



The Dispatch

"A beacon of truth."

Volume 40 Issue 1

Huntington High School

Oakwood and McKay Roads Huntington, NY 11743

December '12



PHOTO: Molly Prep

»News In Short

Sandy, nor'easters, and deadlines: Oh my!

The Dispatch is late in its first publication this year, but we promise this 16 page issue is worth the wait!

Thanksgiving has ended, so let the holiday shopping commence

Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday were all big successes, we hope that you all got the goods you so desperately needed at absurd hours of the morning...

Fall sports end after great post season

Many of Huntington High School's fall varsity sports did quite well this past postseason. Girls' Field Hockey, Boys' Soccer, and Boys' Football all made the playoffs. Both Boys' soccer and football made it past the first round in thrilling victories while subsequently falling to higher ranked opponents in the second round. The Dispatch would like to congratulate all fall athletes on great seasons.

Superstorm Super Shocks Whole Island Sandy Leaves Homes and Lives in Tatters

by ANNABEL SMITH

It seems as if no one on Long Island was prepared for the wrath of Hurricane Sandy when she swooped in and brought some devastation on Monday, October 29, 2012.

The past three weeks have been a struggle for not only everyone in Huntington, but everyone on Long Island and in 20 more states! Not only was the mass destruction of Sandy so incredibly disastrous, but it was also unprepared for and this ended up with most of Long Island without power for two weeks or more. Now, this isn't all because of Sandy. It is partially LIPA's fault for the delayed power supply. As it turns out, LIPA is being accused of failing to properly provide electrical services for the area.

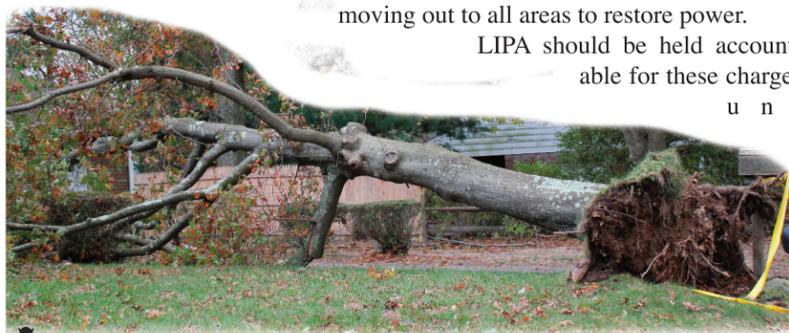
According to the accusations of two LIPA customers, the company ignored their need for an updated management and maintenance system and

therefore caused the power outage to linger on for much longer than necessary.

Recently, Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York issued an investigation of LIPA's utilities to find any evidence of not preparing for the storm and disregarding any warnings of a knowingly outdated system. The lawsuit even suggests that LIPA's under budgeted system used "rudimentary storm and damage prediction models."

LIPA was unable to communicate with the public after the storm and therefore failed to give customers an accurate representation of when power would be restored. In some cases, it took the company over a week to inform customers that inspectors would be moving out to all areas to restore power.

LIPA should be held accountable for these charges



The winds of Sandy uprooted trees straight from the ground



Beaches were hit especially hard by Sandy

der the circumstance that the company was warned after the Tropical Storm Irene, just a year ago, that they must improve technology and update their systems for better communication with the public. However, the company obviously failed to implement these updates and should face the consequences.

LIPA's approach towards the Hurricane, caused many innocent people in New York, New Jersey, and several other states to be dramatically affected by the storm's annihila-

see Sandy on page 2

Band Drums Up Success

by MIKE STAFFORD

On October 27th, members and staff of the Huntington Blue Devil Marching Band made their tenth annual trip to the Carrier Dome in order to perform their show, Dreams, for the final time this year. At finals, the band put on a tremendous show, a show that reflected their entire season. The show scored an 83.15, earning them a well-deserved third place against twelve competitors in the large school three division.

From the spring rehearsals until this last run through, the HBDMB worked extremely hard and met many of their goals, creating a very successful season. At the start of the spring rehearsals, new members and veterans gathered to perform the new show for the year. These rehearsals continued throughout the summer until minicamp, in which the entire program is brought together in order to start memorizing the music and to learn marching fundamentals. This week evolves into band camp, in which members take part in a rigorous week of "three-a-days" where the group puts the show together. The intense practices do not stop there, because as HBDMB attempts to perfect their show, they rehearse on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and weekends until the end of the season. During the September and October months, the band also performs in competitions, football games, and parades throughout Huntington and other areas of Long Island.

Because of the students' work ethic, the band excelled at many of

their competitions. The band won three out of their seven competitions, in which there were as many as eleven other bands competing against them. The band did not finish below third place during the season, a feat that displayed the precision and excellence the band had. At finals they placed 3rd, their highest finish since 2004 (when they won). Matt Beeby, the brass captain of the HBDMB, was quoted as saying, "The 2012 HBDMB has been the most talented and successful band that we have had in years. Coming in 3rd at championships is no small feat, and I am honored to have been a part of it. Getting to that level isn't easy though, it takes hours of hard work and dedication to create a successful band."

The success of this year was produced by both the strong design of the show and a wonderful group of staff members and student leaders. The show, Dreams, consisted of three movements: Dream World, Sweet Dreams, and Nightmares. The ensemble music was written by Key Poulan, the percussion arrangement was by Mark Bransom and Ariel Campos, and Gregory Hamilton created the drill design. The staff, led by the high school's band teachers/directors Mr. Stellato and Mr. Giachetti, had experience as members of DCI (drum corps international, which is similar to a

see Band on page 2



PHOTO: Jessica Baik

We're Back and better than ever!!

SEE ALL 16 PAGES INSIDE!!

INSIDE

Senior Stress



Fret no more, see page 4!

Science Research



Investigate further on page 5!

The Dispatch Kitchen



Eat your heart out on page 7!

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Band from Front Page

professional marching band for those younger than twenty-one), DCA (drum corps associates, which is closely related to DCI except that it allows anyone at any age to join), and college marching

major Frankie Gray led all of the students in the program. The four of them and the many section leaders helped keep the group motivated and enthusiastic throughout the season, which helped create a

year's success. These volunteers were seen regularly at band functions helping to carry and move equipment, supervise the students, cheer on the group, and occasionally provide snacks for the group.

an enjoyable and entertaining environment for all of the students involved. Laura Ironman, another senior and drum major, stated this about the way the HBDMB creates this environment: "The band has always been a second home for me, and this year just seemed even more so. As a senior I was concerned that not everything was going to go as planned, and it didn't, but it was perfect in its own way. You also always seem to make friends with the least likely people. I had a great opportunity

to become closer to my fellow Drum Majors, especially Brian, who I didn't know too well

say about the program: "Looking back on all the years I have done band, this year has

next year." The HBDMB had a phenomenal season this past year. Many

“While very successful in scores, the HBDMB was also very successful in creating an enjoyable and entertaining environment for all of the students involved.”

bands. The drum majors Jonathan Wood, Laura Ironman, Brian J. McConnell, and field

very powerful band. Finally, the parents and other volunteers for the HBDMB drove this

While very successful in scores, the HBDMB was also very successful in creating

“The HBDMB had a phenomenal season this past year. Many of the band members worked hard with the student leaders and the instructors in order to create a fantastic show.”

before this year. It was great getting to know more about these people, and getting closer as a whole.” Jonathan Wood, another senior and one of the drum majors for this year's program, had this to

been the so much fun for me. The band has honestly surpassed all my expectations and did an incredible job this season. It's sad that it's my last year but I know the band is left in good hands for

of the band members worked hard with the student leaders and the instructors in order to create a fantastic show. This was showcased as the group had their most successful season in almost ten years.

Sandy: Un Huracán Muy Serio

by LILY MORRIS

Algunas semanas pasadas había un huracán muy serio llamado Sandy. Mucha gente perdieron sus casas y otras cosas importantes. Un gran problema fue la electricidad. Muchas personas no recibieron electricidad por 2 semanas y otros no siempre tienen electricidad. El huracán fue muy agudo y puso al país en una posición muy mala y complicada. Hay muchas organizaciones para ayudar a las personas que perdieron sus casas y no tienen un lugar donde vivir. Los problemas del huracán siguen afectando la población y toda la gente esta haciendo todo lo posible, pero ahora, el mayor problema son todos los días que hemos perdido clases.

Casi dos semanas de clases han sido perdido a causa del huracán. Al principio de estas

“vacaciones” muchas personas fueron alegres que no había escuela. Pero después de una semana, pienso que los estudiantes querían ir a la escuela. Cuando volvimos de las “vacaciones” muchos maestros no sabían que hacer porque ahora no había suficiente tiempo para continuar sus lecciones regulares. Muchos maestros cortaron sus lecciones para garantizar suficiente tiempo para sus otras lecciones. Muchos estudiantes comenzaban a preocuparse de sus exámenes al final del año. Los estudiantes pensaron que no podían aprender todo lo necesario para recibir una nota buena en sus exámenes. Pero los profesores han manejado la situación muy bien y pueden garantizar que los estudiantes van a aprender todo lo que es necesario.

El otro problema es ¿cómo compensar para todos los días perdidos? La única opción es quitar todos los días libres que sean posibles. Por ejemplo, probablemente no vamos a tener los dos días de contingencia. También cuando nieva, no vamos a tener “días de nieve”. Otra solución es que no vamos a tener una vacación en febrero. Esta fue una decisión muy complicada porque hay muchos viajes que se han previsto para estas vacaciones. También hay muchas personas que ya han previsto sus vacaciones para febrero y que van a faltar los días de escuela. Pero, las escuelas no tenían muchas opciones y las decisiones que se han hecho son para el beneficio de todos. Todas las escuelas están trabajando juntas para arreglar todos los problemas.



PHOTO: Alexis Weitzner

One reason why Huntington felt such strong effects from the storm is its close proximity to many beaches

Sandy from Front Page



PHOTO: Molly Prep

The movie theater in Huntington Village was stripped by Sandy's wrath

tion.

