



Evaluating the Common Core

The verdict on Huntington's controversial new program

By Charles Beers

news in short

>The Boys Varsity soccer team ended an incredible season with a 1-0 loss in the semi-finals of the Suffolk County Finals.

>The History Honor Society started off strongly with its first inauguration.

>The Huntington High School Drama Club had another strong showing with their new play *Anne of the Green Gables*.

>Several of Huntington High School's talented artists, including sophomore Justin Martinolich and junior Meelod Wafajow, won awards at the Huntington Council's Nightmare on Main Street exhibit.

>Girls Varsity tennis went 10-4 overall to finish their season second in Suffolk County League II.

The newly implemented Common Core program has become one of the most controversial aspects of this school year at Huntington. While many students have heard of the new system, and attribute the rise in stress levels they have experienced over the first few months of school to it, most of the student body is unaware of the actual implications of the state's new education philosophy.

According to its website, the Common Core State Standard Initiative states that its standards are "designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers." In simplest terms, the program is preparing for the future, designed so that high school students will make a seamless transition from high to school to college and, finally, to the rest of their lives.

In addition, the Common Core also promotes critical thinking. Many critics argue that American students are struggling educationally in comparison to countries abroad, and need a jolt to catch up with the rest of the world. Other experts suggest the true aim is to expose students to a wide range of communications in many forms. As technology advances daily students must become more familiar with this technological terminology in order to compete in global economics. The Common Core is a hard program to define, as it encompasses so many parts of the high school student's journey towards a



successful future.

Despite New York State's admirable goals, students unanimously associate the Common Core with an increase in exams and graded assignments, and, therefore, criticize the system at every possible opportunity.

This begs the question to both students and teachers alike: Is the Common Core

"What Huntington really needs is a balance: an educational equilibrium that combines all of the right elements to make the perfect four-year experience."

program an effective method of increasing educational proficiency?

While most students have already condemned the program for its newfound rigor, it is the reaction from the teachers that is most surprising. The majority of school officials are in agreement that, despite the programs' good intentions, Common Core hasn't been implemented effectively and detracts from the educational experience. For instance, one teacher expressed her frustration by stating, "Common Core promoted a narrow but deeper

understanding of concepts by reducing the number of standards to follow. However, I am disappointed, because it takes the creativity out of teaching by telling us what to teach and how to teach it." By stressing rigid lesson plans, the teacher's unique style is constricted and the information is set up on a conveyor belt, never letting students try and deviate from the predetermined path.

Other instructors cite the new workload as a problem for students, believing that the amount of tests and in-class assignments has been drastically increased for the 2013-14 school year. With the added pressures of standardized testing and the analysis of student growth over the course of the year, it becomes difficult to truly enjoy the classes themselves.

One of Huntington's teachers had his own opinions on the Common Core program. He supported many fundamental ideas of the program, such as challenging students with new material. "The philosophy behind the Common Core is valuable," he stated in an interview, "and it's important for students to be able to read and write at a

high level."

However, he also noted many flaws with the program, and expressed his dissatisfaction with the increasingly dull passages that students are being forced to read. "The problem isn't that the program stresses non-fiction," he said. "It's the fact that the text is becoming much more technical." By some accounts it has been suggested that students are being forced to read instruction manuals, which can be dry and irrelevant. He continued by expressing the importance of nonfiction in the classroom, but in alignment with traditional literature, which is an integral part of the educational system.

So, now that we are two months since the start of the school year, it is time to give the Common Core a grade of its own. While its reception has been mixed to negative from both students and teachers, it is clear that only time will tell whether or not the program deserves to stay in Huntington.

Until then, students can only imagine that perfect educational system that constantly eludes them. Huntington needs a system that increases the critical thinking of its students, but not at the expense of their creativity and genuine appreciation for learning. Huntington needs to stress new material for the changing social climate and prepare kids for their futures outside of high school, but not when this material becomes monotonous and overshadows traditional fiction.

What Huntington really needs is a balance: an educational equilibrium that combines all of the right elements to make the perfect four-year experience. If the Common Core system, despite its noticeable flaws, is any indication, the district is definitely taking big steps in the right direction.



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In the Spotlight With Declan Byrne

The Huntington Star Weighs in on his Sensational Off-Broadway Debut

By Katie Duval

One of Huntington High School's star performers is demonstrating his acting talents beyond the high school stage.

Declan Byrne was part of the Off-Broadway play *McGoldrick's Thread* over the summer. The junior, whose family is of Irish descent, was part of the ensemble cast of Irish Step dancers and singers.

The play centers around the O'Reilly family who have just moved from Ireland to an apartment in the Bronx. Magee, the only daughter, is a talented Irish Step dancer who wants to pursue the craft for her career.

Along the way, though, she must learn about her own family and how the sacrifices they all make for one another bring them closer together in the end. To have a better understanding of the play and the Huntington High School student involved in it, Declan agreed to be interviewed for *The Dispatch*.



Is acting on stage what you hope to do with the rest of your life?

DB: I'm not really sure if it is. I think it might be a hobby or I might choose to pursue it. I'm keeping my options open but it's something I'm interested in. I'm not really entirely sure where I'm going but theater is definitely something I'm considering.

What was it about McGoldrick's Thread that drew you in?

DB: I heard that it was kind of a big play and I had just started getting into theater. I heard that there was Irish dancing in it and that's something that I'm very interested in. I thought it was very interesting to be able to experience learning from people that were very talented in Irish dancing and were familiar with Irish tradition. I really enjoyed being able to have that experience.

In the play, you're called to do a lot of Irish step. Was this a style of dancing you were already familiar with?

DB: I've been doing Irish dancing for the majority of my life, maybe since 6 or 8. It's part of my heritage and helps me keep in touch with who I am.

Did you find parallels between your own family traditions and the ones spoken about in

"There are some stories that you just don't know about your heritage... It's really important for people to know... where they come from."

think I have any big stories.

Do you feel more connected to Ireland and the Irish tradition?

DB: I definitely do. There's one flashback scene to Ireland and I got really in character for it and had a lot of fun doing it.

Were most of the other people in the play of Irish heritage as well?

DB: Most of the actors were Irish. I bonded really well with all the Irish dancers and we all got along really well together.

Do you think it would be beneficial for other teenagers to have similar experiences with learning about their respective heritages?

DB: Yeah I do. I feel like a lot of people aren't in touch with their heritage. It's really important for people to know their heritage and where they

come from.

the play?

DB: I could really relate to some of the characters in it. I felt that some of the things they said or did were some of the things I could be saying or doing. There was one part where the whole family in the play got together to eat dinner and I understand that connectedness. I feel like not all families have that but Irish families definitely do.

Marianne Driscoll, the writer of the play, spoke about how she hopes her work will inspire people to learn more about their family heritage. Do you feel that after your experience you have new interest in learning about your ancestors?

DB: Yeah I definitely feel like I do. There are some stories that you just don't know about your heritage, but I don't

Donovan's Declassified School Survival Guide

By Donovan Richardson

The mythical "Freshman Friday" is now long past, and the first Homecoming for the class of 2017 at HHS is finished. Now it's time for the freshmen to look ahead to the coming four years with one month under their belt. But thirty-nine months of school still await you, who like all the older students, will find that success in school can be difficult but rewarding.

Every student has his or her

own strategies for success, but most develop some of the same ideas. If you have any trouble, consider these tips:

Develop good habits now.

Without a doubt, your 7th and 8th grade English teachers have nagged you about procrastinating on your essays. But most likely you could get away with some procrastination. A lot of you probably did some of your projects at the last minute.

But now it's October of your freshman year, and there is an urgent need to stop procrastinating.

nating.

If you habitually let time progress without progressing on your assignments, days and weeks will snowball into months of procrastination. While months disappear, new responsibilities appear, and your habit will do you such a disservice. And for those procrastinators who are worried about missing out on the

"There's no escaping it: high school is difficult... But don't let your challenges discourage you from success."

