



# The Dispatch

"A beacon of truth."

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Huntington High School

Oakwood and McKay Roads Huntington, NY 11743

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## »news in short

> Scott Gulizio, Wilson Martinez and Carlos Rivera were named All-County following stellar fall campaigns. The group helped spearhead the Blue Devils' first league soccer title since 1989. Santiago Alzate captured Academic All-County recognition.

> Samantha Lynch and Justin Weigold received the Suffolk Zone Award for their academic performance, outstanding character, exceptional citizenship and remarkable leadership abilities.

> Ms. Kenny has been named New York State's recipient of the NABT's Outstanding Biology Teacher Award.

## The True Meaning of Christmas

### Huntington's Clubs Continue to Give Back to the Community

By Katie Duval

The holiday season is a time of generosity and compassion, two things that can describe Huntington High School students in a big way. Many of us will have more than enough to eat and plenty of gifts this year, but there are many in our community that will struggle to make this time of year as special as they would like it to be. For people struggling to get by this year, the holidays can be a stressful time. Many clubs at Huntington recognize this and have dedicated the better part of the last few weeks and months to organizing charity events to help the less fortunate in our community.

The Key Club is hosting its annual Sears Shopping Event on Saturday, December 13th. Run by Mrs. Krycinski and Mrs. Colica, the Key Club puts in tons of preparation for this event, which is as much fun

as it is hard work. "It's one of our big events of the year," Mrs. Krycinski, a Huntington English teacher, told the



small children and are paired with one in particular. "The students help the children pick out winter essentials, such as a coat, boots, clothes, and a toy, that the parents may not be able to afford." The money to fund this is donated by the Huntington chapter of Kiwanis, an international volunteer organization. The Key Club is closely tied to Kiwanis. After the children choose their gifts, they are bused to Half Hollow Hills West where another Huntington club, HSLQ, helps the Key Club gift wrap all the presents. Huntington students go the extra mile and provide their own transportation every year. It's a long and tiring day for the students, their parents, and the teachers that run the event, but in the end it's worth it to see the children happy. The most important part of the day is that dozens of chil-

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## Blue Devil Holiday Concert Preview

### Huntington's Spirited Music Groups Prepare to Deck the Halls

By CAITLIN KNOWLES

Do you start blasting Christmas music the day after Thanksgiving? Does your house always have the most festive decorations on the block? Are you the one who can't wait to light the menorah or Kwanzaa kinara candles every December? If you answered "YES!" to any of these questions, you're ready to get into the holiday spirit!

Candy canes and ugly sweaters aside, one of the best ways to get excited for the season is going to the holiday concert. Every year, the orchestra and chorus put on a high-quality performance filled

with classic holiday tunes.

This year, the groups will be performing on Wednesday, December 17th at 7:30 P.M. in the auditorium. The program features a mix of holiday classics and

contemporary pieces, each with its own unique sound

and catchy rhythm.



This year's orchestra performance will feature

the Huntington debut of conductor Ms. Castaldo, who recently stepped in to replace longtime teacher Ms. Leonardi who retired at the end of last school year. Ms. Castaldo has

helped prepare pieces for the underclassmen group,

upperclassmen group, and combined symphony orchestra (with a select few wind players from the band). The ninth and tenth graders will be playing a Longfield arrangement of "Man in the Mirror," with words and music originally written by Glen Ballard and Siedah Garrett. The song was initially popularized by Michael Jackson in the late 1980s and has been described by critics as "gentle" and having "gospelly lift." The underclassmen group will also play a Clark arrangement of "Carol of the Bells"/"Greensleeves", a staple of holiday music. The upperclassmen in-

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# It's the Holiday Season!

## How the Inspirational Blue Devil Community Gives Back

dren and their families can have a holiday that's a little more special.

Also run by the Key Club is a massive toy drive. Students of Mrs. Krycinski's and Mrs. Colica's have a healthy competition to see which class can bring in the most toys. As of right now, the students from Mrs. Krycinski's English classes have donated over 500 toys. The toys then go to the Family Service League for their annual Holiday Boutique. Parents that otherwise could not afford toys can pick out gifts for their children there, a priceless gift in itself.

There are many other clubs that are also giving back this year. The Italian Honor Society is running a toy drive that is open to the whole school. They are also looking into donating some of their funds to women's shelters in the area so that families in very difficult and transitory situations can still try to have a stable holiday season. Moreover, the Italian Honor

Society is donating money to local families struggling to provide food and gifts for themselves this time of

running a clothing drive. The Latin Honor Society is also doing its part by organizing a food drive. All

cation that they live their lives, and in this time when many of us have so much, we must remember those that do not. All of the toy drives and food drives could even be considered a thank you, and not charity, for all that these families do for our community and the hardship they still must bear as they do so.

This time of year is a time of humility and rec-

ognition that we are all deserving of love and compassion.

The students of Huntington are working to make their community a more united and strong town by giving back to those less fortunate. This holiday season, let us all think of those that may not be able to gaze upon a pile of gifts beneath the tree and think about what we can do, as individuals, to change that.

“Charity events are...a way of appreciating and valuing families that may not have as much and may feel out of the spirit of the season for that reason.”

year. Mrs. Gilbert, who runs the Italian Honor Society, believes that giving back to the community is always important, but especially this time of year because in all the splendor of the season, people that do not want for food or gifts can forget how fortunate they are. Charity events are a reminder of that fact, as well as a way of appreciating and valuing families that may not have as much and may feel out of the spirit of the season for that reason.

Moreover, AWOD is running a coat drive and Spanish Honor Society is

of the students that have donated toys, food, or their time have done a great thing to support their community.

The students of Huntington High School deserve to be recognized for their generosity, but so do the families that are helped by it. It is a very difficult task to try to support a family day after day when money is tight. The parents of these families work hard to provide for their children and the inability to do so sometimes is a difficult burden. It is not without strength and dedi-



## Decking the Halls

### Huntington Chorus and Orchestra Hit All the Right Notes

tend to perform St. Paul's Suite: I. Jig, IV. Finale (The Dargason) by Gustav Holst and The 3-Minute Nutcracker written by Tchaikovsky and arranged by Conley. The former is the finale of a piece written in honor of a school in England where the composer

was a music teacher while the latter is described as possessing "all of your favorite 'Nutcracker' themes rolled into a clever, light-hearted medley." Following these pieces, the symphony orchestra will play

"Overture to The Marriage of Figaro" by W.A. Mozart. This song was originally written as an overture to a four-act opera composed in 1786 by Mozart himself. The orchestra will conclude its performance with "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's *Messiah*. This fi-

nal song has been a staple of the Huntington High School Holiday Concert for many years, incorporating strings, wind players, and even vocalists from the concert choir.