With a surprisingly high death toll and destruction rate, Sandy wiped out power for most of the northeastern United States homes. Peaking at approximately 8.5 million, the power outage was a terrible realization for the country. What would we do without power?

Many of us were stuck at home, freezing, hungry for something other than Ramen noodles, and without television for weeks, and that's not the most of our problems with this storm. Fires and flooding disrupted the east coast and made it impossible for power restoration. Sympathies should be given to those who lost everything in the floods and fires brought on by Sandy and support should be given to the many unfortunate people affected.

Senior Ashley Rice admits, "My family was so scared that we had to stay in Connecticut."

And she isn't the only person in the area that fled the scene during the hurricane. Many Americans evacuated their homes all across the northeast and many hospital buildings were forced to be evacuated before and even during the storm.

“Unfortunately, the effects of the storm were inevitable and we may be dealing with the repercussions for quite a long time.”

For those of us here at Huntington High School, the effects of the storm may seem drastic. However, for many other unfortunate victims of the storm, we are considered lucky. Although we did receive a long two weeks off from school, some schools are still returning to class just recently.

Apart from the devastation and ruin that came with Sandy, many of us did enjoy our powerless vacation from school. How-

ever, the backlash is setting in with piles of homework and our February break taken away. A sophomore at Huntington High School, Hannah Mairello concludes "[she] would rather have kept our February break than experience another hurricane like Sandy." She also confirms, "Teachers are really cramming to make up for lost time," and because of this, many of us students have ended up with more homework than we have time for in the last few weeks.

Unfortunately, the effects of the storm were inevitable and we may be dealing with the repercussions for quite a long time. Trees still need to be removed from the road, roofs still need to be repaired, and power lines need to be fixed. Nevertheless, things are starting to return to normal after the daunting aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

A Sitdown With Mr. Cusack

by ALEXIS WEITZNER MEELOD WAFAJOW

At the end of last year, our Assistant Principal Mr. Angelo Noce retired. His important position is now being filled by Mr. Brenden Cusack. I recently got a chance to sit down and talk with Mr. Cusack to find out who our new Assistant Principal really is.

Mr. Cusack started out as a kid from Farmingdale, New York. While in high school, he had an amazing English teacher who inspired him to explore education as a career. He went on to earn his teaching degree from SUNY New Paltz. At age 23, he got his first teaching job at Freeport High School, where he taught English and Drama classes. Eight years later, he moved into school administration for a change of pace. Mr. Cusack went on to become a dean at Walt Whitman High School in 2005 and then the assistant principal of Hicksville High School in 2009, before becoming our Assistant Principal here at Huntington High School. He decided to come to Huntington because “it is a great community.” Familiar with the area from his work at Walt Whitman High School and at Huntington High School’s Summer School, Mr. Cusack feels that the community is extremely supportive and enthusiastic. “There’s a lot of hometown pride,” he said.

Mr. Cusack described his first month at Huntington High School as excellent, but very busy. “The students were just



Mr. Cusack can be seen walking the halls, at a sporting event, or at a show. No matter where you find him, he will always be wearing his infectious smile

as welcoming as the staff was.” Our September opening was one of the best he’s ever seen, and it warmed his heart to see just how excited all the students were about continuing their education. He has really enjoyed his time here so far and hopes that he’ll feel the same way for a long time.

Throughout Mr. Cusack’s career, he has seen every type of student, and he strongly believes that “all students must feel safe, comfortable, and happy while at school.” Mr. Cusack hopes that all of the students and faculty will get on board with the fight against bullying. He has implemented a strong policy concerning bullying, and wants an anti-bullying sentiment to become part of the culture at Huntington High School. “I would like to see kids in this school become part of the solution—bullying is a national concern,” he explained.

Though there are many things that Mr. Cusack loves about his job, what makes him excited to wake up in the morning are the students. He loves interacting with them, getting to know them, and seeing their positive attitudes towards learning. As students, let’s all give him a warm welcome to our school and hope that he’s here to stay a while!

Polansky on Senior Privileges

by BRIAN J. MCCONNEL

As everyone has seen firsthand during this autumn in particular, Mr. James J. Polansky’s time as superintendent has been as action-packed as the school we spend our days in. After working as both a principal and an administrator in the neighboring South Huntington School District, Mr. Polansky has led our district since July 2011. As displayed by our schools’ continued progress, Mr. Polansky has done a fine job administrating, in addition to the fact that his presence is a common occurrence at numerous school events demonstrates his spirited involvement with our district. In general, Huntington is proud of their new superintendent.

Meanwhile, one thing looms on the horizon to haunt Mr. Polansky in the eyes of Huntington students. While working at Walt Whitman, Mr. Polansky made a judgment call which



Mr. Polansky is known for his stern yet happy demeanor

niors, as a result of the school’s proximity to the dangerous Jericho Turnpike and a particularly busy section of New York Avenue. It is many a juniors’ fear that lunch privileges will be suspended next year, however this conjecture is believed to be much more of a reality for upcoming years.

To see how this year’s seniors would feel without their privileges, an optional student initiated survey was provided to all seniors who went out to lunch.

privileges, how they would feel if they were taken away, and suggestions for what could be done to replace the privileges.

The unanimous result was that our seniors thoroughly enjoy their privileges, and would feel devastated without them. Additionally, most seniors said that they would prefer a senior-only lounge out of other lunch alternatives. Comically, another common,

although far-fetched, suggestion was the installation of a Chipotle in our school. A follow-up question was added to the survey asking why the seniors deserve their beloved privileges. The answers portrayed a general belief that our seniors had earned their privileges by waiting and anticipating them for three years. It is safe to infer from

this data that here at Huntington High School, we value our senior privileges.

Fortunately, I had the oppor-

riority: the safety of our students. Due to his main concern being student safety, Mr. Polansky also told me how the senior privileges

are not exactly high on his list of priorities, due to other, more significant items filling the upper part of such a list. This was a similar response to the next question,

“... a certain level of maturity is necessary for the students to maintain their privilege.”

tunity to ask Mr. Polansky about his opinion of senior privilege. In the interview, I began by asking him what he felt allowed the seniors the privilege of leaving school for lunch, to which he responded with his belief that a certain level of maturity is necessary for the students to maintain their privilege, and this requirement has definitely been fulfilled. Next, I asked Mr. Polansky what could possibly cause the cancellation of senior privileges. After assuring me that this was not one of his present priorities, he said that the only thing he expects could end the privileges would be a preventative measure, in case of an increase in danger for students. This is where Mr. Polansky stressed his most important pri-

which inquired as to what he believes to be an intelligent alternative to out of school lunch. Mr. Polansky reassured me that due to senior lunches not being a priority, he had hardly put any time into devising a separate plan for lunch. Finally, I asked our superintendent if he had any further comments regarding the matter. Mr. Polansky predominantly wanted to make sure that I understood that due to his priority being the safety of the students of our schools, senior lunch privileges were not an area requiring too much of his widespread attention. In other words, as long as we treat our lunch privileges as privileges, we will be allowed to safely be free for lunch.

It's the End of the World as We Know It

by BRIAN J. MCCONNELL

Seeing as we've had five thousand years of warning, maybe we humans would have taken a hint sooner. As we near the end of the Common Era's two thousand and twelfth year, many are finally realizing the same thing they have been told since one of man's earliest civilizations: the fact that the earth will end on December 21, 2012, regardless of what we do about it.

In a world culture ruled by numbers, it is plain to see how the coming events are valid. The calendar, which tracks our path to oblivion, is completely backed by mathematics, based on a system of adding whole numbers, a complex task for many. In addition, the signs of the coming events could not be more obvious! The warm-up Hurricane, also known as Isaac, and the freak earthquake from last summer, clearly set the stage for the real display of nature's power during this past autumn. Irene's destruction, understood by many, not only demonstrated the ruin that

could be wrought on humans by nature, but additionally showed how inept Homo Sapiens are at keeping order without certain items, judging by the exemplary showing of calm displayed at every traffic light throughout the region.

Another sign that we should have realized is the landing of the Curiosity Rover on Mars. Maybe the government will try to repopulate elsewhere after the end? Due to the interest and effort put into the Mars mission, it is very probable that those in charge will lose hope in Earth and look to the Red Planet for a new beginning. However,

likely the most fearful alarm arises from the passing of Dick

ever, certain fanatics who wish to regard the facts remain, and they mainly are searching for ways to profit from their gullible brethren. Most tend to lead an unlucky victim into instituting a long-term purchase, which clearly will not be beneficial after the end. In order to protect oneself from these swindlers, always be wary of what you buy, and what kind of warranty you will be receiving.

These simple details can make the difference between surviving until the end of the world and living to the end of the world.

Unfortunately, all of what we know is not enough to prepare us for what has not been discovered yet. There is no way of knowing what will happen

the end of this December, even though science knows that the event will occur. All that remains are hypotheses. Will an asteroid strike the Earth in a deathly and surprising collision? This is quite possible, as massive pieces of rock have been known to appear out of nowhere and hit planets. Is it possible that natural disasters will tear our planet to pieces and leave humanity among the shreds? This is also probable, as storms are completely unpredictable, and the planet shows no patterns in its phenomena. Will the sun expand and engulf our celestial home in more heat than imaginable? This is additionally a likely occurrence, as scientists have been known to be wrong, particularly in areas that have happened billions of times in our universe. Innumerable situations are probable, and no matter what occurs, we know the event will live up to its anticipation. Unfortunately, none of the original calendar-makers were available for comment.



GRAPHIC: Emaad Kwaja

Clark, the beloved host of the New Year's Rockin' Eve. Without the man who has brought in each New Year for us since 1972, how can we possibly start a new one?

The signs speak for themselves; there is no doubt that an event is on the horizon. How-

An Historic New Society

by BEN NIKODEM

This year, the History Honor Society hopes to take its place among the large number of other societies offered at the high school. Of all the core subjects—math, science, English, foreign language, and history—the latter was the only one without an honor society in its name. Numerous students have shown great interest in forming a History Honor Society, and after working with the new club's advisor, Mr. Ken Donovan, they have made the idea a reality.