"do it at the last minute" experience if they stop procrastinating, do not worry. Occasionally, no matter what you do, you will be pressed for time and will have to finish your assignments at the last minute anyway.

Community service is an important part of your high school career.

You were probably surprised that ten hours of community service is required for all freshmen. But by no means is the community service requirement impossible. Clubs like A World of Difference (AWOD) and Key Club, which are open to fresh-

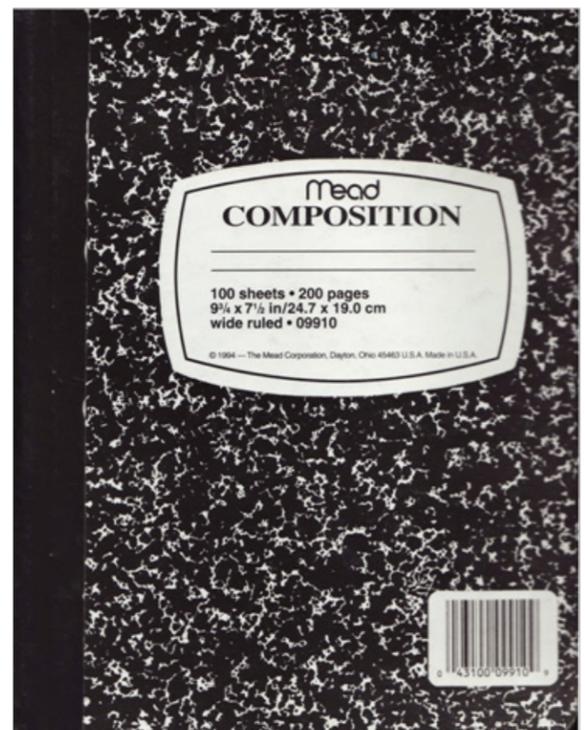
men, provide many community service opportunities.

Don't be afraid to ask your friends either, for they too have the same community service requirements. If you can sign up for community service with a friend, will you both be less lonely and provide more help to the community. Even if you can do community service once every month or two, you will have more than the ten required hours of community service by the end of this school year. You can ask guidance counselors and even teachers about community service opportunities and they will be glad to help.

Challenge yourself.

There's no escaping it: high school is difficult. Every student shares some of the same difficulties, while each having his or her own unique situations. But don't let your challenges discourage you from success.

If you believe you can improve your grades, take a more challenging class, join a club, or try out for a sport; you can create the opportunity to improve yourself academically or otherwise. Even if you do not succeed at a new endeavor, you will still gain experience that will help you in



whelming. The fact that three more years of high school challenges await you can be scary. While there is no one way to make this all feel less difficult, it's definitely helpful to consider that you are surrounded by hundreds of freshmen in roughly the same position as you.

A high school and beyond.

As a freshman, you are going to inevitably make mistakes, so it is more helpful for you to learn from them. Challenges obviously won't go away after freshman year, but developing a positive attitude towards the challenges will remain crucial to your success.

The beginning of your freshman year may feel over-

thousand more at Huntington High School have already experienced their first year of high school. There are teachers who have taught many new classes of freshmen. There is surely no shortage of help for any student here.

El Mes de la Herencia Hispana

By Lily Morris

El Mes de la Herencia Hispana se inició en 1968 y ha sido parte de la historia de los Estados Unidos desde entonces. En las manos de los presidentes Lyndon Johnson y Ronald Reagan, el Mes de la Herencia Hispana se ha convertido en una de las leyes públicas de los Estados Unidos. Se celebra cada año el quince de septiembre hasta el quince de octubre. Se inicia el quince de septiembre porque este día se conmemora la independencia de muchos países latinoamericanos como El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica y Guatemala. El propósito del Mes de la Herencia Hispana es para celebrar las

contribuciones que los miembros de la cultura hispana han dado a América. Los atletas, músicos, artistas y políticos son recordados y celebrados durante este mes. Toda la cultura hispana en general es celebrada. Hay muchas maneras diferentes que usted puede celebrar el

Mes de la Herencia Hispana! Aquí hay algunas ideas:



1. Educar- Investigar sobre figuras importantes que son hispanas y aprender sobre las cosas que ellos han dado a América.
2. Come comidas nuevas- La cultura hispana ha traído muchas comidas deliciosas a América, no se pierde nada con probar algunas!
3. Examine la identidad hispana- Piense en lo que significa ser hispano. Eche un vistazo a su cultura y tradiciones para entender realmente por qué se celebra esta cultura.

4. Lee literatura- Podría ser una buena idea recoger un libro escrito por un autor hispanoamericano. Le puede enseñar mucho sobre la cultura!
5. Escuche música - Tantos músicos hispanos se han hecho populares en los Estados Unidos y han dejado su marca en la industria de la música. Expóngase a nueva música!
6. Sigue estudiando- Continúe su interesado en cómo los latinos están afectando y contribuyendo a la vida en Estados Unidos.

Una Vida Espana en los Estados Unidos

By Lenni Joya

Do you speak English?
¿Hablas Ingles?
Son muchas las preguntas las cuales se presentan en lo que pasa nuestra vida, pero la más común que se puede escuchar en los Estados Unidos es la pregunta "Do you speak english?", ¿hablas Ingles? No hay una sola persona en este país que no le haya preguntado esta famosa pregunta, somos muchos los que vivimos en los Estados Unidos como inmigrantes que hemos venido de un país distinto en el cual no hablan inglés, ni se practica o aprende, por esa razón son muchos los cuales no hablan este idioma, ingles.

Entonces las pregunta que se te hacen muchas veces son muy grandes hasta de contestarlas, de tal forma si alguien algún día te pregunta dicha pregunta no te sorprendas que no sepas que decir porque tú no eres el primero, ni el último en no decir nada. Muchas veces hay casos distintos en los cuales tú preguntas esto pero recuerda que no te debes burlar de ella si no te puede responder por que son muchas las personas que no saben inglés, porque nunca han tenido la oportunidad de aprenderlo. Recuerda que no todos hemos tenido la misma vida o la misma historia, por eso el respeto y comprensión a las demás persona mantiene la paz en una sociedad.

La Vida en los Estados Unidos no es solo trabajo, como muchas personas dicen. Tú tienes que interactuar con muchas personas para muchas cosas, por ejemplo si tú quieres pagar el alquiler de tu casa a la persona que tienes que dárselo es a alguien que habla inglés.

Entonces tú tienes que

saber su idioma porque ellos no van a aprender el tuyo solo por comunicarse contigo. También los Estados Unidos es un país en



el cual el idioma que se habla es Ingles. Si alguna persona quiere un trabajo o aplicar a uno tiene que saber por los menos algo de Ingles. A partir de este momento te estoy hablando a ti estudiante de Huntington high school que te encuentras en el programa de ESL, no pienses que el duro trabajo en la escuela va hacer en vano porque en el futuro veras tu recompensa. Si tú no quieres parar como tus padres los cuales tienen que trabajar duro para poder sobrevivir en este país, entonces antes de cometer una tontera que puede arruinar el resto de tu vida recuerda esta pregunta que se te hará por el resto de tu vida si vives en este país, Do you speak English? (¿hablas Ingles?). Muchos pueden decir "yo no necesito asistir a la escuela para aprender inglés", pero no toman en cuenta de que en la escuela puedes aprender todo lo necesario para superarte. Son muchos los estudiantes del programa ESL que no saben la razón del estudio, pero tras el tiempo pasa ellos irán entendiendo que la vida en el estudio es una experiencia dista y fenomenal a la misma vez.