The choir has its own performance scheduled as well. Members of

an elegant, melodious piece based on a classical Spanish tune, and Elijah Rock, a traditional spiritual. Besides "Hallelujah", the concert choir will offer renditions of Siyahamba, a Zulu traditional song, "Amani: A Song of Peace", and a fan-favorite "Charlie Brown Christmas." The choir will perform pop tunes "The Scientist" and "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" as well.

Besides getting to watch amazing performances, it's

the chamber choir will be singing "Lord of the Dance", a piece conveying mixed emotions, "Rock of Ages" (Maoz Tzur), a popular Hanukkah song, and "Baba Yetu", the theme song for video game *Civilization IV*. The group will also sing "Con Amores",

always fun to support your friends and the music department. The holiday concert is sure to be a spirited, festive experience for all who attend. 'Tis the season to be jolly, so come join in the fun and merriment of the holiday concert!



### The Ultimate Holiday Playlist *The Best of the Holiday Classics*

1. Nat "King" Cole - The Christmas Song
2. Brenda Lee - "Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree"
3. Bobby Helms - "Jingle Bell Rock"
4. Mariah Carey - "All I Want For Christmas Is You"
5. Andy Williams - "Most Wonderful Time Of The Year"
6. John Lennon - "Happy Xmas/War Is Over"
7. Jose Feliciano - "Feliz Navidad"
8. Band-Aid - "Do They Know It's Christmas?"
9. Leroy Anderson - "Sleigh Ride"
10. Johnny Mathis - "It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas"

# Lo Difícil de Asimilarse a los Estados Unidos

By LENNI JOYA

Como muchos inmigrantes en este gran país, los Estados Unidos, nosotros los hispanos no somos exención de diferentes y nuevas costumbres. Nuestras tradiciones y costumbres muchas veces son muy distintas a las de los anglosajones. Esto no nos determina que somos diferentes a ellos, pero nos da la tarea de entender que muchas veces no celebraremos lo mismo o comeremos igual. Así como un ciudadano mexicano come su comida tradicional la cual es tacos, un salvadoreño pupusas, un hondureño baleadas entre otros, de la misma forma un estadounidense come su comida tradicional la cual es hamburguesas. A esto se le conoce

como costumbres o tradiciones propias de una persona o nación en general. Entonces, cuando una persona emigra a otro país ¿debe esta persona dejar sus propias tradiciones y adaptarse a las nuevas del país en el cual ahora vive? Desde luego que no, así como un pajarito que vuela de lugar en lugar nunca cambia su estilo o color, de la misma manera nosotros como inmigrantes debemos de

mantener nuestras costumbres, de la misma manera aprendiendo de las nuevas.

significa que olvidará su idioma primario. Entonces, como un inmigrante inteligente

que somos, podemos asimilarnos a nuestro nuevo ambiente, sin olvidar nuestras costumbres propias. Este mensaje es dedicado a todos esos estudiantes que se den cuenta que

Cuando un inmigrante acepta su propia cultura, no le es dificultoso de asimilarse y aprender de otra. Otro ejemplo es la persona que aprende una segunda lengua, esto no

no esta mal adaptarse a las costumbres estadounidenses, pero sin olvidar que nosotros tenemos nuestras propias tradiciones que son hermosas y únicas que no deben de

ser desechadas, si no que lo contrario debemos de seguir las practicando y continuar orgullosos de ellas.

Seamos hispanos ejemplares y copiemos lo bueno, constructivo de este país e ignoremos lo que no nos trae nada bueno. También continuemos con nuestras buenas tradiciones, mientras estas no dañen a otras personas. No olvides de ser verdaderos latinos, pongamos nuestra cultura en alto, no con tonterías o malas acciones si no que lo contrario, demostremos a los Estados Unidos y sus ciudadanos que somos valiosos y beneficiosos para esta gran nación que nos ha abierto sus puertas.



## La Cuestión de la Inmigración

By LILY MORRIS

Recientemente, presidente Obama ha decidido abordar el tema de la inmigración como lo prometió en su campaña de reelección. Su proyecto de ley, lo que permitiría a casi cinco millones de inmigrantes ilegales que viven y trabajan sin documentos, ha causado controversia entre el presidente y el Congreso. En las últimas semanas, la reforma de la inmigración ha sido el centro de atención, que va a pasar ahora?

Naturalmente esta propuesta tiene dos puntos de vista muy diferentes. Las personas que están de acuerdo con Obama creen que cada persona tiene el derecho de vivir la misma vida que los atrajo a los Estados Unidos, y no importa si son ilegales, se les debe dar las mismas oportunidades que los demás. El otro lado cree que conceder a los inmigrantes ilegales el privilegio de trabajar sin papeles quitará las

Una de las razones más importantes que la propuesta de Obama ha sido cuestionada es porque

mucha gente cree que él no tiene la autoridad para hacerlo. Técnicamente, si ni la Cámara de Representantes ni el Senado están de acuerdo con la acción del Presidente, no puede actuar solo. Sin embargo, la inmigración es un tema tan importante en los Estados Unidos, y Obama ha decidid que es el tiempo para cambios en el sistema.



oportunidades de empleo de los ciudadanos legales y fomentará más inmigración ilegal. Con el partido republicano tomando el control del Congreso a partir de enero, es muy poco probable que se pasará la propuesta migratoria de Obama. Es la responsabilidad del Congreso y del Presidente de trabajar juntos para solucionar un problema tan grande en los Estados Unidos y llegar a un acuerdo. La pregunta ahora es, ¿cuánto tiempo se tardará?

## The Immigration Issue

By LILY MORRIS

Recently, President Obama has decided to deal with the issue of immigration as he promised in his reelection campaign. His bill, which would allow almost five million illegal immigrants to live and work without legal documents, has caused controversy between the president and Congress. In the past few weeks, immigration reform has been in the spotlight; what will happen now?

One of the most important reasons Obama's bill has been questioned is because many people believe he does not have the authority to do so. Technically, if neither the House of Representatives nor the Senate agree with the President's action, he cannot act alone. However, because immigration is such an important issue in today's society, Obama is determined to make a change to the system.