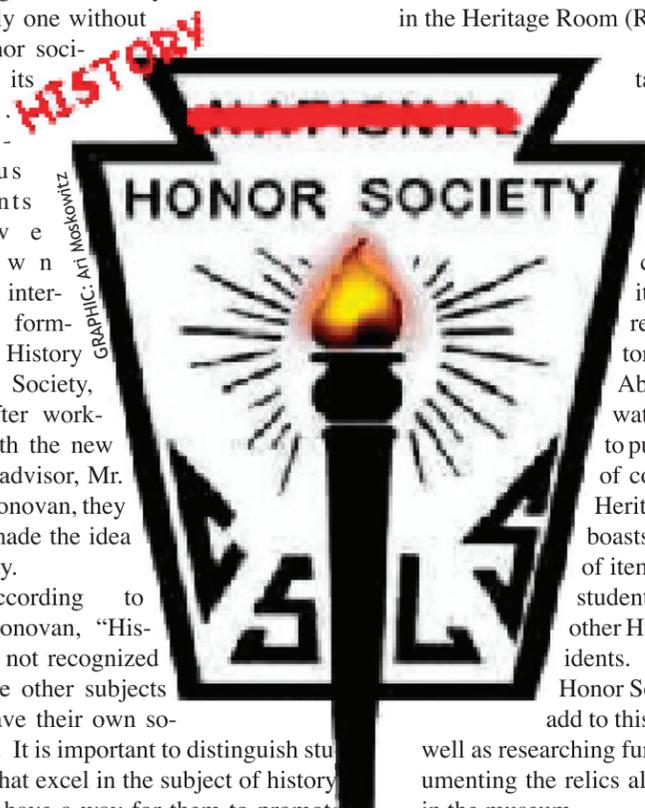
According to Mr. Donovan, "History is not recognized like the other subjects that have their own societies. It is important to distinguish students that excel in the subject of history and to have a way for them to promote and further their interest in the subject." Thus, the History Honor Society was formed.

The new group has many plans for the 2012-2013 school year, and it hopes to set itself apart from the various other societies. The organization anticipates providing tutors for the subject of history, and more specifically, working with the National History Day Club to provide

tutors for younger students that are not familiar with the National History Day project's process. The History Honor Society also looks forward to preserving local and school history, and promoting awareness of these histories, by working in the Heritage Room (Room 140).

The Heritage Room contains many artifacts from Huntington history collected by its recently retired curator, Mr. Jack Abrams. From water fountains to puzzles to busts of composers, the Heritage Room boasts a potpourri of items donated by students, staff, and other Huntington residents. The History Honor Society aims to add to this collection as well as researching further and documenting the relics already present in the museum.

The History Honor Society is a work in progress that aspires to recognize the achievements of the students interested in the topic and to preserve and promote the local history of the school and town. Meetings are scheduled every other week on Wednesdays, however this is subject to change. See Mr. Donovan in Room 239 for more information.



GRAPHIC: ART MOSKOWITZ

Senior Stress Boils Over

by SARA GOLDENBAUM

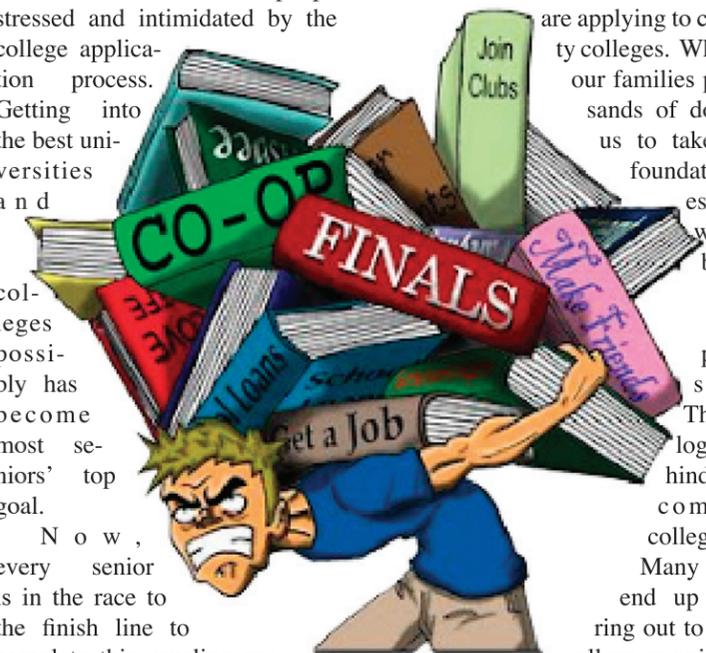
How long until we reach our breaking point? With high expectations and the demands of college, senior stress is currently one of the greatest pressures facing our high school community. Even some of the smartest people are stressed and intimidated by the college application process. Getting into the best universities and colleges possibly has become most seniors' top goal.

Now, every senior is in the race to complete this grueling process and time is running out! Seniors are visiting colleges, seeking interviews, and anxiously taking the last possible SAT. Some teens go home distraught and cry from the stress of going through the process. "Life is hard enough being a teenager," Lianah Waite a current senior, said. "Going to school for seven hours, dealing with teachers and doing homework is enough, but on top of all that we have to worry about standardized tests and the college process." Other Huntington students have expressed similar concerns. "This first half of senior year is really stressful because of the college process," Ana Ruzic explains.

Most—if not all—seniors feel the same way about the application process.

With universities and colleges raising their standards as far as GPA and test scores, more and more people are applying to community colleges. Why should our families pay thousands of dollars for us to take regular foundation classes when we could be taking them at a less expensive school? This is the logic behind the new college theory.

Many students end up transferring out to a private college or university to major in what they really want to do after they've completed foundation courses at community college. As a result, a growing number of community colleges are being asked to create more dorm availability for the high volume of students who are applying. The college process is a huge stressor for teens, but unfortunately it is a process all students have to go through. Students who are struggling with the stress should remember to keep their options open—you never know where your path is going to lead you.



A Program that Grows as Fast as Bacteria Multiply

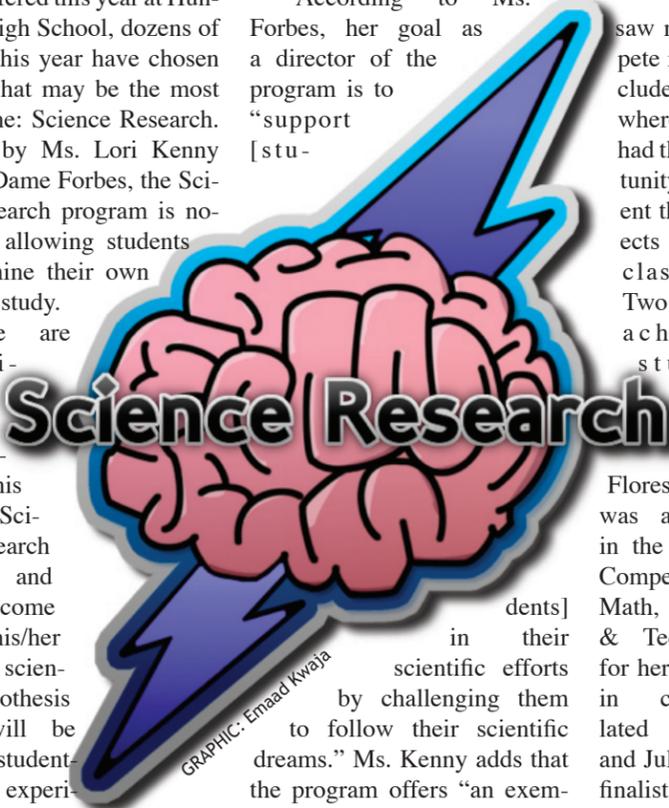
by BRIAN GILBERT

From the wide array of classes offered this year at Huntington High School, dozens of students this year have chosen to take what may be the most unique one: Science Research. Directed by Ms. Lori Kenny and Ms. Dame Forbes, the Science Research program is notable for allowing students to determine their own course of study.

There are approximately forty students enrolled in this year's Science Research Program, and each has come up with his/her original scientific hypothesis which will be tested by student-designed experiments. Other aspects of the experience include finding a mentor (often an expert in the field from a nearby university), crafting a final research paper, and participating

in science competitions.

According to Ms. Forbes, her goal as a director of the program is to "support [stu-



Science Research

students] in their scientific efforts by challenging them to follow their scientific dreams." Ms. Kenny adds that the program offers "an exemplary learning experience that enhances the students' knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values, and which enables them (to be) contributing members of both our school community

and our greater society."

Last year's program saw numerous students compete in competition, and concluded with a symposium where all research students had the opportunity to present their projects to their classmates. Two highly-achieving students last year were Holly Flores, who was a finalist in the Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology for her research in cancer-related genetics; and Juliana Coraor, who was a finalist in the Intel Science Talent Search for her work in ferroelectrics.

Ms. Kenny and Ms. Forbes both expressed that this year, too, there is a multitude of "exciting projects." One area

of serious study this year is environmental science, which is being investigated by the team of Bobby Scott, Amber Lindner, and Megan Hansen; and by the duo Jacob Roday

mental toxins found in honey from beehives. And finally, there is Emaad Khwaja, who is conducting research in genetics at the prestigious Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories.



A group of science research students eating lunch and posing for a fun picture

and Ricky Hermer-Fried. Two more promising students are Victor Tellez and Collin Francis, both of whom engaged in breast cancer research over the summer. ninth grader Sabrina Palacios also has a sophisticated project, looking at environ-

There is definitely a positive outlook on this year's Science Research Program. In the words of Ms. Forbes, "With science if you can dream it...that's one step closer to making it a reality."

College Apps Pre-assessments

Bleh :(

No more February break
Getting dark early

CrossFit In season fruit

Meh :/

Parallel Parking
Christmas decorations already

Black Friday

Seasonal beverages

Yeah :)

Thanksgiving cards
Thanksgiving leftovers

Random warmth

More than Just Right vs. Wrong

by MARC FELDMAN

This year, Huntington High School has added several clubs to its roster. An easy way to involve yourself in school activities is through these clubs and a large variety of clubs exist that appeal to many different interests. Clubs typically run after school and a list of available clubs can be obtained in the main office.