Si alguno que está leyendo este breve párrafo ahora es el momento en el cual debes de tomar el futuro en tus manos y decidir que en realidad quieres

para tu vida, y no pongas la excusa de que no sabes porque todos sabemos lo que queremos o para dónde vamos. Y si no lo sabes tienes a maravillosas personas a tu alrededor que te pueden ayudar, los profesores. Ellos son como nuestras armas que nos ayudaran a superarnos en nuestro futuro, y si no tienes confianza con ellos hay muchas personas de tu edad que te pueden ayudar también.

Yo me pongo como ejemplo a mí mismo, mis profesores y muchos compañeros me han ayudado también. Entonces la excusa de que no tienes a nadie que te ayude ya está borrada. Todos nosotros nos quisiéramos ver en una posición grande y mejor que nuestros padres, pero eso necesita de mucho trabajo y esfuerzo porque nada viene fácil a tu vida siempre debes de luchar contra todo para lograr lo que deseas.

Hermanos, amigos, compañeros no dejes que las situaciones difíciles de tu vida te hagan cambiar o virar el sentido de tu vida, porque si el capitán de un barco dejara que el viento guiara su embarcación quizás iría a dar a un lugar el cual el no quiere. Por eso tú tienes que tomar el rumbo

de tu vida y concentrarte en eso. No pienses que solo porque a tus amigos no les gusta la escuela a ti tampoco te gustara, las personas son de distintos pensamientos y vista de la vida, por eso tú eres el único que decides que quieres para ti mismo. Si tú no quieres que en el futuro o a la vuelta de la esquina halla alguien que te pregunte, Do you speak English? Y tú no sepas que decir o no poder contestarla, eso te recordará la escuela y si tú la abandonaste solo por la razón de que no te gustaba y sabrás el dolor de no saber que decir o quedar en vergüenza. Pero muchas veces los lamentos lo único que hace es sentirte culpable por lo malo o tonto que hayas cometido. Si tu estudiante que sigues en la escuela, no quieres ser uno de eso muchachos no dejes la escuela porque entre más aprendes y te educas quien se hace el beneficio es tu mismo y no a tus amigos, aquellos amigos los cuales no estarán contigo toda tu vida o en cada momento. Recuerda que vida solo es una y si no la aprovechas a lo máximo ósea para bien en ti mismo, en el futuro cuando



la pierdas te arrepentirás por lo que no hiciste teniendo la oportunidad. Una última pregunta que te voy hacer a ti estudiante de ESL, si tú te encuentras en este país de oportunidades y dejaste

Una Noticia

Aproximadamente hace una semana, uno de los mejores profesores de lengua extranjera de Huntington no se encontró en la escuela. Durante días, los estudiantes de la señora Medina, ahora conocida como la señora Mammone, preguntaba lo que había sucedido a su maestro. ¡A partir de ahora, se ha confirmado que señora Medina ha ido en trabajo de parto y un bebé está en camino! Aunque no ha habido muchas noticias sobre la última adición a la familia de Huntington, la Sra. Medina estaba muy emocionada. Ella espera que el bebé es un niño y será probablemente hacia fuera para que los próximos meses cuidar de su hijo. ¡Le mantendremos al día en todas las últimas noticias sobre el bebé de la señora Medina y le deseamos buena suerte!

tu propio país solo por buscar la mejora en tu vida, entonces porque no lo logras haciendo lo bueno y estudiando, porque si tienes la oportunidad de hacerlo porque no lo logras. Todos los que inmigramos a los Estados Unidos lo hacemos por una gran razón, queremos ser alguien más en la vida, alguien del cual todo mundo esté orgulloso de ti. Te dejo esta pregunta a ti quien leyendo en este momento, si todavía no has cumplido tú sueño americano, entonces ¿Cuál es tu sueño americano en los Estados Unidos?

The Sleek and Sexy iOS 7

By Ben Nikodem

The month of September is characterized by the beginning of school, the end of summer, and of course, the release of the new iPhone models. Non-Apple users proceed with caution; this article is devoted to the spawn of the late Steve Jobs.

This year, our appetite for the next generation of Apple devices was appeased with not one, but two new phones: the sleek and near button-less iPhone 5s, and the colorful and cheaper model- the iPhone 5c.

Those who have not yet rushed to the Apple store to get an upgrade need not fret- Apple has released the long awaited update to end all updates for every iPhone user (excluding people with the archaic models older than the iPhone 4). The iOS 7 update has embraced sleekness and simplicity, and it has changed the familiar format that Apple users have been long accustomed to. Only time (and polls) will tell just how popular and groundbreaking this new update really is.

So what does the new operating system entail? Well, first off, the design of pretty much everything on the screen of the iPhone, Pod or Pad has been completely revamped. Right when you turn on your device, you'll notice the passcode lock, time and slide bar are thin and more integrated into the background. Gone are the squares and rectangles of old; Apple has now favored a more curvy approach to things.

Once you cease your ogling of the new lock screen and finally access your home screen, your applications zip into place in a cinematic fashion, making it

“The iOS 7 update has been released with the new iPhone models to reinvent the Apple experience on mobiles.”

seem like they were having some cautious party until you came along and forced them back into their static positions.

And wait, what's this? All your basic apps (sans photos and game center, which have morphed into strange color-wheels and bubbles respectively) have new icons that are similar to the old ones, but favor a simpler yet sensual look.

Perhaps the best new addition is that of moving backgrounds. Not only are there backgrounds that actually move, but also if you have a picture for a background and move your device... the background moves! Absolutely amazing.

But enough about the designs, what new stuff can be

done? Does the weather app finally have animations?

The answers to those questions are often, and thankfully, yes. Double tap the home button to access the improved multitasking menu. Swipe up from the bottom of the screen to use the control center and you can pause your son, access airplane mode and turn on the flashlight. Swipe down from the top to see the notification center, where you can see stocks, events and missed

like “noir” and “chrome” for all you artsy folk. Photos now can be sorted into collections, and shared via the almighty iCloud. Safari has a new favorites page and an annoying new menu for multiple windows. There is now an iTunes Radio, and for those who can operate a vehicle, the operating system can be connected to the car.

The iOS 7 update has been released with the new iPhone models to reinvent the Apple experience on mobiles. There are a plethora of new designs, functions and applica-



texts.

Siri has been updated as well and can search Wikipedia (which won't help your English research paper), and unfortunately she still won't agree to marry me.

The camera can do panoramas and it now has filters

tions to tickle everyone's fancies. Now we wait until next year for the novel iOS 8. If you have any questions, go to Apple.com, it has more info on the subject.

Huntington Students Weigh in on the New Update

Only a little more than a month since it's inception, the new iOS7 update has divided the Huntington student body. Its style and new design choices have both satisfied and angered Apple users.

Many of its critics cite that, while the new phone is more sleek and simplistic, it also takes away from the ability to use it. Sophomore Kelly Palladino explained, “I'm not too fond of this update. I like the old way better. It's more user-friendly.”

Others support Apple's decision to move towards a more curvy and imaginative new design for its phones. Another sophomore, Katie Keys stated that, “I like the iOS7, because it's bright and colorful.”

Even teachers have their own opinions on the new design. English teacher Ms. Antorino said, “I'm neutral. I don't hate it and I don't love it. I love the new pastel effect but it takes away from the professionalism of the iPhone.”

While there is no denying that Huntington is divided over the new update, one cannot understate the improvements that the new update provides. In the end, despite one's taste in the stylized new approach to the iPhone, the iOS 7 takes the Apple experience to a whole new level.

Shedding Light on the STEM

What's So Different About the New School Program?

By Jean Abecassis

The STEM school program, which was newly initiated this school year, has been enigmatic and on many peoples' minds.

New information from interviews as well as other school-based sources have shed new light on the situation. Interviews from two students, one who participated in the STEM school system, and one who had not, as well as Mr. Walsh, a Phys. Ed. Teacher, were completed to determine the nature of the STEM school system. Sahar Nadi, a student who had opted out of a STEM school, had this to say regarding the differences in the schools; “It seems to be the same, except STEM schools use mostly technology.” The reason Sahar had chosen to not go was because “she has a lot of friends in the old school,” and she wouldn't like a school without them.