Naturally this issue has two very different perspectives. The people who agree with Obama believe every person has the right to live the life the moved to America for, and regardless of their



legal status they should be given the same opportunities as everyone else. The other side believes that granting illegal immigrants the privilege of working without

papers will take away job opportunities from legal citizens and encourage more illegal immigration.

With the Republican Party taking control of Congress starting in January, it is very unlikely that Obama's immigration proposal is passed. It is up to Congress and the President to work together to fix such a huge problem in the United States and come to an agreement. The only question is, how long will this take?



## It's a Bird, It's a Plane...

## No! It's a UAV! And It's Coming for a Special Delivery

By JOE SAGINAW

You have just ordered a new hat online, but instead of waiting three business days for it to arrive at your front step, it is dropped off in your backyard by a drone a mere hour later. In today's day and age, you may seem this is an impossible feat only to be realized in the distant, future, but this technology is far from futuristic, and is very much a possible occurrence. In recent years, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) have been greatly improved and have gained media attention for their use by the military, hobbyists, and businesses. What exactly is a UAV, or drone, however?

UAVs can be any flying vehicle that does not have a pilot, and can be anything from a large Predator drone that can remotely attack terrorists overseas with missiles to small, electrically powered helicopters or multicopters that can take selfies. In this article, electric multicopters, or basically helicopters with more than one rotor, will mainly be discussed. The most advanced multicopter

manufacturer may be the Chinese based company DJI, who recently released a new quadcopter (multicopter with four rotors) called the INSPIRE1 (see picture). This quadcopter is the most advanced commercial aerial photography platform of its type, and features a 4K built in camera with optical image stabilization, GPS, and the ability to land by itself. Compared to the hefty \$3000 price tag the INSPIRE1 carries, other drones such as the Parrot AR are optimized for amateur flyers with a lower price of around \$300.

The simple vehicles that Parrot manufactures are equipped with Wi-Fi which allows them to be controlled via an app on your smartphone, and cameras to live stream video being taken from the

vehicle.

Other than aerial photography and hobby use, multicopters have been used for transportation of goods such as medicine and even commercial products. Matternet, a relatively new startup from Scotland, plan to begin an ambitious project to establish a transportation network across Sub-

net, Amazon has revealed a new planned service called Amazon Prime Air which promises to deliver packages to customers in 30 minutes or less. Their drones would be able to deliver small packages to the front yards to anyone within a 30 minute radius of an Amazon distribution center. As the CEO of Matternet stated in his most recent TED talk, "For those of you who still believe it is science fiction, I firmly say to you that it is not."



Saharan Africa. One billion people in the world do not have access to roads, and Matternet plans to reach these people using drones that deliver medicine and have the ability to transport goods both to and from markets. Their drones can carry up to 2 kilograms, and travel 10 kilometers in 15 minutes. Similar to Matter-

net, Although the technology may exist to implement these systems into everyday life, there are some major limitations, more specifically in the United States, the government. The Federal Aviation Administration, or FAA, promised in 2012 to release regulations for UAV's by

September 2015, and they released their preliminary rules earlier this month. These new regulations will be able to be commented on as all new FAA regulations are, by visiting the FAA website, until discussion ends late next year when the final rules are established. The proposed regulations are restrictive towards commercial drone users, and require commercial operators of drones under 55 pounds to have a certified pilot license, only fly during the daytime, and within line of sight of the UAV. In addition, all UAVS must fly below an altitude of 400 feet and cannot fly within four miles of an airport. These strict regulations have been prompted by numerous commercial airline pilots reporting near collisions with drones flying well above the current altitude limit of 400 feet, potentially endangering the plane and all the passengers inside. Hopefully, these regulations to do not sideline the development and expansion of drone technology, and someday, your package may be deliv-

## Ocean Acidification: A Threat to Our World

By LINDSAY SAGINAW

Since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, carbon dioxide emissions have added to the global crisis of atmospheric overheating. Global warming has caused worry and general angst amongst scientists for years, but now a new problem is emerging, one that came along with global warming but never was fully acknowledged. Now, however, this crisis threatens to exceed global warming with potential disastrous effects and widespread repercussions. This is ocean acidification.

Ocean acidification is the process in which increased levels of CO<sub>2</sub>, in its aqueous state of carbonic acid, enters the ocean from the atmosphere and alters seawater pH and creates lasting results on our oceans and their ecosystems.

Perhaps the most important outcome is a disruption in the shell forming

habits of pelagic (marine) organisms. When these unwanted emissions enter the water, this reduces the amount of calcium carbonate ions, a key component for the process of calcification in coastal creatures, basically meaning it is difficult for marine organisms to form their outer shells. This is especially prevalent in pteropods, or sea butterflies, and in a recent study, their shells completely dissolved in under fifty days after being in an environment with the predicted carbonic acid levels for 2050. During several scientific experiments, scientists found that over the past 300 million years, seawater pH has been slightly basic, around 8.2. However, today it is around 8.1, which is a huge drop on the pH scale, as carbonic acid now represents almost 400 ppm (parts per million) and that number is rapidly growing, with no notable end. This problem needs to be addressed now in order to help salvage our oceans, but there is one way to tell what may happen when the oceans shift from basic to more acidic.

Off of the coast of Italy, a small island by the name of Costello Arogonese lies amongst the clear blue waters and stunning scenery. The island is regularly visited above ground to witness the unique old history from hundreds of years ago that remain untouched on the island, such as crumbling building and historic homes. But beneath the surface, something far more sinister lurks. Something that not backpedals into the past, but tells the tale of a far darker future.

Due to a quirk in geography, volcanic vents bubble out CO<sub>2</sub> from the ocean floor surrounding Castello Arogonese. Scientists purvey and examine these waters, as they give a glimpse into what our oceans could

potentially become by 2050 and beyond. Carbonic acid is nothing but tasteless seltzer to us, so scientists swim these waters with ease amongst sea grass and nothing else. Due to the high acidity levels, all that remains on the sea floor is dull sea grass drifting and swaying with the current, and the occasional skeleton of an unfortunate crab who wandered into the wrong part of the sea.

Other predicted oceanic effects may be:

- Collapse of main food chains from the loss of bottom-feeding calcifiers
- Sea urchins protect coral reefs, but have been known to shrink and deform with added acidity.
- Bleaching of coral reefs, the main food sources and ecosystems for pelagic organisms of all kinds.
- Human food sources may be threatened by the loss of some creatures that react

negatively to acid.