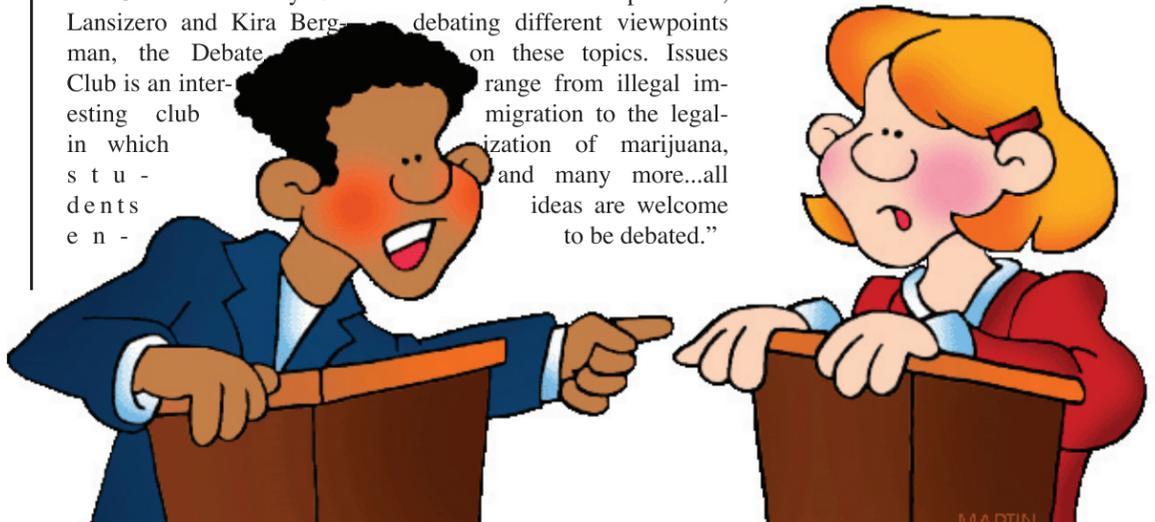
A new club that has been introduced to the plethora of clubs in Huntington is the Debate Club. Founded by Natalie Lansizero and Kira Berg-

gage themselves by arguing controversial points in groups. Students are assigned to a certain viewpoint within their own groups—debating in favor of that viewpoint. This can lead to situations where individuals are arguing points that they don't necessarily agree with.

Student and Debate Club member Ryan Newell has really enjoyed the club so far. "The Debate Club is a really exciting place. Here we discuss international and national problems, debating different viewpoints on these topics. Issues range from illegal immigration to the legalization of marijuana, and many more...all ideas are welcome to be debated."

Advised by Ms. Dillon, the school's librarian, the Debate Club has had an uneasy past. The club did not launch until this year under Ms. Lanzisero and Bergman.

"I'm just happy to help this club get off the ground," commented Ms. Dillon. The Debate Club meets on Thursdays after school in the library. Be sure to attend for an interesting intellectual club and a good time!



Fall Fashion

by TAYLOR CHOY

Fashion's favorite time of year is fall. It's the only time you can drag a few pieces from all the seasons and layer them to your heart's content. Here are some staples to incorporate into your closet this season:

- Printed Leggings – Leopard, galaxy, polka dots, etc; it will add some fun while maintaining comfort in your day-to-day activities.
- Utility jackets – Camouflage print, army, denim, and anorak jackets help layer some edge or retro into different looks.
- Vests – Different material vests such as denim, leather, and faux fur are perfect for layering on top of sweaters, dresses, tops, and skirts.
- Circle skirt – This piece adds girly flare and can be paired with any top. It also comes in every color and material imaginable.
- Peplum – This trend is coming out in every shirt, skirt, and bottom. It will definitely add some dramatic flare to any statement outfit.
- Ankle boots – The “wearability” of these is endless since they can mesh with many different styles and occasions.
- Baroque – The 1600's are coming back! This print is making a comeback on dresses, pants, leggings, jackets, and tops.



From top right clockwise: A durable utility jacket, trendy peplums, functional ankle boots, wild printed leggings

'Tis the Season to Decorate!

by SARA GOLDENBAUM AND MIKE STAFFORD

Halloween just passed and many people put up their festive decorations. So excit-



ing! People usually have different perspectives on how far to go with their decorations. From our perspective, this all depends on your goal for the holiday. If you wanted to scare people this Halloween, buying bloody decorations and other haunted objects can really scare people. If your goal this year was to not be as scary since you have kids, then decorations that are less scary like a ghost that smiles and says “boo” as a joke are a good option. There are a lot of different ways decorations that are seen for this spooky holiday.

The real definition of Halloween is All Hollows Eve. This is supposedly the

night that the dead are supposed to rise up from their graves and enter into the human world once again. Kids that dress up for Halloween are supposed to represent the dead rising and coming back to Earth. Now, when people think about Halloween, its usual connotation of the holiday is nothing less than dressing up as something you're not and going out to trick-or-treat to get candy. This holiday has become very popular with both kids and adults. It has become so popular that this year, people will spend as much money on Halloween decorations and costumes, as they did on this year's school



supplies.

Some of the decorations for this holiday include spiderwebs, skeletons and buckets of fake blood. Some extremists plan to scare people by using fake blood while obtaining the most spooky effects for your house. For example, a smoke machine

could cover your yard, which creates a haunted feeling. The smoke really adds the effect of the dead rising back up. With a bunch of skeletons laying in



your yard, you could have one of the scariest houses on the block.

Even though Sandy may have taken away some of the fun for this fun filled holiday, people still did their best creating a great environment with their decorations. Since Halloween just pasted, December holidays are now right around the corner. Many people will soon put decorations for the winter holidays. Some of these decorations include Reindeer, Christmas colorful lights, wreaths, and other fun decorations! Some people celebrating Chanukah also will be putting up menorahs in their windowsill to celebrate the holiday season. It seems that we will have another festive holiday season!

Another School-Day

by MOLLY PREP

Waiting for words
to come to my mind,
to be passed to my fingertips,
and be drawn on a clean sheet of paper.
The room is quiet,
except for the pencil scratches of others-
full of ideas and inspiration.

Think.
Focus.
Make it work.

Suddenly, a spark of interest;
a thought that ignites a flame.
Soft pencil lead flies between pale blue lines
as ideas unfold.

Words, as if hidden before, leap out
and form sentences, paragraphs, meaning.
Lost in a world of graphite and letters
the bell sounds all too soon.

I take my paper up to the front,
seemingly radiating from the heat of friction.

Despite its slow start,
my essay is complete.



Caramel Popcorn with M&Ms

AND

by MARLEM TELLEZ AND GRACE ROWLEY

Fall has started—the leaves are falling, it's getting colder, and the season of great foods has begun. Fall is a great season because of the different foods and tastes you can achieve. There are wonderful spices and delicious sweets; flavors vary when you are preparing a fall dish. These are some fall dishes that will really make you appreciate fall and all that it has to offer.

Ingredients

- 1 cup of butter
- 2 cups of brown sugar
- 1/2 of a cup of corn syrup
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- 1/2 of a teaspoon of baking soda
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
- 5 quarts popped popcorn
- M&M's

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 250 degrees Fahrenheit or 95 degrees Celsius while you place the popcorn in a large bowl.
2. Melt the butter in a saucepan on medium heat. Then, stir in the brown sugar, salt, and corn syrup.
3. Wait until it boils while continuing to stir, then leave it to boil for 4 minutes without stirring it.
4. Add the M&M's and remove it from the heat.
5. Add in the vanilla and the baking soda, then pour it over the popcorn, stirring to coat it.
6. Place the popcorn in two large baking dishes and bake them in the preheated oven, stirring every 15 minutes for an hour.
7. Remove the dishes from the oven and let cool, before breaking popcorn into pieces.



HOT CHOCOLATE

Ingredients

- 1/3 of a cup of unsweetened cocoa powder.
- 3/4 of a cup of white sugar
- 1 pinch of salt
- 1/3 of a cup of boiling water
- 3 and 1/2 of cups of milk
- 3/4 of a teaspoon of vanilla extract
- 1/2 of a cup of half-and-half cream

Directions

1. Combine the cocoa, sugar mix and the pinch of salt in one saucepan.
2. Blend it all in with the boiling water and wait until this mixture boils while stirring it.
3. Simmer and stir for about 2 minutes, making sure that it does not scorch.
4. Add the milk and heat it until it is hot but not boiling, then turn the heat off and add the vanilla.
5. Divide it into 4 mugs and wait for it to cool before drinking it.



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The Dispatch is Huntington High School's official student publication. Written for over 1200 students attending HHS, *The Dispatch* is distributed to all students, staff and school community members at the school free of charge.

The Editorial Board is the newspaper's decision-making body, organizing and directing its operation. *The Dispatch* staff has adopted the following editorial policy to express the rights, responsibilities and philosophy of the newspaper for the 2012-2013 school year.

The Dispatch of Huntington High School is a public forum, with its student editorial board making all decisions concerning its content. Unsigned editorials express the views of the majority of the editorial board.

Letters to the editor are welcomed and will be published as space allows. Letters are preferred signed, but may be published by request. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and clarity, and all letters are subject to laws governing obscenity, libel, privacy, and disruption of the school process, as are all contents of the paper. Questions, comments, and letters to the editor should be sent electronically to hhsdispatch@gmail.com or submitted to *The Dispatch* mailbox located in the main office.

Opinions in letters are not necessarily those of the staff, nor should any opinion expressed in a public forum be construed as the opinion of the administration, unless so attributed.

The Dispatch's goal is to provide readers with interesting content in a wide variety of areas. Such areas include the news coverage of school and community events, as well as features on relevant topics. In addition, *The Dispatch* will provide opinionated editorials on controversial topics, as well as provide previews and reviews for upcoming school and professional sports seasons and other forms of entertainment.

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Bye Bye Vay-K

Two weeks in the dark wasn't our idea of time off...