C.R. Pullizoto, a student

who had received the chance to enter a STEM school, had stated that “So far, our work seems to have been the same, except that

there is a lot more technology. Every class has a Smart Board, but we still learn everything else normally.”

The program's acronym stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. “Everyone in the district can go to the

school,” says C.R., “But people are nominated through random raffles.” C.R. chose to go after successfully being chosen by the raffle because he found the new system to be interesting.

Mr. Walsh had this to say regarding the STEM school. “It was a grade 4-6 school a few years back, and now it's become an elementary school for grades 3-5.” He had also confirmed the lottery/raffle process to enter the STEM school.

Lastly, Mr. Walsh spoke about the Physical Education system in the STEM school, stating that “The school is trying to incorporate science, math, and technology into the units, but besides that, the units are basically traditional.”

With all of the interviews, a light has been shed on the mysterious STEM school system, and its unique education system.



Huntington Superintendent Mr. Polansky poses with students from the Jack Abrams STEM Magnet School at the Homecoming parade. (Credit to hufsd.edu)

Schaeffer and Sherrard

A Look at the Latest Additions to the Huntington Family

By Howie Schiman

Ms. Schaeffer, who has been working as a physical education teacher for nine years now, is new to our Huntington High School community. She chose this profession because she wanted to “make a difference in people’s physical fitness and self-confidence”.

Presently, she also coaches our girls’ volleyball team. Ms. Schaeffer’s expectations for her students are simple: “I want them to try their best and work to their best ability.”

In addition, Ms. Schaeffer’s has her own opinions on the school’s Cross Fit program. She believes that it will help her stu-

dents learn the correct athletic form of physical movements in order to prevent injury.

Overall, Ms. Schaeffer’s goal for this year’s physical education curriculum is for her students to “individually improve their physical abilities.” Schaeffer is settling in her new job at Huntington High School quite well. “It’s good. I meet new people and see old friends.”

Mr. Sherrard, another new addition to Huntington High School’s teaching staff, is also making a big impact on Huntington’s physical education program. When asked about his arrival to the Huntington

community, he stated, “It’s been an easy transition



into this school because the students have been respectful and welcomed me.”

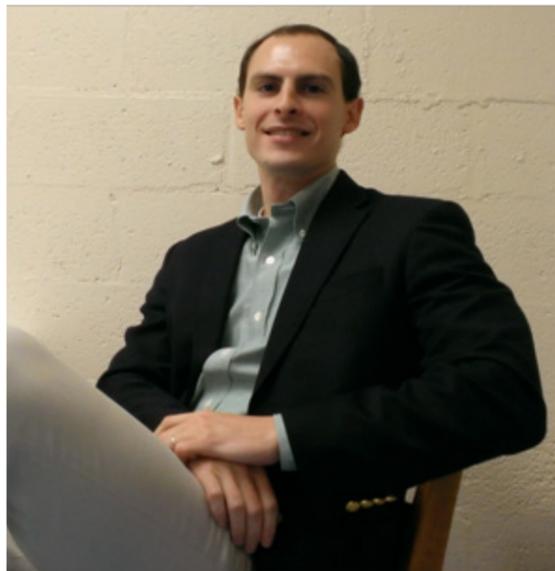
Sherrard was greatly inspired by his high school’s physical education teacher as a teenager. “When I was in high school, I had a P.E. teacher that really had a positive impact on my life, and helped me make decisions, so I was inspired by him to be a teacher.”

Greatly moved by his high school experiences, Sherrard is now beginning his eighth year as a physical education teacher.

Aside from being a gym instructor, Sherrard also coaches football and lacrosse at Smithtown East High School. In the past, he also coached the wrestling and baseball teams.

Sherrard also enjoys “teaching archery because it’s something different that most students don’t get to play often.”

On behalf of the entire Blue Devil community, we hope both of our new Physical Education teachers are welcomed with open arms. With their guidance and effort, the gym program will be a highlight of every student’s day.



COMPARISON Donovan vs. Donovan

By Leah Butz and Olivia Liepa

MR. DONOVAN

1987, July 20th, to be specific. I was born in Oceanside, New York.

I am going to go with a cultural answer, and say The Beatles.

When I was a kid I wanted to be a firefighter, and now I want to write history books. Or I should say independently wealthy.

Justin Timberlake because dance moves beat nuclear weapons. I don’t know what moves Kim Jong Un has.

In between. Open space with city access.

I’d like to see Prague in the winter with snow on the ground, around Christmastime.

No, unless you start grooming them.

I’d like to know what it is like to be president, and I’d like to be alive during the 1800s, so Abraham Lincoln. But not on April 14th.

Vapid.

Fall, because I like to layer and wear sport coats.

When and where were you born?

If you could have free, front-row concert tickets to any artist, alive or dead, who would you choose?

What do you want to do when you are older/ what did you want to be when you were a kid?

In a battle between Justin Timberlake and Kim Jong Un, who would win?

City, rural, or in between?

Where is your dream vacation?

Do you consider eyebrows facial hair?

If you could be one person in the entire world, alive or dead, for a day, who would it be?

One school appropriate word to describe Miley Cyrus.

If the whole year was one season, what season would you want it to be?

DONOVAN RICHARDSON

Good Samaritan Hospital in Islip in 1996. I don’t want to give out my birthday.

Miranda Sings. She is a beautiful singer, she wears red lipstick, and I encourage you to look her up.

Study or teach language. Or learn about classic Roman culture. But that’s more of a major...I don’t know what I want to be.

Mr. Kim. Because he has bombs. Bombs rule all, unfortunately.

Not rural.

I went to Mexico a few years ago, so maybe there again. Anywhere with good food, sun, and a nice room.

I don’t know. But they are. Because it’s on your face.

I want to be myself, but if I wanted to be another person...I don’t know, Harry Potter?

Beautimous. (beautiful and fabulous at the same time)

I would want it to be...May. That’s not a season. Late spring. May can be Memorial Day/beach day or it can be wet.

Huntington Trendsetters Share Their Secrets

By Bridget Walsh

Fashion-forward seniors Anthony Puca and Gabby Mandriota light up the halls of Huntington High School with their bold outfit choices and individual styles. The Dispatch sat down with the two trendsetters and spoke to them about what fuels their interest in fashion and why they wear what they wear. We started with Mr. Puca.

Who or what gives you inspiration for what you wear and why?

AP: My clothing style has been inspired from a variety of places. Growing up I was taught to always look presentable. I was brought up looking at my older brother and other elder relatives who dress the way I do. As a kid, seeing what they wore every day just made me believe that that's how all old people dress. I have always been a fan of long sleeved shirts and pants no matter what the weather is like. This is also another influence for what I wear. Being that all my long sleeved t-shirts (and short sleeved ones for that matter) all have either holes in the armpit or the permanent smell of the wrestling room my only option for shirts are the ones I wear. I also avoid being called the worst possible insult because of my outfit... "A Bum".

What is your favorite piece of clothing you own?

AP: My favorite article of clothing has to be one of my Donald Trump Shirts. It's Rosewood colored with a white collar and cuffs. It is my favorite because I love shirts with the white collars/cuffs and it has a nice contrast with the darker color. In fact, I

like the shirt so much I have yet to wear it; I'm just waiting for the perfect opportunity.

What is one fall trend (or any recent trend) that you like?



AP: Although not a fall trend, floral shirts are definitely my favorite trend and were a big trend for the past summer. I have always loved floral shirts and have many of them in my closet. They are pretty to look at and almost have a relaxing effect. Whenever I wear them, one of my friends always makes a joke and asks if I'm going to Hawaii. Floral shirts are a trend that will never go out of style.

What is one trend that you dislike?