- Different reports show results of experimentation in which some organisms formed their shells more rapidly.
- In the above report, 10 out of 17 pteropods, the majority, experienced a decreased calcification rate.
- Once the ocean is at its maximum holding level of CO<sub>2</sub>, it will leave the ocean and alter climates dramatically.

Ocean acidification is a threat that scientists need to address now if we want to help save the world's oceans. After all, we rely on our oceans all the time to help with everyday life. We could potentially end global warming and rescue the seas from imminent peril.

## SPOTLIGHT

## JEOPARDY NIGHT

## Huntington Teachers Weigh in on the Class of 2015's Successful Fundraiser

By Charles Beers

The Class of 2015 scored big with its popular fundraiser, Jeopardy Night. The event, which consisted of three juniors, seniors, and teachers battling wits on a grand stage, received much praise from the Blue Devil community. Teachers and students alike found the show entertaining and close to its professional counterpart, especially with the help of Ms. Dillon's son, who personally had a very successful run on the real show.

The night was intense from start to finish. While the juniors had a rough start, with several of the players taking dramatic dips into the negative score range, the intellect on stage was undeniable. Each round grew closer and closer with each passing question, and

sometimes it came down to the wire when deciding the victor. For instance, Mr. Donovan and Mr. Schwendemann were neck and neck until the Final Jeopardy question. While they both answered it correctly, Mr. Schwendemann's lead held off Mr. Donovan's conservative bet, thus netting him the teacher round crown. Even the final face-off between the three

finalists was brutal. Caitlin Knowles and Mr. Schwen-

demann battled back and forth through science,

finally pulled away and won the title of Jeopardy Night Champion.

Now, more than a month after the final Final Jeopardy, we sat with two teachers who participated in the event, Mr. Schwendemann and Mr. Donovan, to see what they thought of the game show and share some of their own trivia secrets.

I spoke with Mr. Donovan first.

Q: What is your ideal Jeopardy

Category?  
D: Either 19th century nov-

els, the American presidency, or college sports teams mascots.

Q: And your worst?  
D: The Bible, Shakespeare, and the Periodic Table of Elements.

Q: Do you watch Jeopardy on a regular basis? And what is the most engrossing question of the show?  
D: Yes, I do. I feel like finding out the final Jeopardy is the most entertaining part of the show. I feel that I can miss the rest of the show but still tune into Final Jeopardy.

Q: How far were you expecting to go in the competition?

D: To be honest, I thought I would have a hard time against Mr. Schwendemann and I knew that I



## Relay for Life's Emotional Kick-Off

By Ketí Tsotskolauri

On Friday, November 5, all students and faculty filed into the gym for an assembly that hits close to home for many in Huntington. Friday's topic was something that our community knows a lot about- cancer. Whether it was a parent, a sibling, a close relative, or even a friend's relative, we have all been affected by this disease. However, we are taking a step to fight back.

During the assembly, Relay for Life, one of the school's most popular features, was re-introduced along with a moving video presentation by Sam Carroll. Stirred by the phrase "I Relay For..." the audience watched as students talked about how participating in Relay helps fight cancer, with all donation proceeds going to the American Cancer Society.

A moment of silence was held for the pass-

ing of the beloved teacher and coach Alan Kuver over the summer, who battled with esophageal cancer for

contributions to the community. Then, Mr. Cohen then addressed the topic and introduced Mr. Gilmore,

this disease has made on their life.

Mr. Gilmore's story was followed by another



over a year. Additionally, Adam Spector, the compassionate town board member who tragically passed this past year, was also honored with a moment of silent gratitude for his

who took the podium to relay his story of how cancer had made an impact in his life. He told the heart-wrenching story of his wife's repeated cancer scares and the presence

person's first-hand experience with cancer that belonged to a member of the blue devil community. Her story, along with that of her mother, gave a bigger sense of what it is like to be

faced with something as big as cancer. During this assembly, a special activity took place that really put cancer into perspective. As students and faculty alike filed in to the auditorium, they were each handed a card- white or green. Those with white cards (2/3 of the audience) stood up to represent those who fought cancer, and won, and then all who had been given a green card stood to represent those who lost their battle. Looking around it was clear to see the amount of people who would be able to win their battles, as well as the hope of finding an end to this horrible disease.

Friday's assembly presented the school-wide activity that fights for a very personal and prevalent topic here in Huntington. So there's only one question left to ask: Who do you relay for?

See "Jeopardy" on page 15



# And That's a Wrap!

## Make Your Presents Sparkle With Unique Wrapping Paper

By Michelle D'Alessandro

The holiday season has finally arrived. And with it come lines so long your legs go numb and family reunions where Grandma can't believe how much you've grown since the last time you've seen her. So along with all of the family and the food, the gifts start piling up. Some are last-minute and others full of thought (that's what counts, or so they say), but they're all wrapped up in the same boring red and green (or blue and white) holiday paper bought last year from the Dollar Store.

But what's the point of that? Why not do something a little more interesting to cover up the fact you completely forgot that your family member needs a gift? So if you have no wrapping paper lying around or simply have way too much time on your hands during the fifth consecutive snow day, here are some new ideas to throw under the tree or under the menora.

1. First off, the simplest thing to re-

place fancy wrapping paper is... newspaper. The poor man's wrapping paper, it is everywhere, and doesn't always have to be a tedious article about the stock market. You can use the comic section to throw in a little color and humor, or can paint or write on the paper to spruce it up a little bit.



2. Right next to newspaper on the scale of simplic-

ity is brown paper. Whether from the stuffing of a delivery from amazon or from

a craft store, brown paper gives a neutral earth tone

that looks great with bows or colorful duct tape. 3. Speaking of duct tape, a great way to reuse a bag is to cover it in cool tape. Take any bag from your favorite store, or just one that's the right size, cover it up, maybe decorate with sharpie, and

add a card. Presto.

4. One sentimental way to wrap a gift is to create a collage of photos and use it as paper. Printing out all sorts of photos of you and the recipient on heavy copy paper is a great way to show someone that they mean a lot. Now this one is a little more time-consuming but looks great and gives a little extra something.

5. For that special group of people who have scraps of fabric lying around, this one's a great way to use up the cloth. Wrap the present in fabric, with a good amount to spare, collect the edges in the center and pin it together for a pretty presentation. (oh, the puns...)