One month ago, our town, our state, was hit by Superstorm Sandy. Most families could be categorized into two groups: those who were legitimately suffered and those who were majorly inconvenienced. Most of us were lucky and fell into the latter category, we only lost power for a few days or a week, but some suffered much more. Homes were condemned. Communities were looted. Trees were uprooted. Power lines were destroyed. To add salt to the wound, the following Wednesday, just as things were returning to normal, a nor'easter brought snow to Long Island. By then most people's power had been returned or they had found a hospitable friend who let them sleep at their house. The two ecological phenomena left us school-less for two full weeks.

In lieu of the storm, the school board, along with Mr. Polansky, decided to replace our February break with instructional days. But those

days lost due to Sandy are not comparable to vacation days. New York State sets a quota for the amount of school days a public school is required to hold. This forced the school board to make a tough decision and compensate for the loss of days even though the schedule accounts for five snow days.

No one was galavanting in Aruba during Sandy. Most people were cuddled with their family around a fireplace eating take-out food. This is not a one-for-one deal; Sandy days and February break days are not equivalent. Taking away those vacation days means that there will only be one vacation between the end of December and the end of the school year. An unprecedented notion. An idea that many teachers worry about is the fact that if half the school does not show up for those days then the teachers will spend the following week reteaching what they taught during the replaced February break and thereby making the

school days a useless way to penalize students who took vacations with unexcused absences. Though the school is being accommodating and allowing anyone who purchased tickets before Hurricane Sandy to have excused absences for that week, the reality is that not everyone purchases their tickets so far in advance. Interestingly, we lost four days of last quarter even with the quarter extension. But teachers coped with this loss and rearranged their schedules accordingly. They "made it work" so to speak.

A lot of respect should be given to the school board for what they do, it is clear that this was a difficult decision, but based on the circumstances it seems like there had to be a better alternative. From what I have seen, no school on Long Island has come up with an ingenious plan to cope with the unexpected loss of school. So maybe the school board is right, only time will tell.

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TAKE PICTURES!

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E-mail hhsdispatch@gmail.com

Contact Mr. Florea, Ms. Antorino, or one of *The Dispatch's* editors if you wish to place an ad in the paper.

POINT / COUNTERPOINT

A State Imposed Test Used to Evaluate Teachers: Good or Bad?



PHOTO: Ari Moskowitz

A Waste of Time

by ANNABEL SMITH

At the start of the year, students look forward to a stress-free first quarter. But can students stay relaxed during their first few months of school when they're being bombarded with pre-assessments?

Although these diagnostic exams are not graded, they "Stress our students" with the anticipation of what's to come in the course. With some students taking as many as six or seven pre-tests, the pressure warps some students' views of classes.

According to senior Skylar Unger, "The pre-test made physics seem hard and stressful." These exams may be useful for teachers, but they are harmful to the students' composure in class." Skylar also expressed that "They're pointless...kids are going to learn no matter what."

Although many teachers will claim that the diagnostic exams are helpful in determining the prior knowledge of their students, many of the exams are multiple choice, giving students the chance to guess the correct answer with ease. By making an assumption that their pupils know the answers that they receive credit for on the pre-tests, teachers may actually be ignoring information that the student doesn't truly know.

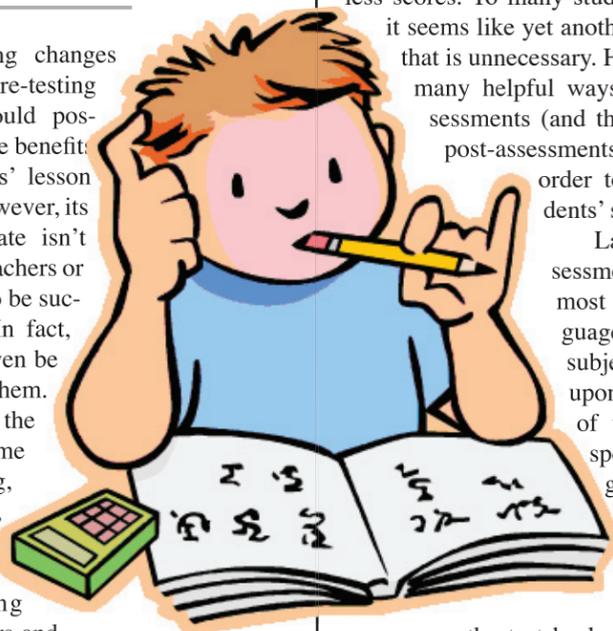
Some students, like sophomore Cristina Bateman, believe that "Pre-tests are not useful to teachers unless they aren't multiple choice. They take up time for learning and they don't really add to a teacher's idea of what their

students know." So, despite the idea that pre-assessments are helpful, they can actually cause the teacher to misunderstand what their students already know and therefore not teach the vital information that students will need for a Regents exam in June.

“... the tests are time consuming (and) stressfull...”

Making changes to the pre-testing system could possibly create benefit to teachers' lesson plans. However, its current state isn't helping teachers or students to be successful. In fact, it could even be hurting them. Overall, the tests are time consuming, stressful, and potentially misleading for teachers and students alike.

As Cristina said, "The pre-tests are unnecessary and unwanted, so why should we bother with them?" Although it is important to let students know what the course entails, it is also important that the student feels comfortable in each and every class. Scaring students with pre-assessments can be a bad start to the year, and should be avoided at all costs.



Benefit in the Long Run

by DONOVAN RICHARDSON

At the beginning of this school year, a new word entered the vocabulary of the students of Huntington High School: pre-assessment. Both as a word and as a practice, the pre-assessment was very unfamiliar to us, and its strangeness was increased by its difficulty. Because most of the material on the tests was yet to be learned, the students were not expected to do well on these tests. Most of the teachers did not even give back the tests with their discouraging but weightless scores. To many students and teachers it seems like yet another mandatory test that is unnecessary. However, there are many helpful ways that the pre-assessments (and the end-of-the-year post-assessments) can be used in order to ensure the students' success.

Language pre-assessments may be the most helpful. A language is a complex subject which builds upon itself. Because of this, a test on a specific part of grammar may use unfamiliar vocabulary, and so when a student receives the test back, they will be able to correct their grammar and expand their vocabulary at the same time. Although the student most likely won't receive the pre-assessment back, they will still be able to find areas where they need to study more.

Another helpful pre-assessment, although extremely difficult, is one in math. Many math pre-assessments contain questions that no one could answer correctly without prior knowledge on the subject.

While not particularly helpful for studying at the beginning of the year, the assessment that takes place after all of the material has been learned can be extremely helpful. For example, a trigonometry student should know the value of the sine of a 30° angle. If a student doesn't know this by the end of the year post-assessment, the assessment should do a pretty good job of making the student aware of it. If a student knows what they have to study at the end of the year, they can focus their studying and hopefully do better on a Regents exam.

Different science classes, unlike math and foreign language classes, can often have very different subject matter. A regents-level biology course, for example, would require mostly memorization. Honors-level chemistry would require both mathematics and memorization, and an AP Physics course would require mostly mathematics. Again, the post-assessment can be a good study guide for finals and Regents exams. Post-assessments are more helpful on logic-based science courses, because these courses usually use math or logic that a student already understands rather than foreign facts and concepts, such as chromosome crossing-over for a Living Environment student. A pre-assessment is very effective in allowing a student to know what kind of course they are in for, whether it be a memorization or logic-based course.

Not all classes (i.e. most electives and study halls) have pre-assessments, and not all of these tests are designed in the same way. It seems like they will become a normal occurrence in the high school. Pre-assessments can be tedious, but as the high school community gets used to the practice of having pre- and post- assessments, their educational value can be realized.

Photographing the Big Apple

by ARI MOSKOWITZ

Recently, Ms. Piffard's Advanced photography and Advanced Placement Studio Art 2D classes



took an exciting trip to the Big Apple. Among the many sites visited, The Brooklyn Bridge and the International Center of Photography were the finest. "We took a subway to the Brooklyn Bridge and then walked halfway across, which was cool because all the cars were passing below us and I took some really great pictures of the bridge," said Scout Ziegler, a senior in "Piff's" AP 2D class. Ms. Piffard decided to take her students on a walking tour

across the overpass of the Brooklyn Bridge allowing them to photograph at their leisure. A particularly ambitious second year photography student, Molly Prep, took a whopping 353 pictures. "I just love photographing the world around me." The Brooklyn Bridge is famous for its giant arches and design. The bridge was built in the earlier part of the 1900's and it's original de-



From right: A scenic picture of Time Square, A student taking a picture of the city, and students riding the subway on their way across town

sign still stands. After visiting The Brooklyn Bridge, the photo group

went to The International Center of Photography.

At the time of the trip, the International Center of Photography was hosting a special photojournalism exhibit about the South African apartheid, a special opportunity to learn about something few high school students remember or even know about. Senior Alexis Weitzner said, "Going to the museum was an important part of the trip--the extent of my knowledge about the apartheid beforehand had been limited to the plot of (the movie) Invictus. After viewing (photographs) from people who actually lived through apartheid, I feel that I now have a much more genuine understanding of what was actually going on and how it so completely affected the lives of the people of South Africa." Nicole Smoot, another AP 2D student, added, "The apartheid exhibit was also a great experience because we were able to see how artists can



PHOTOS: Molly Prep

use photography to send a message, tell a story, or illustrate a specific part of history."

This annual trip provides the unique chance to photograph the concrete jungle that is New York City. New York City blends both nature and stone, trees and skyscrapers. It is a photojournalist's dream. There, a person can photograph the city's plethora of different people, buildings, or landmarks. Ms. Piffard loves taking her students outside the classroom to strengthen their passion for the art of photography.

The Dispatch examines . . .

What's Hot

- 1) **Pumpkin Spice-** Lattes, breads, cookies: it's fall's number one flavor!
- 2) **Desert Boots-** Boys and girls alike are sporting these fashionable footwear.
- 3) **Colored hair-** Ombred or just a pink streak, it seems colored is the new blonde.



- 4) **Breaking Bad-** Our chemistry teachers are almost cool, right?
- 5) **Lana Del Rey-** Her strange lyrics and style don't seem to stop people from falling in love with Del Rey.