AP: I wouldn't say there is a trend that I strongly dislike, but there is one that I wouldn't call my favorite. This trend is the highly popular colored pants. Although I own a couple pairs myself, I am still not a huge fan of the trend. I feel that they add too much to the outfit which subsequently takes away from it. However, they can look nice if worn with the right shirt (and if the shirt is tucked into them). I have no problem with people who wear them, I am just a bigger fan of the more

traditional colors of tan/brown, black, dark blue, gray.

What are your favorite places to shop at?

AP: I really don't have a specific favorite place to shop; I'll stop at any store that has a sale going on or has something that catches my eye. I often find myself in Brooks Brothers, Macy's, Banana Republic, or online shopping at J-Crew.

Next, we talked with Gabby Mandriota about her fashion advice and experience.

Who or what gives you inspiration for what you wear and why?

GM: I draw inspiration from everything and anything that makes me happy! Since a lot of vintage-y things make me happy, I love to wear vintage styles and I love bright, fun colors and different novelty prints. For example, flowers and polka dots make me happy, so naturally I have lots of pieces that show it!

What is your favorite thing to wear?

GM: My vintage daisy pin is my favorite thing of all and I cherish it with all my heart.

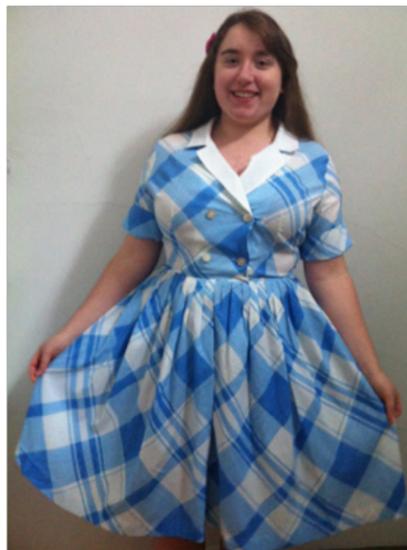
What is one fall trend (or any recent trend) that you like?

GM: I can't get enough of the circle skirt trend! Circle skirts in longer lengths were all the rage in the 50's and I love how stores like American Apparel and Urban Outfitters have shortened them

to make them more young and modern looking. I find them to be so comfy and easy to wear. They go with practically everything!

What decade do you draw the most inspiration from and why?

GM: I draw the most inspiration from the 50's, but I do adore retro 60's apparel too! I like these decades and their styles because of the positive sides of the popular culture during these times and the upbeat nature of many things produced during these eras. I love to twirl around in skirts that fall below my knees and dresses with quirky retro bits make me smile. I believe clothes were made so much better back in these decades and the clothes from back then are just so much fun to wear! I like wearing skirts and dresses from the 50's and mod, fun retro looks from the 60's but I change it up all the time and I do love modern styles too!



Where are your favorite places to shop?

GM: I have too many favorite places to pick up new goodies for my closet, but some of my favorite places to shop are vintage apparel shops in NYC (Vintage Thrift Shop on 3rd Ave is a favorite!), Modcloth.com, H&M, Beacon's Closet, and C. Wonder.

Top Fall Trends

By Bridget Walsh

In the News

- 1) Monochrome White
 - 2) Dark Emeralds and Hunter Greens
 - 3) Tweed Coats, Pants and Skirts
 - 4) Color Block
 - 5) Tartan EVERYTHING
- Top 10 Fall Fashion Trends at HHS
- 1) Maxi Skirts
 - 2) Sperrys
 - 3) Skater Skirts
 - 4) Combat Boots
 - 5) Green Army Jackets & Vests
 - 6) Cross-Body Bags
 - 7) Anything High-Waisted
 - 8) Denim Vests
 - 9) Traditional RayBan Clubmasters & Wayfarers
- And of course...
- 10) A lanyard with car key coming out of one's pocket

The Dispatch examines . . .

What's Hot



4) Ankle boots- They'll knock your socks off!

5) Apple Products- For the creative.

6) Rainbow Looms- They'll brighten up your day!

7) Grand Theft Auto 5- What a steal!



- 1) The X-Factor- "It's a yes from me."
- 2) Pumpkin Spice Lattes- They're so hot, you'll burn your tongue!
- 3) Miley Cyrus- We Can't Stop listening to her new album!



What's Not

4) New York Giants- They're only halfway through the season but the Giants are already feeling blue.



5) Backpacks with Speakers- A school supply that's a little too loud and proud.

1) American Idol- You're not going to Hollywood!

2) Cowboy boots- Yipee-kai-NO!

3) Yolo- More like 'yoNO'!



Huntington Blue Devil Marching Band

By Hanae Wada

On October 6th 2013, the Huntington High School's Blue Devil Marching band hosted a band competition on their own home field. Every two years the HBDMB hosts their own "home show" which allows bands from long island come to their high school. This has been a huge and successful event throughout the years.

Eight different bands from around long island competed including special guest "Eastport South Manor" and of course the Huntington Marching Band that performed in exhibi-

tion. "The home show went really well!" Brass Captain Brianna Kirkland stated. "Everyone had an intense attitude and everyone was on their game." The HBDMB's division had two competitors in this past Sunday's competition. The Sachem Marching Band and the Walt Whitman Marching Band had competed against each other. The Sachem Marching Band scored a 77.95 and the



Walt Whitman Marching Band scored a 73.50. The seniors and juniors

of the HBDMB had not expected their last home show to be rainy and foggy. Rain and fog occurred during the whole show but this had not stopped anyone from having a great performance. Senior and Field Major Michael Stafford replied, "Performing at my last home show was sobering, but it has been a great time and couldn't have asked for a better performance." There were 24 seniors and 28 juniors that were recognized for their participation

in the marching band. The HBDMB had raised about \$15,000 that will go to the marching band's funds for new equipment and other accessories. Tickets were sold at the gate for \$6 each and each food ticket was sold for 50 cents each. "The food was delicious! The band parent association was fully prepared and all of the students and staff cannot thank them enough for their great work", stated Michael Stafford. Come support the HBDMB at all their future performances!

The Evolution of Hip-Hop

From block parties to one of America's most popular genres

By Natalie Lanzisero

Hip-Hop culture began at block parties in the Bronx, New York during the 1970's. DJ's enjoyed the crowd's reaction to popular songs that they played and began to extend the songs by using turntables. They lengthened the instrumental beats of the song through techniques such as scratching and beat mixing and matching. Sometimes the DJ would speak small verses such as "yes" and "y'all" during these instrumental breaks in order to keep the crowd going.

verbal and non-verbal interaction between speaker and listener." To begin this rap movement, DJ Kool Herc and Coke La Rock delivered verbal raps and poetry verses over funk music beats. These DJ's were two of the few rappers to gain recognition in New York City during the '70s. Initially, most rappers who gained recognition were part of groups. It wasn't until the 1980's that the number of solo hip-hop artists began to grow. Artists of the old school hip

number one on the Billboard charts. In the mid 1980's to early 1990's, a new age of hip hop emerged; The Golden Age of Hip Hop. This was characterized by the "mainstream" hip-hop music which was often influenced by jazz. Artists include Boogie Down Productions, Eric B. & Rakim, De La Soul, A Tribe Called Quest, and Gang Starr. In the 1990's the East vs West rivalry intensified. The West coast was represented by Tupac

Hip-Hop Playlist By Era

1. Rapper's Delight- The Sugarhill Gang (1979)
2. Nunk- Warp 9 (1982)
3. The Message- Grandmaster Flash (1982)
4. It's Like That- Run D.M.C. (1983)
5. I Know You Got Soul- Eric B. & Rakim (1987)
6. Bring The Noise- Public Enemy (1987)
7. Going Back to Cali- LL Cool J (1988)
8. Hey Ladies- Beastie Boys (1989)
9. Me, Myself, and I- De La Soul (1989)
10. Fear of a Black Planet- Public Enemy (1990)
11. Scenario- A Tribe Called Quest (1992)
12. Nuthin' But A 'G' Thang- Dr. Dre ft. Snoop Doggy Dogg (1992)
13. Player's Ball- OutKast (1994)
14. Runnin'- The Pharcyde (1995)
15. Big Pimpin'- Jay-Z (2000)
16. Ms. Jackson- OutKast (2001)
17. Lose Yourself- Eminem (2002)
18. In da Club- 50 Cent (2003)
19. Through the Wire- Kanye West (2003)
20. Public Service Announcement- Jay-Z (2003)
21. Jesus Walks- Kanye West (2004)



Eventually, rappers, also known as MC's, would begin speaking lyrically or with rhymes about the hardships of life. Hip-hop artists also criticized the popular music genre at the time, disco, referring to it as "watered-down, Europeanized music that permeated the airways..."