There you have it. Go crazy with the ribbons, tape and paper and remember, the holidays aren't all about the gifts... or so they say.

## Top 10 Gifts Under \$20

### *The Best Deals on the Best Presents For The Holidays*

By Sarah Kitzen and Ketí Tsotskolauri

1. Starbucks gift card - \$20. In a world of caffeine addicts, a Starbucks gift card is highly appreciated. Do we really need to say more? Both genders will love the gift. Guaranteed!

modern, stylish jewelry. Cool accessories are always happily welcomed in any girl's closet. Whether it's your sis-

for \$15 perfumes by the register before you check out. It is a good gesture for any girl because girls love perfume

buy.

7. Car accessories- Guys love cars; they will especially love

sports team- Men also love sports. Get them a nice poster of soccer or football or whatever sport they're into.

They can hang it up in their room and always think of who got it for them.

9. Hats/Scarves- A nice fuzzy hat or scarf would be able to keep your man (or brother) warm while also looking cute. Hats don't cost a lot of money and you could both be happy.

10. Bake them cupcakes- "The fastest way to a man's heart is through his stomach." It doesn't cost a lot of money to get all the ingredients and make cupcakes for the guy in your life. It shows that you really care about them enough to bake them food.

you if you buy them car refreshers (he'll be happy and your nose will be happy) or car cell phone chargers.

8. Poster of their favorite



ter, friend or girlfriend, they will definitely enjoy your gorgeous and useful present.

5. Perfume from Victoria Secret- There are always the 2

(and Victoria's Secret).

6. \$20- If you don't know what to get someone just give them cash and let them choose what they want to

3. Nail polish- Girls absolutely love having their nails painted with bright, fashionable colors. So our obsession saves you money while making us happy. It's a win-win situation.

4. Jewelry from Forever 21- Forever 21, located in Walt Whitman mall, is filled with

# The Art Honor Society

## Creative Snow Haus Exhibition is an Eco-Friendly Marvel



The Art Honor Society took on a new challenge this year offered by Snow Haus. We received an e-mail from them announcing their first ever Winter Fun for Everyone event.

They requested if we could provide them with holiday decorations made out of recycled materials. We obliged and created a three hundred and sixty degree diorama using cardboard and other simple materials. The winter scape was delivered just before Snow Haus's first annual Christmas tree lighting held on December 5th.

The snowy scene was met with great excitement and tons of compliments. Some of the employees at the Snow Haus were not expecting something so detailed and grand. Robert Merrill, owner of Snow Haus, was present at the time of delivery and was smiling from ear to ear. He stated "This is just wonderful!"

The Art Honor Society's creation will be on display at Snow Haus through the holiday season. Feel free to go check out the display along with all the fine apparel and winter gear available.



# The Many Faces of Santa Claus

## How the Rest of the World Sees Old Saint Nick

By Ann Glackin

We all know him as the round-bellied, white-haired, jolly-faced, bucket of joy. Santa Claus, a.k.a Papa Noel, Father Christmas, and Jolly old Saint Nicholas, has been spreading Christmas cheer to young people all over the world, but with cheer comes fear.

In some countries, such as Germany and Holland, Santa is believed to travel with a companion. This companion is Santa's alternate ego come to punish all the naughty children on Christmas. Instead of Santa delivering coal or some other punishment by himself, the punishment is delivered by Schwarz Peter (Black Peter). The children of Holland are often on their best behavior during the Christmas season out of fear of this whip carrying menace. In some parts of Germany they have a second figure, Knecht Ruprecht or Krampus, He is a big, horned monster clothed in rags who carries a birch branch. He punishes the small children who misbehave by giving them nothing but a branch of birch, like someone in America would receive coal. He is often the one

to scare the small children. Around the fire older children like to tease the younger children with scary stories of Krampus, Santa's wrath inflicting companion.

Japan's version of Santa also has a creepy side to him. He is rumored to have eyes in the back of his head, perfect for spying on naughty children. Some other cultures have a different tradition entirely and do not believe in Santa Claus.

In Italy, instead of Santa Claus, young children await eagerly the ar-

rival of La Befana, a friendly Christmas witch. She delivers candy and small

ing out milk and cookies, parents leave out a glass of wine for La Befana. Instead

of a sleigh La Befana travels astride a magical broomstick. Originally in Sweden a Christmas goat called the Julbock delivered presents, but over time the belief has changed to a small garden gnome or brownie.

In Russia, instead of Santa, they believe

ning parties and handing out gifts to children. This duo is believed to arrive on white horses bringing Christmas cheer to all.

While many cultures show off a different side of Santa, others keep to the same beliefs that we in the United States do. But it's cool to know that our jolly-faced, pot-bellied Santa is not the only one spreading Christmas cheer.

Each country and/or culture sees Santa a little differently. Some stick firmly to the belief that he is a saint who resembles a Pope instead of a man who ate way too many cookies and drank too much wine. Others have different beliefs entirely such as gift bearing goats, witches, gnomes, and anything else you could possibly imagine.

However, everywhere there is Christmas, there is a gift giving, spreader of good-cheer. The spirit of Santa Claus or Saint Nicholas is everywhere you turn, even if it is bearing a different face and name. So, this Christmas, try to remember all the other sides of Santa!



treats to the good children, placing them in their socks. The bad children receive only coal. Unlike the American tradition of leav-

ing Ded Moroz or Grandfather Frost. He travels from house to house with his granddaughter Sengurochka, Snow Girl, plan-



# The Dispatch

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## Lack of Z's, Lack of A's

Research shows that it is an innate tendency for teenagers to stay up late at night and wake up later in the morning. So, if this is true it begs the question, why doesn't school start later?

When I asked my friends how they felt about having to wake up early for school I got varied responses, a little violence—a little profanity.

"When I wake up for school in the morning, I feel like I'm gonna cry because I'm so tired," said junior Gabby Pellechia.

"I want to gouge my eyes out," were the words of sophomore Chloe Liepa.

"Emotionally unstable," sophomore Anna Gulizio told me. While these statements are obviously meant to be comical, it does show just how tedious and unenjoyably waking up for school can be.

Recently, there has been much talk about why schools should push back their hours by at least an hour. In August, right before school started, the American Academy of Pediatrics published a new policy statement entitled, "School Start Times for Adolescents". In the statement, they conveyed the proven idea that teens have sleep patterns that can be up to two hours later

than adults and children.