What's Not

- 1) **Cyberbullying-** Use your Facebook for good, not evil.
- 2) **Sandy-** We would have preferred a February break with electricity than nine whole days without it.
- 3) **The weather-** It seems the final warm days



in fall are reaching their end.

- 4) **J Biebs and Selena-** How can love exist if their relationship doesn't?!
- 5) **College apps-** If you know a senior, please give them a supportive hug.

HHS HAPPENINGS

Superheroes 2012



PHOTOS: Jessica Baik

Sales Tax Cuts Profits

by ALEXIS WEITZNER

There has been a lot of noise recently about the school's new sales tax policy for clubs. The logic behind it is explained in a packet that was distributed to club advisors and treasurers at a meeting in September. The "sales tax situation," as students and teachers alike have referred to it, stems from a NYS tax law. According to New York, the Huntington school district (HUFSD) is tax-exempt. However, student

umbrella. Therefore, if something in taxable in the "real world," it is taxable for student organizations, although there are some exceptions. Taxable items generally include: Vending machine sales of items more than 75 cents, candy, soda, soft drinks, some fruit juices, food that is prepared/eaten when it is being sold*, prom tickets, plants, flowers, yearbooks, and class rings. Non-taxable items

items less than 75 cents, packaged food that is not prepared/eaten when it is sold*, tickets to school plays, newspapers, advertising (in play programs, yearbooks, newspapers, etc.), and cap/gown rentals.

*The items marked with an asterisk have generated the most confusion in the school. As far as bake sales, should we be charging tax or not charging tax? Well, it depends on how the food at the bake sale is being sold. If the food is not packaged, you must charge tax. If the food is going to be eaten immediately after it is purchased, you must charge tax. You do NOT have to charge tax if and only if: the food is packaged in bulk and not going to be eaten immediately after it is purchased. A good general rule of thumb to abide by is if you paid tax on it at the store, you must charge tax on it when you sell it.



PHOTO: Ari Moskowitz

The new sales tax policy makes bake sales very difficult

organizations do not fall under this tax-exempt

generally include: Vending machine sales of



PHOTOS: Anna Wertheim

A selection of pictures from this past month's drama production



You Better Redneckonize Reality TV!

by NATALIE LANZISERO

Reality TV has become very popular over the past few years with shows like “Keeping up with the Kardashians”, “The Real Housewives”, and more recently,

“Here Comes Honey Boo Boo.” But why is it that reality shows are so popular?

Some people say that the reason reality television shows have such a large audience is the simplicity of the plot and the fact that there is no need for a viewer to have any previous knowledge of the show. You can turn on the TV and zone out to a show that you know nothing about, simply for the joy of relaxing and watching other people’s funny or crazy lives.

The TLC series “Here Comes Honey Boo Boo” captured people’s attention due to its funny yet ridiculously idiotic plot. The show is a spin off of TLC’s popular series “Toddlers and Tiaras”, where young girls compete in beauty pageants. Six-year-old Alana Thompson, nicknamed “Honey Boo Boo,” competes in pageants with the help of her mother June. Although Honey Boo Boo does not usually win the pageants she competes in, she is such an eccentric and energetic young girl that most people find enjoyment in watching her day-to-day life



with her crazy family and unconventional pet (a pig).

While some love the show because of its pure entertaining comedy, there are many people

who dislike it and other shows like it. Those who dislike “Here Comes Honey Boo Boo” argue that

it’s very unintelligent and that the things the characters do are simply irresponsible and ludicrous. Other people may be offended by the show because it gives a “bad name” to pageant-goers. If you are interested in a carefree and silly reality show to watch, then tune in to “Here Comes Honey Boo Boo” on TLC.

Samsung vs. iPhone

by ALEXIS WEITZNER

In April of 2011, Apple filed a patent infringement lawsuit against Samsung. They were looking for two and a half billion dollars from Samsung as “damages,” money they feel they lost as a result of what Samsung allegedly copied from them. They also wanted multiple Samsung products to no longer be sold. Samsung filed a countersuit claiming that Apple had copied some aspects of their technology, looking for damages of almost four hundred million dollars.

Apple’s claims: Samsung violated three utility patents and 4fourdesign patents. Utility patents have to do with the way the phone functions. For example, pinch and zoom, bounce-back scrolling, and tap to zoom. Design patents deal with the physical aspects of the phone. For example, the shape and feel of the phone, as well as the way in which app buttons are “gridded” on the screen. For Apple to be awarded full damages, they would need to prove that Samsung intentionally violated these patents.

Samsung’s claims: Apple violated three utility patents and two “3G standards essentials” patents. The utility patents involved things like emailing photos, multitasking, and camera/photo gallery interactions. The 3G standards essentials patents basically have to do with using

wireless technology and how it is used. To get the damages they wanted from Apple, they would need to prove that Apple willfully violated the patents.

The two sides attempted mediation, but no agreement was reached and the suit proceeded to trial. A jury of nine people was selected on July 30th, 2012. The jurors were chosen from the heart



of Silicon Valley in California, a place where Steve Jobs, the late CEO of Apple, is revered. Why is this important? It means that there’s a possibility that the jury was somewhat biased. After much litigation in a U.S. District Court in San Jose, a verdict was reached on August 24th. This verdict had to be agreed upon by all of the jurors, otherwise it would not be valid. The verdict that the jury reached was that yes, Samsung had infringed on six out of the seven Apple patents, but no, Apple had not infringed on any of the Samsung patents.

Apple was awarded only \$1.05 billion in damages, less

than half of what they were looking for. However, the verdict did help Apple to make a statement: Don’t even think about trying to copy us—we will catch you and we will punish you. Samsung, unsurprisingly, disagrees with the decision the jury reached. A speaker for Samsung announced that they will appeal the decision, meaning they will ask a higher court to review the case. They are willing to go all the way to the Supreme Court if they need to.

What does all of this mean for you, the consumer? Well, it could mean fewer products to choose from as more and more Samsung products are taken off shelves due to patent violations. Also, Samsung claims that Apple is trying to monopolize the technology industry by legally destroying their competition. If Apple is looking to create a monopoly, that would mean higher prices for consumers. Considering the fact that Apple is now looking to pursue further damages and removals of Samsung products from stores, this is a realistic possibility.

This conflict isn’t truly settled yet, and an important question that people should be asking is whether juries will continue to decide ways that help particular companies (so far, Apple), or whether their decisions will reflect the needs and interests of the consumers.

WORD ON THE STREET

What was the best part of Hurricane Sandy?



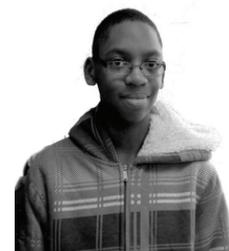
Anfernee Lopez, Junior

“The best part of Hurricane Sandy was not having to come to school.”



Jeremy Gelb, Junior

“Being able to lie down on my bed, for four days straight, commando because the lights were out.”



Justin Waite, Freshman

“Being able to go outside because there was nothing else to do.”



Sam Dever, Senior

“Being in California.”



Wilson Argueta, Freshman
Oscar Madrid, Freshman
Alex Elmessaoudi, Freshman

“Family bonding...and bragging about having power when no one else did.”

The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Dispatch’s staff, nor the HUFSD School Board or any affiliated.

Playlist

by ARI MOSKOWITZ

Now, here it is. The time you have been waiting for. The second of many playlists on my iTunes. Because it would be too difficult to make a "Best of" playlist or "Favorites" playlist, I decided to engineer a more specific type.

Where Has the Time Gone? Features a range of songs referencing time ordered from shortest to longest. Below you will see the song title, length, artist, album, and the amount of times I have listened to it on my computer. Enjoy!

Playlist Title: Where Has the Time Gone?
Amount of Songs: 8
Song Order: Shortest to Longest
Length: 28:11

Song 1: Seconds
Artist: U2
Album: War
Time: 3:12
Plays: 2



Song 2: 15 Minutes Away
Artist: K'naan
Album: Troubadour
Time: 4:56
Plays: 57

Song 3: One Week
Artist: Barenaked Ladies
Album: Stunt
Time: 2:49
Plays: 39



Song 4: Eight Days A Week
Artist: The Beatles
Album: 1
Time: 2:44
Plays: 7

Song 5: Two Weeks
Artist: Grizzly Bear
Album: Veckatimest
Time: 4:03
Plays: 43



Song 6: Seasons Of Love
Artist: Tracie Thoms / Jesse L. Martin / Cast Of Rent
Album: Rent
Time: 3:03
Plays: 6

Song 7: Ten Long Years
Artist: B.B. King & Eric Clapton
Album: Riding With The King
Time: 4:41
Plays: 2



Song 8: 400 Years
Artist: Bob Marley & The Wailers
Album: Catch A Fire
Time: 2:47
Plays: 2

A Crack in the Line

by ASAR NADI

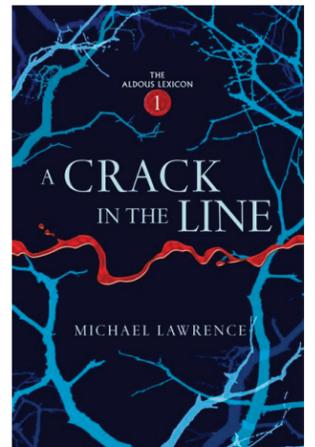
We've all had that one question in mind. "Is there another universe where there are existing people?" But, there are many other questions that we have also had in mind. For instance, have you ever dreamed of having a twin who looked exactly like you, lived the same life, lived in the same household, had the same exact parents, yet you've never met them? What if one life was perfect and the other was full of depressants? Have you ever thought that if that one moment had never happened, your life would be ideal? These are many questions to think about if you ever get a chance to read *A Crack in the Line* by Michael Lawrence.