However, some rappers were influenced by the music and used the beats as backdrops to their verses. Many were also inspired by popular African American jazz poetry and used a call and response technique which is defined as "spontaneous

hop generation include Public Enemy, Rakim, and Warp 9, all of whom took advantage of up and coming technology like the drum machine, which was used to synthesize never before heard beats. In 1983-84, LL Cool J and Run DMC became the face of the New School hip hop wave. This new school era included less funk themed music and more inspirations taken from rock music. Hip-hop music continued to gain tremendous popularity and in 1986, The Beastie Boy's album Licensed To Ill reached

Shakur, Snoop Dogg, Jurassic 5, and People Under the Stairs. The East Coast was dominated by artists including De La Soul, A Tribe Called Quest, Wu-Tang Clan, Nas, and Notorious B.I.G; and as of the late 1990's the Wu-Tang Clan dominated the hip-hop charts. Hip-Hop of 2000-2010 includes much music produced by Dr. Dre including albums by Eminem and 50 Cent. In recent years alternative hip-hop has been wildly popular. Alternative rap refers to hip hop groups that refuse to conform to any of the

traditional stereotypes of rap, such as gangsta, hardcore, pop, and party rap. Instead, they blur genres - drawing equally from funk and rock, as well as jazz, soul, reggae, country, electronica. Kanye West, OutKast, Gnarls Barkley, and Jay-Z are art-

ists who have been placed in this genre. Today, new artists such as Wale, J. Cole, Lupe Fiasco, and Jay Electronica have cited '90s rappers as their sole inspirations.

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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.

The Dispatch accepts advertisements from local businesses and student organizations. The basic rate for advertisements can be provided on request to any interested organization. Requests for specific pricing, and examples of past advertising may be requested via e-mail through hhsdispatch@gmail.com. The Editorial Board reserves the right to refuse any advertisement deemed inappropriate, specifically those that reference illegal or controlled substances, products, services and/or paraphernalia.

Hidden in the Shadows

Why the Homecoming Half-Time Show Has to Change

Class officers were devastated at half-time of the Homecoming Day football game on September 28, when the announcement of their parade floats was lost over the roar of the crowd. Despite being one of the staples of the day's colorful festivities, the floats and their creators were not fully recognized for their weeks of intense preparation.

Unlike years before, when the floats received their own time slot during the half time show, this year's audience struggled to hear the game's announcer awkwardly try to squeeze in the descriptions of the floats in between plays. The transitions were poorly executed and the final announcement of the junior class' victory was drowned out by the cheers following a successful defensive stop by the Blue Devil football squad.

Both teachers and students alike, most of whom spent long hours over many weekends crafting flowers and constructing wooden structures, were dissatisfied by how the announcements panned out. "It

was disappointing," said one class advisor, "It was disjointed and difficult to catch."

So the question remains: What measures must be taken to properly recognize both the winners of the competition and the Huntington student government as a whole? The answer is simple: Cut back. The Highsteppers, the Color Guard, and the presentation of the Homecoming King and Queen all had plenty of time to carry out their respective routines to completion. Only five minutes would be needed to bring the officers onto

the field, read off the descriptions of the individual floats, and properly announce the winners without the distraction of the actual game.

As Ms. Dillon, the junior class advisor and school librarian, stated, "I think all the kids deserve credit and our class in particular. We broke the tradition of winning two years in a row as underclassmen." Clearly, in order to fully recognize the accomplishments of Huntington's stars off the field, a change in the half time show is a must.



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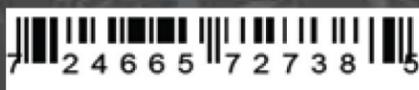
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CRITIC'S CORNER

Mister Death's Blue Eyed Girls Review

By Asar Nadi

Have you ever thought about revenge? Not the TV show, but something similar.

Would you consider yourself a rule-breaker and love the thrill of never been caught? Do you enjoy watching those TV shows about detectives from the 1920s or the 1950s? Have you ever wondered what it would ever feel like if two of your friends were found murdered in the park? Have you ever thought about what it would be like to be smarter than the police like some serial killers? Have you ever wondered what the nice kid might do on a warm, dark summer night?

Some may wonder about these questions, but may not have answers. Well, Mary Downing Hahn's novel practically answers all of these questions and brings them to

life by using the details of a true crime.

Mister Death's Blue-Eyed Girls, a novel taking place during the 1950s, shows the point of view of different characters, one of whom is the killer. The different point of views really capture Hahn's mind about death and what life would be like for others if they ever lost a loved one.

The imagery she creates allows the reader to stream themselves into the novel, making the readers believe they were there while it all happened.

She also takes the minds of teenagers and uses their moods to create the setting even more. By creating each teenager with different minds and different goals,

“By adding secrets, especially murder, Hahn is able to write about teenagers’ everyday life and what they go through naturally.”

Hahn is able to keep the story going no matter the consequences.

By adding secrets, especially murder, Hahn still writes about teenagers’ everyday life and what they go through naturally. She adds the love-triangle, the break-up, the obsession of a girl, problems between parents and, of course, the double homicide.

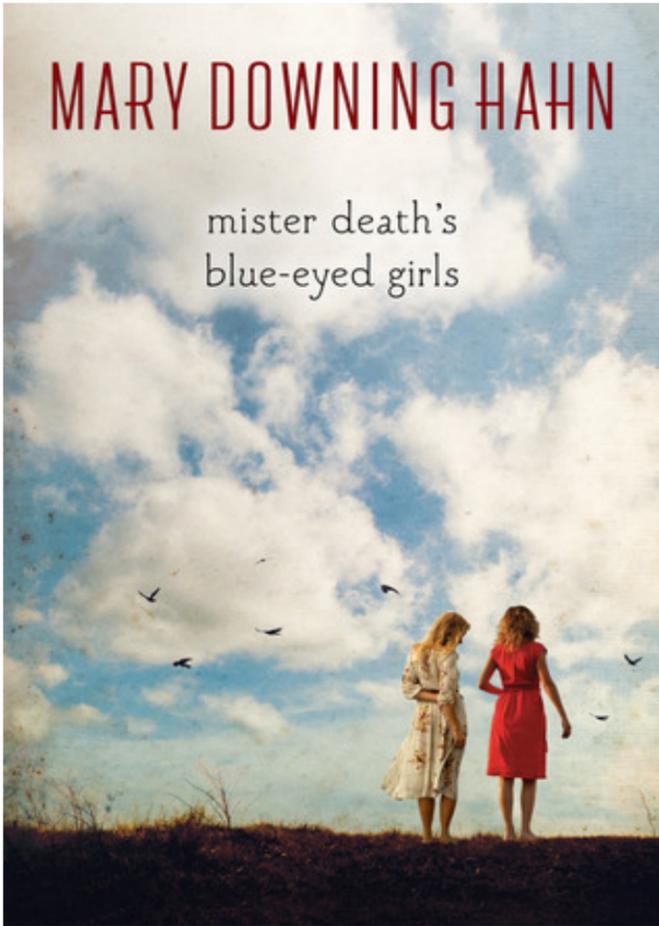
The novel itself is a bit predictable, but not over-the-top. Although trying to keep the plot twisting, Hahn's way of foreshadowing really captures the mind of the killer.