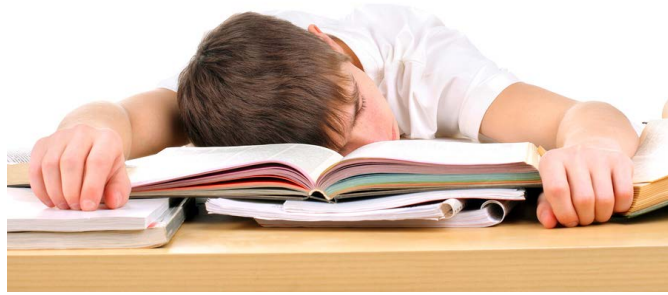
They ultimately implored schools to start later stating that the customary early start time could be a contributing component to chronic sleep deprivation among adolescents. It is believed that if kids weren't so tired they could not only retain more information, but it could prevent car accidents, depres-

sion, bad grades and anxiety. However, this isn't the first stride towards later school starting times. Since the 1990's, research concerning adolescent sleep and wake patterns has been conducted by many groups including the National Sleep Foundation. The conclusion has long been drawn that the earliest most teenagers are awake and properly functioning is 8 am. On April 2 of 1999, a congressional proposal was introduced to urge schools and school districts to reconsider early morning start

times to be more in sync with teens' sleeping patterns. House Congressional Resolution 135 or the "ZZZ's to A's" Act would encourage individual schools and school districts all over the country to move school start times to no earlier than 8:30 a.m.

In 43 states, school districts heeded the advice of doctors and returned school hours to healthier times. Although some scheduling issues have arisen, it has been found to be ultimately constructive. In New York, places like Ithaca and Elmira have pushed their times back to 8:30 and 8:50. However, 43% of schools in the country still start before 8 am. Still many schools such as ours refuse to push time back in order not to interfere with extracurricular activities. This is a valid problem, however schools should find ways to fix sports and clubs around later school starting times because many students such as senior Greg West believe that starting school later "would provide students with a much more efficient learning experience because they would get more sleep," and frankly, sports and clubs can only get better as a result of well rested, happier participants.

By Sarah James



## Join The Dispatch

TAKE PICTURES!

SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL!

WRITE!

E-mail [hhsdispatch@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## A Call for Creative Calendars

The Art Honor Society is excited to be selling its custom, original calendars for the second year. There was much praise for last year's calendar and this year's looks to be just as amazing, if not more so. All the artwork included in the calendar is original student artwork. It really shows off the intense amount of talent here at Huntington High School. The students have labored over every detail and have added a new fun feature this year. It's

called the In A Snap Art



Project. The project is for all ages and if you pur-

participate. The results of the project will be dis-

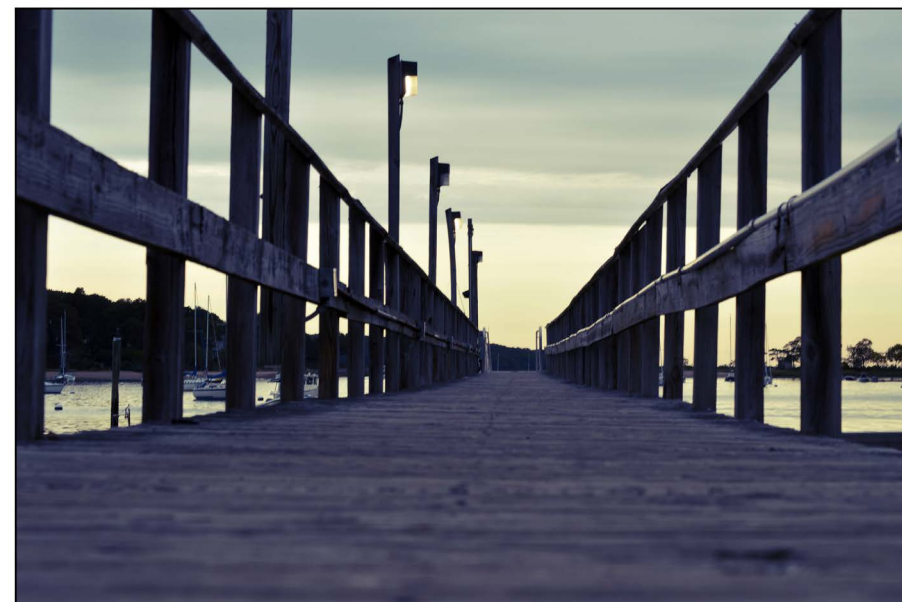
show this year. The price of the calendar has been

reduced to \$15.00.

If you would like to purchase a calendar simply include in a sealed envelope your first and last name, a phone number where you can be reached and your payment. You may leave payments in Mrs. Mohanty's mailbox. You may pick up your calendar in room 251 during periods 3, 7 and 8 starting December 18th. The proceeds go to student scholarships and community outreach.

## ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

If you would like to submit a piece, contact Ms. Mohanty and email the PDF file to [hhsdispatch@gmail.com](mailto:hhsdispatch@gmail.com), along with a brief artist statement that features your name, grade, and inspiration for the piece.



## JEAN MILLER

My inspiration for this photograph is that in winter, spring and fall, the dock at Gold Star Battalion Beach is a peaceful place to watch the sunset. This photo was taken in late October. The sun had just set and as you can see, the electric lights on the dock were just beginning to turn on. There's an interesting contrast between the soft fluffiness of the clouds and the rough, weathered texture of the boards of the dock. The subdued, blue-grey of the sky makes the darker greys and blacks of the boards stand out. The "worm's eye view" of the shot gives the shot an interesting perspective. This photo was shot with a Nikon D3200, 24.1 megapixel DSLR camera using an 18 – 55 mm lens without a flash. This camera has an autofocus func-

tion that helps adjust to low light situations such as this.

I enjoy photography because it's a way to capture the excitement of the times around you. There is only so much that can be done with a paint brush, pencil or piece of charcoal. I feel like I can really think outside of the box when I edit my photographs. This is done by adding different textures, tools that enable you to change to appearance of the selected subject. Some artists that create artwork that I am inspired by are Brandon Stanton; he runs the photoblog Humans of New York. Also, Erica McDonald; she is a documentary photographer whose images are powerful. They really tell a story about how the subject is feeling, or what they are experiencing.



## KIARA ROMAN

Kiara Roman, a 12th grader, is currently taking AP Drawing and Painting and is a member of the Huntington High School Art Honor Society. Her inspiration for this piece was the quote "without struggle there is no progress."

