

North Brunswick Township

High School's winter track team works hard to make it into GMCs, championships, and white division. They have had excellent athletes for many years and will continue to do so. With the track team's continuous after school practices and their dedication they will remain on top.



Photo courtesy of Kena Chavva

The NBTHS swimmers celebrate Senior Night.