A Crack in the Line is just the first novel in a series of three. This is not the type of book where you won't understand one part and become confused throughout the rest. Lawrence's book is like no other. He tries to explain even the most minute details down to crooked tooth so the reader clearly knows how he imagines his characters. Although the book may first

seem boring when it begins, as the pages continue more and more drama is written in and Lawrence keeps adding more surprising moments where you'd never expect them. You'll feel as if no time has passed but when you're finished, you'll realize that you've read more than what you originally thought. Lawrence does this to the reader because in every way, he wants you to keep guessing about what's going to happen next.

The format of the book is different than any other. The book switches off with the two main characters and instead of breaking the book into 'Chapter One' and 'Chapter Two', he counts down starting from Day Seven. At first it's confusing, but as you keep reading you'll realize what Lawrence's purpose. Lawrence shows a lot of symbolism in his book and manages to interweave his own life into the book. Most of his memories are represented in the book somehow, and the imagery in this book allows the reader to understand what each character is going through by

understanding each symbolic object mentioned in all parts. The mystery behind all of this reminds everyone, including Lawrence, that no matter how hard the problem is, you should always consider other factors that may allow the question to become clear. This suspenseful, incisive first book out of three is perfect for anyone who likes every bit of detail explained and enjoys a suspenseful journey of the mind.



Argo vs. Flight

by ARI MOSKOWITZ

Over the past few months, many highly acclaimed movies have been released into theaters. From cartoons like *Wreck-it-Ralph* to action packed thrillers like *Skyfall*, comedies like *Here Comes the Boom* to thought provokers like *Seven Psychopaths*, movie critics around the country have been buzzing with reviews. Possibly the two movies that stood out most of all were the suspense thrillers *Argo* and *Flight*.



Argo retells the true story of six americans working in the American embassy in Iran in 1979 when the Iranian revolution started. Though most americans were tortured and taken hostage. These six found refuge in the Canadian ambassador's house. As the movie unfurls, an in-

telligent CIA agent played by Ben Affleck concocts a plan to help the six hostages escape. He plans to have them pretend to be his movie crew shooting a Canadian film in a middle eastern off-site location. The movie has sass, wit, complexity, and most definitely suspense.



Flight, on the other hand, tells the action packed story of alcoholic flight pilot. While flying, his passenger plane malfunctions and goes into a vertical dive. He reestablishes control of the plane by inverting it. This feat saves many, but not all of, the people on board. A criminal lawsuit ensues and the pilot played by Denzel Washington is forced to come to terms with his alcohol abuse and failing marriage while the government tries to determine the cause of the plane's mishap. *Flight*, while also being a suspense filled complex thriller, is extremely different from *Argo*.

Overall, *Flight* was better, receiving 4 1/2 stars to *Argo's* 4. *Flight* was both funnier and more thought provoking. It was edgier and honed in on the advantages of ephemeral suspense.



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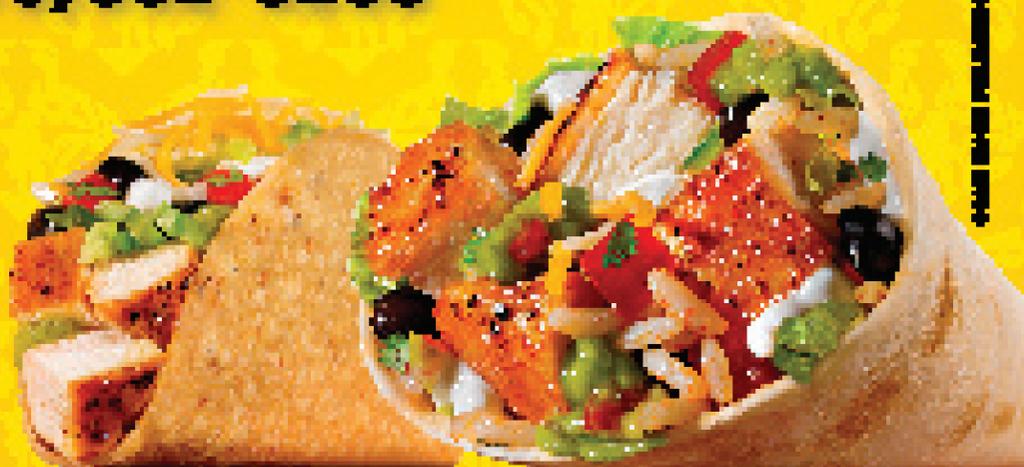


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Follow My Finger-High School Athletes and Concussions

by MIKE STAFFORD

In recent years, concussions have become a worrisome dilemma in sports. Every year more and more restrictions are placed on these rigorous activities in order to keep the athletes from suffering further brain injuries after their first concussion. These regulations on concussions have not bypassed Huntington High School, as the school board recently put in place a new process for dealing with students that received concussions on the field. Even though it is frustrating that some competitors may have to miss an extended period of playing time, it is important that the safety of the students comes first.

With the growing concern of concussions, it is best to know what concussions actually are and what their symptoms are. A concussion is a brain injury that alters the way the brain works. Symptoms of having a concussion include headaches, decreased concentration, poor judgment, and a slight loss of balance or coordination. It is a misconception that most concussions occur when a person is knocked unconscious, although that is a possible cause of the injury. Concussions are common in contact sports, but most people recover fully from them if treated properly with time and care. Concussions must be taken

seriously and treated seriously, even if believed to be a minor form of the ailment.

The new protocol for dealing with

procedure include immediately removing players from the field and going through a concussion symptoms checklist with them.



GRAPHIC: Jessica Baik

concussions at Huntington High School was created by Kelly Hatzmann, the Athletic Trainer. The major points of the

Over the course of time the athletic trainers and neurologists will closely monitor the player's progress. A neurologist is a phy-

sician who deals with the nervous system and brain injuries. After at least three days, if the patient seems to have recovered, he will be able to return to the athletic program.

One of our student athletes, Christian Jamison, suffered a concussion this year. He did this while playing football, and felt that the new policy made him stay off the field longer than he would've liked, but he understood it was in his best interest to comply and to make sure he was healthy enough to be back on the field. He saw a neurologist and got a CT scan to see the severity of the concussion. He also took an online test called the imPACT test (immediate post-concussion assessment and cognitive testing). This test evaluates the severity of an individual's concussion, and evaluates an athlete's attention span, working memory, reaction time, and problem solving. In his overall opinion about the new concussion policy, Mr. Jamison rated the policy as a "seven on a ten."

The strong stance the Huntington school district has taken is an important step to keep our athletes protected and healthy for not only this season, but also for future seasons on the field.

CrossFit Has Students Cross: An Opinion of Phys Ed's New Look

by TODD COLVIN

We finally have it, Huntington High School, a rule so controversial that it makes the dress code look reasonable. What I'm talking about is CrossFit, the new PE class exercise routine that is arguably the saddest milestone to hit this school since Franny stopped rolling burritos. In theory, it's a grueling regimen of exercises that test the limits of physical strength and endurance. In practice, it's only pretending to do that while the teacher is looking. CrossFit demonstrates the lack of respect high school students have for the honor system, and makes the reapplication of deodorant not only suggested, but also necessary.

According to Mrs. McCarthy, CrossFit is a response to the lack of "exercise that young adults are involved in." The new plan created by the PE teachers and Mrs. McCarthy aims to keep students involved and healthy. CrossFit has been years in the making and the Booster Club has generously donated equipment to help implement the program.

A major motivating factor for the creation of CrossFit was that kids weren't getting enough exercise. Kids are unhealthy because sitting on the couch, watching TV or playing video games is too entertaining and because fast food is so convenient, cheap, and delicious. Threats of obesity and heart attacks in the future don't scare the average teen enough for them to go to the



CrossFit gets students moving and sweating with intense cardio workouts

YMCA and work out. The New York State Department of Health recommends 150 minutes of moderate exercise or 75 minutes of vigorous exercise per week. On paper, CrossFit looks like it could make a difference. The exercises are certainly vigorous, and with the amount of PE classes we have and the time they take up, every kid could meet the deadline. The problem isn't so much with the routine itself as it is with how kids do it.

Although well intentioned, CrossFit is impossible to enforce. I understand that teachers can't keep track of 35 children and every push up, lap, and Burpee that they do. The logical conclusion would be that CrossFit is not a workable PE class activity and that the PE Department should take a more practical and balanced approach to physical education. However, the solution they came up with is the honor system—trusting high school students to do the work outs and give an honest report back. Trusting high school students? Looked at

is made of the situation when it is looked at from the perspective of the PE Department. In the words of Mrs. McCarthy, "The PE teachers want to help students to be honorable, cooperative, and to become leaders. It's your health, not ours."

I'm not saying that it's right for students to disregard the honor code like this; I'm just saying that this is what happens. We all know it's wrong to lie, but for most of us the cost of lying is lower than the cost of coming back from a PE class drenched in sweat. The argument has been made by PE teachers, however, that even if kids are cutting corners with CrossFit they are still getting more good out of it than they otherwise would have in a traditional PE class. Maybe CrossFit can be kept as an elective for kids who really want to take it. Or maybe a fair compromise would be that athletes are exempt from CrossFit due to their already strenuous workouts after, and in some cases before, school, but as of now this is against district policy. The old system of PE wasn't perfect, but I wouldn't doubt that at least 95% of the student body would prefer it to CrossFit. PE used to be a time to unwind from the day, to play a

game of badminton with your friends or to just mess around and chuck up shots from half court. People grumbled about it, but as long as you gave a minimal effort you got a decent grade. I miss the old days, when PE wasn't a period of the day I dreaded. Whatever your opinion on it, however, CrossFit is here to stay. My prediction is that as time goes on the objections to CrossFit will die down, and the program will improve as more kids are willing to do the workouts as intended.

from a school-wide perspective, we get lunch detention for not bringing our IDs to lunch, even though we've showed them to the same person at the same time every single other day of the school year. We have a dress code because we aren't even trusted to come to school in "appropriate" attire, but suddenly we're trustworthy enough to keep track of our own physical fitness? Although it is easy to get frustrated by hypocrisy, sense

PHOTO: Jessica Baik

A Look Back on the MLB Playoffs

by CHARLES BEERS

The first half of the 2012 major league baseball season has featured some big names and incredible stories. No one could have predicted the standings the way they sit right now. Who would've guessed that the Washington Nationals would rise to the top of the NL East and Stephen Strasburg would return from his Tommy John surgery more masterful than ever before? Who could have predicted that Derek Jeter would have a tremendous bounce-back year that rivals the glory years of the late 1990s? And which fantasy baseball player had Philip Humber, also known as the guy who pitched the perfect game this year, on their roster? This season has been fun to watch because of its unpredictability, as well as the rise of the small teams like the Nationals against the big budget squads that kept them in the cellars of their divisions for so long. So, now that the first half is over, here are some predictions on what to expect for the rest of the year.