This quote helped determine the elements that are included in the

artwork. The vines represent spiritual growth, the spiral is a tornado which symbolizes struggle, the broken pieces to the right represents the damage that's been done and lastly the circle to the top right represents the sun or light meaning there's hope.



## HOLIDAY TIPS

## 7 Ways to Beat Boredom Over Break

Whether you're out on a trip or stuck home during the break, boredom is something that can be impossible to get rid of sometimes. Here's just some of the ways that get you up and out of those moments whenever you get trapped by the suffocating boredom.

By Taylor Haberkern

## #1 Read a book

I know, I know, reading during a break, you might as well start doing math in your free time! But reading can be helpful. You can read something you're into, whatever that is. Albums, how to annoy siblings, what to cook for dinner, there's bound to be a book on what you like somewhere, you just have to look. You can maybe read a Christmas story to a younger sibling. Plus, not all books are all words. There are graphic novels out there that can resemble the comic books you might've read as a kid.

## #2 Watch a Youtube Video

Youtube, the main place everyone watches videos these days. It has videos from video game play-throughs to cute cat videos. It's bound to have something to your tastes if you search for it, which is really just typing stuff in a search bar. Want to see an explosion? They got that. Want to see someone fail at a skateboarding trick? They have that. Want to learn that new make-up trick you've been dying to learn to show off at the family get together? That's there too. Want to randomly learn origami for a different kind of Christmas gift? Youtube is the ruler of random videos; it's there, just look.

## #3 Watch TV

You see that thing in the corner in your living room? That's a TV! It may have been overshadowed by Youtube, Podcasts and all that but it still works fine. It has this thing called a remote, you've heard of

it? You use it to change channels. There's got to be something on that you would like. Maybe a childhood movie like *Shrek*, or *My Little Pony*, or whatever you're into. Majority of cable providers gave you a nifty search feature somewhere so you can pretend it's the internet and search for whatever you want to

think about big things. You can think about things like the meaning of life or if you forgot your math homework. Maybe even work up the courage to ask that 'special person' out. I doubt that guy or girl would want to spend holiday break alone either, so why not be alone together?

It's Christmas so get into the spirit by being generous! You don't even have to necessarily go out that minute. You could always look up if there are any up and coming opportunities in the area you can do. Might as well get rid of this week's boredom by planning to combat next week's...

one? You can practice an out there talent you've been keeping secret to master it and surprise everyone. What's a better way to challenge boredom than with creativity?

## #7 Be positive

I think I know what you're saying. Either "How the heck will that help" or "I'm not an optimist, I'm a realist." Or I may be way off, I don't know, I'm not a mind reader, I'm a person typing stuff that you're reading. But hear me out here, (or just keep reading). A positive view can always make a situation seem less dire. Instead of seeing the day as, "It's partly cloudy and the clouds are blocking out the sun," look at it like, "It's partly sunny and I can still see a lot of sky!" Sometimes boredom can link back to the fact that we're down about something and don't feel like doing anything.

Then because of that we do nothing and are bored. If that sounds confusing, now you know how adults view us, but the point is that being positive can make things look better. Maybe being positive will open your eyes to something you didn't notice before. How messy your room was, maybe something you did wrong in the past, someone you haven't spoken too or seen in awhile and should probably talk to. Noticing things like that and thinking of these things can not only give you things to do but also make things a bit brighter. Maybe now you'll see why the glass is half full, or something meaningful like that? Who knows, it's your life after all, just make it work.

## #5 Volunteer

This can relate to the get out and do something idea, but this one, in case you've been spacing out all year, is required! If you look on that report card you might notice that little community service grade. You know, 10 hours need to be done by the end of the year or bust? You can't graduate without 40 hours of community service under your belt. If that managed to ring a bell in you, then glad you snapped back to your senses. You can always spend that free time doing something productive. Shovel your neighbor's sidewalk for them, or whatever you can do in your neighborhood.

## #6 Do something creative

Everyone's got a talent, in one way or another. Why not brush up on it or make it better in your free time? Maybe practice your free throws because you want to get on the team or your photography skills for class. Sing a song, dance around, paint a pretty picture, the possibilities are endless. I once even wrote a poem when I was bored about being bored! Even if you can think of anything, just do something! Write about what you're doing, maybe start a journal. Maybe you like cooking and can spend the day trying out a new Christmas themed recipe? Make a homemade card or gift for a loved



## CRITIC'S CORNER

Endless Entertainment  
Why Huntington's Famous Theater is the Place to Be

By Caitlin Kemmerson

In Huntington Village there are tons of places to go! If you're looking to see a show and have fun with your friends The Paramount is the place to be. This venue has a bunch of great shows to see.

The Paramount has concerts, comedy shows and even wrestling matches. The venue has concerts from a variety of genres of music, like R&B, jazz, pop, reggae, and rock. Many different comedians stop by too. Comedians like Bill Cosby, Kathleen Madigan, and Frank Caliendo have all come to the Paramount.

Huntington High School students are very familiar with The Paramount, especially because

Vincent Alongi, a Huntington High School senior, about his experience at The Paramount. He said, "It

When I asked if he would visit the venue again he told me, "Yea it's a pretty good venue, but it's small."

our high school, Gabrielle Goodridge. She had gone to a few events at The Paramount and plans on going again soon.

I asked what her favorite concert was at the Paramount and why. She said, "Definitely Sublime. It was the best concert I've been too. Being in that crowd was an amazing experience." Most of the Huntington High School students who are familiar with The Paramount and have gone to a show wouldn't hesitate to visit this venue again. It may be small and in some cases expensive, but according to these seniors that wouldn't stop them from having a good time at the concerts.



it's right in the Village. I recently interviewed

was great! I saw Datsik and I was so close to the stage."

After interviewing Vincent I spoke to another senior at

from having a good time at the concerts.

Year in Review: 2014's Hottest Raps  
The Dispatch Remembers The Year's Best in the Biz

By James Alleyne

This upcoming 2015 year will be very a very interesting one for those in the hip-hop/rap genre. There is huge competition and conversation about whether underground may become a little less underground. The current top dogs like Wiz Khalifa, or Ab-Soul will try to remain at the top where up and coming artists, such as Freddie Gibbs, and Isaiah Rashad will be looking to make a name not only for their labels but for themselves.