By leaving all other characters’ very predictable, Hahn allows the killer to remain unpredictable. In order to get into the mind of

the killer, one must think like a killer and be able to predict their next move. One downside of this novel is the cliché love-triangle. This boy likes that girl, but this girl doesn't feel the same way even though they kissed and she can't stop thinking about it.

Typical love-scenarios where the girl likes the jock, but makes out with her friend. Nothing more and nothing special or dramatic about it.

If you're the type to watch cop shows like Rizzoli & Isles, Criminal Minds, Motive, or even Hannibal, then try reading Mister Death's Blue-Eyed Girls for a mystery that is captivating and interesting to follow.



The Dispatch Playlist

By Leah Butz and Olivia Liepa

In the mood for some new tunes? Well, we have the playlist for you! Today we bring you covers! While many hard-core fans may dislike their favorite song being recreated by a different band, us here at the Dispatch are more open minded. Here are our top ten, in no particular order:

1. Fall Out Boy – “Beat It” (Michael Jackson cover)



2. Daugnter – “Get Lucky” (Daft Punk cover)



3. Bayside – “Wild Night” (Van Morrison cover)



4. Pentatonix – “Don't You Worry Child” (Swedish House Mafia cover)



5. Ellie Goulding – “Your Song” (Elton John cover)



6. Koji – “The Longer I Lay Here” (Pedro the Lion cover)



7. Mumford & Sons – “England” (The National cover)



8. Rise Against – “Anyway You Want It” (Journey cover)



9. New Found Glory – “Love-fool” (The Cardigans cover)



10. Of Monsters and Men – “Skeletons” (Yeah Yeah Yeahs cover)



Now, we know that there are many great covers out there, but these are just some of our personal favorites. So just kick back, relax, and enjoy a “new” song.



How Our QR Tag System Works



Originally created for the auto industry by Toyota, Quick Response (QR) codes were used to track progress and part movement around the manufacturing plant.

But, recently QR Codes (Tags) have become more ubiquitous in magazines, catalogs, and advertisements. QR codes are also beginning to appear more frequently on campus print and digital signage to bridge the physical world with the online world. Note that QR codes can be used to share any alphanumeric information and function similar to the common barcodes on merchandise.

The increasing use of QR codes has benefited from the growing popularity of smartphones and hand-

held devices with built-in cameras that can be used to read the QR codes. To turn your smartphone into a QR code reader, it is necessary to download an app such as Crafter or QR Reader, many of which are free from the various app stores.

In this issue of The Dispatch and all further issue we will be posting these QR tags throughout our paper to link you to more information regarding the article. This could be a link to a song that's being reviewed, a link to a video, a photo slide show, a document etc.

Please download one of the above mentioned apps, scan the included QR Codes and enjoy!

NFL Midseason Preview

Which Teams Have Guaranteed Their Super Bowl Tickets?

By Will Harris

A new season of NFL football is finally upon us. Football fans have been waiting five very long months since the Super Bowl for the excitement to begin. Many of the teams have big changes to their rosters from last year, especially the defending Super Bowl champs the Baltimore Ravens. The Ravens have lost some key players like Ray Lewis, who has officially retired from the NFL after 17 Hall of Fame caliber seasons. Also, Ed Reed, a 9-time Pro Bowl safety and another future Hall of Famer has signed with the Houston Texans.

Other teams have also experienced changes like the New York Jets, who drafted quarterback Geno Smith out of West Virginia University. Smith and his rookie counterpart EJ Manuel, who the Buffalo Bills drafted from Florida State University, will be the starting quarterbacks this season due to the injury to Mark Sanchez on the Jets and the departure of Ryan Fitzpatrick in Buffalo.

These rookies will have their hands full this season with their teammates counting on them to make the playoffs. The team to watch this year is the Denver Broncos with their newly acquired wide receiver from the New England Patriots, Wes Welker. This star addition led the NFL in receptions last year. He'll give Peyton Manning another great target along with Demaryius Thomas and Eric Decker.

My projections for the AFC East division are the New England Patriots winning the division by finishing the season at



11-5 and getting a first round bye in the playoffs. The Patriots will win because they still have one of the best quarterbacks in the league called Tom Brady who will make any receiver on his team look great because of his natural quarterbacking talent.

The AFC North winner will be the Cincinnati Bengals at 10-6 because of their explosive defense led by defensive tackle Geno Atkins and newly signed outside linebacker James Harrison. Also, the big wide receiver threat of A.J. Green, will make the Bengals a formidable squad.

In the AFC South the Houston Texans are my pick to win the division by finishing at 11-5 by winning the tiebreak

against the Indianapolis Colts because of Ed Reed's signing, the great defensive force of J.J. Watt and the always dangerous wide receiver Andre Johnson.

To wrap up the AFC, the West's winner will be the Denver Broncos. I think they'll run away with their division and finish the season at 13-3, earning a first round bye in the playoffs along with the New England Patriots.

In the other division, the NFC East winner will be the Dallas Cowboys who will finish at 9-7 because of Pro Bowl wide receiver, Dez Bryant and their defense led by Demarcus Ware.

Brees and head coach Sean Payton, who has returned from last year's year-long suspension



from the Saints participation in the pay-for-performance bounty programs. The Saints will finish at 12-4 and receive a first round bye. The last division in the NFC, the NFC's Western division, will

result in Seattle Seahawks domination, with a 12-4 record and a first round bye in the playoffs. The Seahawks defense is only the start of my

hypothesis that they will win the division. Cornerback Richard Sherman will lead what will be the best defense in the NFL. The Seahawks running game is very strong with running back Marshawn Lynch. Second year quarterback Russell Wilson will have another great year at quarterback just like in his rookie year. The best advantage for the Seahawks is their home stadium. The Se-

ahawks were 8-0 at home in 2012 and their home turf is the hardest stadium for an away team to win in, due to the intensity of the fans and the motivation that the Seahawks get when they play at home.

The wild card winners in the AFC will be the Indianapolis Colts and the defending champs, the Baltimore Ravens while in the NFC the San Francisco 49ers and the Atlanta Falcons will snatch the wild card spots.

For the playoffs, the Denver Broncos and the Indianapolis Colts will meet in the AFC Conference Championship Game. The Colts will upset the Patriots in the second round to get to the semi-finals. In the NFC Conference Championship Game will include the New Orleans Saints and the Seattle Seahawks. The Super Bowl will pit the New Orleans Saints against the Denver Broncos. The two offensive powerhouses will overwhelm their opponents in the conference championship games. The winner of Super Bowl XLVIII in East Rutherford, NJ at MetLife Stadium will be the Denver Broncos led by the MVP of the game and regular season Peyton Manning. While nothing is set in stone, it is clear that the Broncos will be a strong force in the postseason.

But, win or lose, this winter will feature a playoff spectacle that no one will ever forget.

“The Super Bowl will pit the New Orleans Saints against the Denver Broncos. The two offensive powerhouses will overwhelm their opponents in the conference championship games.”

Huntington Strikes Back Against Cancer

How Girls Varsity Soccer Made Their Mark on the Homecoming Parade

By Megan Healy

The parade is more than just an annual fun homecoming event where many students gather together to show school spirit. It is an opportunity to help those who are experiencing one of the most traumatic diseases in today's society – cancer.

Members of Huntington's Girls Varsity Soccer team marched the parade through Huntington Village, collecting small donations from the crowd and supporting Huntington's homecoming festivities. All together, the team raised over seven hundred dollars in just an hour and a half.

In preparation for the march, the girls gathered pink bags and made posters illustrating their goal for the parade. In pairs, they held their posters high and bags open, shouting to the crowd to donate to Kicks for Cancer. “There were a lot of people to support Huntington High School and, better yet, donate to HGVS and our Kicks

for Cancer game,” says Emily Saltman, a proud member of the girls' soccer team.