1. If the Yankees can't solve their pitching problems, they won't make the postseason this year. Only C.C. Sabathia and Ivan Nova have been somewhat



consistent throughout the first half. Hopefully Andy Pettitte can make a successful return and help out the Yankees' starting rotation. However, if he fails, the Yankees are in trouble. Even their explosive offense won't be able to support their struggling rotation and the second wild card

will not be enough for the Bombers this season. Plus, losing the best closer of all time for the season doesn't help much either.

2. The Mets can't maintain their early season winning streak and will miss the playoffs again. Although the Mets appear to be one of the more dominant

teams in the National League at the moment, they are not a structurally sound ball club. Although David



Wright has been on a tear throughout the first half of the season, the Mets don't have a World Series-caliber offense to back up their rotation. The Mets' pitching hasn't been reliable either. Their main closer, Frank Francisco, has an ERA over 4.00, which is not good for a guy who only pitches two innings at the maximum. Overall, it will come down to the wire, but the Mets' internal problems will slowly reveal themselves as the season progresses and will keep them from making the playoffs once again.

3. The Baltimore Orioles will make the playoffs for the first time since 1997. Both their batting and pitching numbers have been the best they've had in over a decade of baseball, and they seem poised to upset the AL East powerhouses. At the very least, the Orioles will nab the second wild-card spot and give Baltimore something to cheer about.

4. The Angels won't win the AL West, or make the playoffs for that matter, but Pujols will bounce back in the second half of the season and give the Rangers a scare. Although it took Pujols more than a month of baseball to hit his first home run as a Halo, don't count

him out of your fantasy teams. Even when he's in the middle of a down year, Albert Pujols is still liable to bang out 25 homers and possibly 95 RBIs.

5. The Cardinals will have the last laugh and make the playoffs while Pujols and the Angels will miss out. The Cards seem to be virtually unaffected by the loss of one of their biggest run-producers and have easily stood at the top of the division or close to it throughout most of the first half of the season. Their main saviors are last year's World Series MVP, David Freese, and Carlos Beltran, who both are picking up where King Albert left off. As for the pitching, starters Lance Lynn and Matt Lohse have been lights out for the majority of the first half and look poised to lead St. Louis to back-to-back championships.

If the first half of the season is any indicator, the weeks to come after the All-Star Break look to be even more entertaining than before. It is clear that many of the division races across the league will come down to the wire, and just like last year's epic season finale, anything can happen. As for the World Series, it's hard to tell who will step up their game to the next level and earn a ring. As of right now, I think that the Texas Rangers will win their third consecutive American League Pennant and have a third chance to redeem themselves for their last two World Series failures. The National League is also stocked with some tough competition, and I see the Los Angeles Dodgers coming back from a mediocre 2011 season to rise to the top of the league. No matter how this season ends, however, there is one thing that all baseball fans can agree on. It ain't over 'til it's over. And, as many major-leaguers will agree, the real fun hasn't even started yet.



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SPORTS

Great Postseasons Begin with Wins but End in Losses

by TODD COLVIN

Throw out the playbooks, the X's and O's, and whatever other generic coaching conventions you can think of, because this past season Huntington showed what really makes high school teams win. Al-



PHOTOS: HUFSD

though each team had a different way of describing this elusive *je ne sais quoi*, they all referred to the same concept. The field hockey team called it "family," the football team called it "camaraderie," and the soccer team called it "team chemistry," but whatever you want to call it, Huntington's most successful sports teams found a way to get it. The combined hard work of all of this fall's teams contributed to make it one of the most successful seasons Huntington has had in recent memory.

The Huntington football team finished with an impressive 6-2 record, earning them the 3rd spot in the division, trailing only Miller Place and traditional powerhouse Sayville. The aspect of the football team that stands out the most is the incredible stats of the team's star players. At the time of writing, junior quarterback Ben Kocis was ranked 7th in total passing yards on Long Island (3rd in Suffolk), going an efficient 70/104 and having only 3 interceptions to his 14 touchdowns. Ben's 2 favorite targets, seniors TJ Greenhill and Josh Long, finished 12th and 25th on Long Island (6th and 11th in Suffolk) in terms of receptions. Crowd-favorite Pat "2K"

Reilly, senior, also had a standout season as kicker (and even some reps as cornerback), ranking 6th on Long Island (3rd in Suffolk) in terms of total points. On the defensive side of the ball, even an injury could not stop senior John Mallouk from being tied for 25th in the county for sacks. Of course it took more than superstars in the skill positions to achieve the level of success that the football team has—the offensive and defensive lines anchored the team and everybody stepped up on defense and special teams. In the words of coach and dean Ron Wilson, "I'll tell you, the camaraderie was at an all time high. The personalities meshed, we supported each other on and off the field even in the middle of all this craziness."

The Golf Team had one of its best seasons in a very long time. They went undefeated and finished first in their league. Winning the league tournament with ease.

The field hockey team also had an impressive season, tallying a record of 6-8 in an extremely tough conference. A couple of key wins propelled the team to the 9th and last playoff spot. The team was led by senior captains Katia DeSimone, Maggie Askerberg, Kaylyn Johnston, and Kelly Askerberg. Goalie Greta Farrell (junior) had an impressive

season between the pipes, notching a total of 81 saves. Several underclassmen were also key contributors to the team, including Gillian Ehrman, Sarah Fernandez, Olivia Castillo, Darya DeSimone, and Irina DeSimone. According to Senior Captain Katia DeSimone, "We had a family connection amongst each other. We really trusted each other and knew our strengths and weaknesses. The pasta parties and time together as a team really helped that." Her sister Darya, when asked about what it was like being on the varsity team as a sophomore, said, "It was a really great experience. The upperclassmen made me feel really comfortable and we got really close."

The Boys' Soccer team proved that shirtless Pep Rally dances weren't the only thing they contribute to the school, earning a 6-6-2 record that was good enough for 4th in the conference. The soccer team had an exciting playoff run, clinching their spot with a 2-1 win against Copiague to play East Islip in the first round. After Raul Alvarenga scored to give Huntington the early lead, East Islip scored with 1:20 left in regulation to tie it and send the game into 3 scoreless overtimes. Senior goalie Ari Moskowitz shined with 10 saves that day, which extended into the penalty kicks when he saved East Islip's fourth shot, and paved the way for Huntington sophomore Scott Gulizio to score the winning goal.

The momentum was not enough to carry them past Brentwood, the undefeated and third-ranked team in the nation, in the 2nd round at Dowling. When asked what stood out about his senior season, Patrick Wolber replied, "It was nice being a role model to kids in the lower grades." He then went on to tell the story of an underclassman who had recently been switched to be a midfielder and asked Patrick to stay after practice and give him tips on shooting. Patrick ended the interview by saying, "Our team had such good chemistry that everyone was a role model to each other no matter how young they are." The team looks forward to Jeremy Gelb, Anfernee Lopez, and Lee Reiver to fill the void left by some key



Left: Captain Grixon Moreiera dribbling upfield, Above: Teamates celebrating with William "Little" Ortez after he scored a goal, Left: Senior Kaylyn Johnston waiting to pass



departing seniors.

Our school also had several impressive standouts in individual sports this year. Olivia Ammirati had a stellar season with the Girl's Tennis team. Her 15-3 overall record was good enough for ranking her 3rd in Division 1 and earning a spot in the Suffolk Singles tournament, where she lost a tough match in the first round. Olivia also led the team to an impressive 2nd place finish in the league. Honorable mention goes to Suzie Petryk, who was looking to make a big splash in Cross Country as a sophomore before the Suffolk County Championships were cancelled due to the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy.

Article Throwback: A Review of Football's Regular Season

by CARLY GLOWACKY

Huntington High School Football has proved that they are a force to be reckoned with. The boys have already qualified for the playoffs, and have only lost once this season. The surprising loss occurred on Saturday, September 29th, at the Blue Devil Homecoming Game. The team had a strong lead over Amityville, but the lead slowly slipped from their grasp as Amityville clinched the win in the fourth quarter, the score 21-20.

The loss left the team, as well as the rest of the students and parents in the stands, astonished. It was apparent that the team was frustrated with the way they had played, and they left the field covered in sweat and tears of disbelief. In the locker room, Coach Muller told the boys that "[The game] is now in the past, and all we can do is get ready for next weekend." After the defeat, the team practiced and watched the video of the Homecoming game, ana-



PHOTOS: Max Zelinka

lyzing their mistakes and working them out so that they wouldn't be made again. The next weekend, the Devils played Deer Park and left victorious with a score of 41-3. The team's record is now 4 wins, 1 loss.

The Devils have a strong roster this year, equipped with valuable seniors such as John Cimetta, T.J. Greenhill, and Larry McGill, and captained by seniors Shaheem Lewis, Josh Long, Nick Lupi, John Mallouk, and Dev-

on Nelson. Juniors Dan Giraldo, Tommy Plant, Ben Kocis, Nick Arleo, Lavar Butts, and Troy Green also add to the team.

When asked about the rest of the year, Dan Giraldo stated, "I think we have the ability to go far into the playoffs, as we are a really strong team." For the seniors, this last season is bittersweet. "It's depressing and exciting at the same

time, and I want to win it all, because it's my last year playing high school football," says John Cimetta. Even though the team will be losing a number of star players at the end of the season, they still have the rest



Right: Quarterback Ben Kocis throwing the ball to his left, Above: The Blue Devil's defense lining up on third down

of the year and playoffs to conquer. I think it's safe to say that Huntington Football has a promising future and will be left in good hands for next year.