The crowd was very

of the day. Another member of the team, junior Katy Laurie, claims, “People are really great and giving.” Freshman Camille

of money that we did.”

The team unanimously credited this monstrous achievement to the numerous people



supportive of the team. Not even the team itself could have predicted the staggering amount of money they achieved by the end

Stafford said that “if it wasn't for the generous crowd attending the parade, we would not have the opportunity to raise the amount

that came out to support Huntington on its big day.

Every penny earned by this wonderful group of girls was

raised for their Kicks for Cancer game. One game out of the season is selected for the team to wear pink jerseys representing their support for the fight against cancer. Kicks for Cancer originated in Hauppauge when a junior, Courtney Tomkin was diagnosed with brain cancer. The money is then donated to the organization that helped Tomkin. Tomkin passed away in December of 2008 at the age of seventeen. Ever since, Hauppauge and schools all over the island, including Huntington, have participated in the Kicks for Cancer fundraiser to help support those who have been diagnosed with cancer.

Make sure to continue donating to the girls varsity team in their fundraising efforts, and always remember their cause. While cancer may seem like an unconquerable part of life, we can always stand together and fight back.

SPORTS

Huntington Dominates Suffolk Soccer

Girls Varsity: An Epic Turnaround

By Mike Stafford

The Huntington girls' varsity soccer team has a lot to be cheering about this season. Led by head coach Mr. Walsh and assistant coach Mr. Tannazzo, the girls have compiled a 7-2-3 record.

While the team looks forward to a successful 2014 season, they can't help but be upset about this year's playoffs. However, no one can deny the tremendous strides the team has made over the course of the season, becoming one of the league's top teams.

gan Mars and Emily Saltman.

This year's team is composed of twenty-one players. There are seven seniors, nine juniors, four sophomores and one freshman. Although on some teams underclassmen may spell problems with chemistry, the girls' soccer team has embraced their new recruits. Summer Rudish, a senior midfielder, states, "I'm really proud of the team for going so far this year. We have become a little family and it has made for a great time." This "family" atmosphere has pulled

Moreno was injured, but the girls fought hard and tied the game by a goal by Katie Reilly. The team kept fighting and made incredible plays on defense, which included great saves by Kaitlin Wascher. However, despite many opportunities on offense, they could not capitalize and the game ended in a tie after two overtimes. Even though the match was completed later in October and ended with a 1-1 tie, there is no denying that the varsity season was full of highlights. With large crowds full of spirit and energized play, these games were always memorable for both the fans and the players

themselves.

The playoff game was one of the best games they've ever played according to several of the team's players. "While we played our hearts out, we just didn't get the results we wanted," said team captain Megan Healy.

Overall, the girls' varsity team played exceptionally well this season. The team's success

cannot be attributed to one player, as it is a team effort and cooperation that has inspired them to become one of Suffolk County's best. If the regular season was any indication, it seems that this spirit and determination will continue in the future and, with the help of their impenetrable defense, hopefully secure postseason victories when 2014 comes around.



The team has a ferocious defense that has been one of their keys to success. Led by center backs, Megan Healy and Sam Lynch, outside backs, Naomi Medina and Alex Koumas, and goalie Taylor Moreno, the team has shut out opponents seven times, which is a testament to their skills. The team also has strong leadership from its senior core, which includes Megan Healy, Naomi Medina, Kim Smith, Summer Rudish, Molly Brambil, Mor-

the players through even the most pressured situations, allowing them to forget about winning or losing and just to have fun.

Although many of their practices and home games have been at Breezy Park, they had a very memorable game on the familiar fields at Huntington High School. After the school's intense pep rally, the girls battled against Kings Park. The game seemed bleak when Kings Park scored an early goal and goalie Taylor

Boys Varsity's Impossible Season

By Joe Saginaw

Ever since August, on the hot turf field of Blue Devil Stadium, you could find soccer players conditioning and training for the season to come. Most of them could tell you they were awaiting a great season, that they couldn't wait to start playing, and that they were looking forward to getting closer with their fellow teammates.

But none of them could've told you that the Huntington Boys Varsity Soccer team would make its farthest run in the playoffs since the 1980's.

Huntington was seeded No. 15 in the county, a less desirable seed than they deserved, but after the way games have recently played out, it has turned into a positive. Last Saturday, in an out bracket game, Huntington defeated Comsewogue by a score of 1-0. This past Tuesday, in a round of 16 game, Huntington ousted No. 2 seed Half Hollow Hills West, 1-0.

In one of the biggest wins for the Huntington Soccer program, Ricky Velasquez scored the winner with 15 minutes to play. The most recent win was at the home field of one of Huntington's biggest rivals: Hauppauge. Anfernee "Royce" Lopez scored the only goal of the game in the first half and Huntington held off the hosts to win 1-0.

"We were the only ones who believed we could achieve so much, now we've got thousands behind us, and we're not finished," senior sweeper Alex Castillo stated, who leads Huntington's defense that let a minimal 12 goals by them in non-league games, playoffs, and the regular season.



Huntington's offense netted 30 goals this season, and 7 of those came from German exchange student TJ Becker who helped breathe new life into the squad upon his arrival.

Senior Byron Velasquez and Juniors Dan Reiver and Stephen Shivers have all come off the bench to make a difference in games this season.

Although their semi final game ended in a heartbreaking 1-0 loss, no one can deny that Huntington boys varsity had an incredible run. With their teamwork and dedication, the team played with unrivaled determination. The impossible season may be over, but Huntington's success will live on, cementing their legacy as one of Suffolk's best squads. As central midfielder Wilson Martinez, in an attempt to be inspirational, said: "Impossible is nothing."

Black and Blue: Is the Giants' Situation Hopeless?

By Gabe Smith

The New York Giants are one of the proudest and most renowned football teams in the NFL. Despite being the owners of four Lombardi trophies, they have been an utter disaster so far in the 2013 season.

For the boys in blue and red it's been eight games and six losses to date: not exactly the way that the 2011 Super Bowl champs expected to start off their season. In short, it's been an ugly first half.

Not only have they dropped the first quarter of their schedule but in three of those six defeats they were pummeled: 41-23 to the Broncos,

38-0 to the Panthers and 31-7 to the Chiefs. That's simply embar-



assing. Some of Huntington High School's staff are fans of the Big Blue and they weren't pleased

with their performance so far. Varsity football assistant coach Ron Wilson says of his favorite team, "First of all it's depressing to see them open the season with zero wins. The defense isn't playing well, and when the defense isn't playing well it's hard for the offense to find the end zone... This week is a must-win game or else some folks are gonna be fired."

There are several people to fault for the team's shortcomings. Some of those people can be found in the offensive line. The players that are tasked with protecting Eli Manning have failed miserably, especially since key players such as David Baas and Chris Snee have gone down with injuries.

"I don't think it's Eli's fault the offensive line has been awful," said avid Giants fan and health teacher Mr. Agnello. "He's had to force the issue. Just like

"The players that are tasked with protecting Eli Manning have failed miserably, especially since key players such as David Baas and Chris Snee have gone down with injuries."

Peyton, Eli needs time to make decisions. Peyton has always had great offensive lines, which is what Eli needs."

The ailing offensive line has yielded an alarming number of sacks thus far, a majority of those coming from the Giants' pounding at the hands of the Carolina Panthers. Eli's lack of time to make decisions has caused him to throw league-leading numbers of interceptions, making him the king of the quarterback's least wanted statistic. In 16 games last year Eli threw

a total of 15 picks; at his current rate he'll more than double 2012's sum.

While the Giants' situation is certainly pathetic, it is not without hope. Their division is having a very lackluster season as well, with no clear winner in sight. All four teams are struggling to stay over .500, giving the Giants plenty of opportunities to get right back into the playoff race.

If the Giants can put together a string of wins, they'll be right back in the thick of things.