Ab-Soul, commonly associated with Kendrick Lamar and Schoolboy Q released his solo album "These Days..." on June 24th, 2014. When Ab-Soul put his album out he stated "A spice of life. I want to try and touch as many bases as possible. I want something on there for everybody. There will be a lot of references to the vibe of today, the sound of today and the subject matter of today." In other words if you listen to hip-hop you may find a song that relates to you, more or less and it could be your new favorite track to

listen to. Ab-Soul believes he can provide that for you on his album "These Days..." With contributions from artists like Action Bronson, Schoolboy Q, Kendrick Lamar, Jay Rock, Danny Brown, and many more. The album is definitely one to listen to if variety is what you're into.

When it comes down to Wiz Khalifa's "Blacc Hollywood," there's more Hollywood producing than Khalifa's actual lyrical talent, and it shows. Wiz Khalifa is seriously lacking originality and creativity and "Blacc Hollywood" is a prime example. There is a missing identity and Wiz Khalifa is not like he used to be with hit albums like "Deal or No Deal," and "XXL" which propelled his career to where he is now. Overall the album is not something to be crazy about.

"I will show you my flaws, I'll show you what I've done wrong and what I've



messed up at. I don't regret things, but I'll show you the things I'm not proud of. I'm about to show people how to rap again." These are the bold words of up and coming

rapper Freddie Gibbs, talking about his new album *Piñata*. Released in March of 2014, this explicit album is "a gangster blaxploitation film on wax," talking about the hard life of a Gary, Indiana native. With ratings of a 3.5/5 from *Rolling Stone* magazine and an 8 out of 10 from Pitch Fork Media, the album has gotten recognition and is recommended to listeners.

And last but not least Isaiah Rashad and his "Cilvia" demo full EP. For those of you who don't know, Isaiah Rashad is an American hip hop recording artist from Chattanooga, Tennessee. Rashad began taking rapping seriously in tenth grade, where he and his friends would record on laptops. He spent the next few years recording at local recording studios. His first big break was when he went and performed with rappers Juicy J, Joey Bada\$\$, Smoke DZA and others, on a 2012 Club tour. Ra-

shad, now releasing his album which was a mashup of genres states, "At first it was going to be like eight tracks for one-and-a-half-minutes, just verses. Then it was going to be some alternative, black-power stuff. Then it was going to be some electric-alien stuff. Then it was going to be some Southern-banging stuff. Now it's kind of all of it, except for the banging stuff." This EP debuted at number 40 on the US Billboard 200 chart and sold 8,500 copies its first week. In its second week, the EP completely fell off the Billboard 200. Something like that speaks to us about the album itself in terms of which his album speaks to and if it gets stale quickly.

These albums are among the top rated and listened to of the 2014 year. Stay up to date with your favorite rappers albums and mix tapes while getting reviews about the albums based on communal reports.



# Album Review: *Salad Days*

## Two Thumbs Up For Mac DeMarco and His Unique Album

By NICK CASTELLI

This year Canadian musician Mac DeMarco released his second studio album, *Salad Days*. Most well-known for his jangly music and funny antics, DeMarco has defined his own musical genre with his second release. *Salad Days* has proved to be an excellent blend of jangle-pop and rock. This review will cover three songs on the album, titled respectively as “Salad Days”, “Blue Boy”, and “Chamber of Reflection”. Each of these songs help to lay the foundation for an album that is truly unique and genuine in its musical style.

The first track, “Salad Days”, starts the album off with a very lazy and comfortable sounding guitar and bass melody. The drums follow a basic pattern and keep the beat throughout the song. The guitar sound used by DeMarco is heavy on the chorus effect, which gives it a very light and heavenly tone, further adding to the comfortable sound of the recording. The lyrics of the song express feelings of yearning to go back to his youth. Singing about how he wishes to return to his “salad days”, DeMarco wishes he could return to the carefree life he lived when he was younger, and also be able to visit the people he left behind in the past, like “Hippy John,” mentioned in the second verse. The music mimics the lyrics very well in the sense that the music has a very funny and relaxed

tone to it, allowing the listener to remember back to their own salad days. “Blue Boy” is the name of the albums’ second track.

but at the same time have an oddly charming and very melodic sound. The lyrics of the song depict the narrator describing a

out smoothly dissonant chords that carry the song. DeMarco uses an electronic synthesizer on this track, having never

time and is meant to use the time to reflect upon their life and how they wish to change it and move on. DeMarco did this because he likened his apartment where he recorded the album to one of these chambers. The songs music has a very trance-like effect on the listener, which makes the song fit well with its lyrical content.

Overall, these three tracks from Mac DeMarco’s *Salad Days* give a true taste of the musical originality achieved by DeMarco on the album. For those who have yet to listen to the album, give it a try. This piece of music is among its own tier of style and music and should be at least given a chance by any lover of music. I’m sure you will give it a thumbs up, just like I did.



### Other Reviews

AllMusic 4.5/5  
The A.V. Club A-  
Clash 8/10  
Consequence of  
Sound B-  
Exclaim! 9/10  
The Guardian 4/5  
Paste 7/10  
Pitchfork 8.5/10  
Pretty Much  
Amazing B+  
Rolling Stone  
3.5/5  
Spin 8/10



Scan this QR Code to check out Mac DeMarco’s Bandcamp!

Right from the beginning of the song, you can notice that the song still has the pleasant and lackadaisical quality that the preceding song did, but in a slightly different way.

The music of “Blue Boy” is actually very interesting. Its main

boy that is very shy and worries too much. Again this song makes reference to growing up like the previous song did, though in this song, DeMarco is telling the boy to grow up rather than expressing his wish to go back to younger years. *Salad Days*’ third track,

done so on any of his songs before. The melody that the synthesizer lays out is very stagnant and gives the song a peculiar feeling. Lyrically, this song differs greatly from the majority of the songs on the album. Instead, DeMarco took inspiration from a ritual performed

by Free Masons for the lyrics of this song. In

Free-Masonry, the Chamber of Reflection is a place where members of the order go to perform the ritual that initiates them into the organization. In the chamber, the person is locked inside a small room for a period of

feature is a catchy bass line that carries the song. The rhythm guitar latches directly onto the bass part, but the lead guitar follows a series of very short flutters and arpeggios. These riffs follow the main chords of the song

titled “Chamber of Reflection”, is a big departure from the style and sound defined in this album. The track starts out with a lone, slow paced, drum rhythm, lasting only two bars. Then, an organ chimes in, blasting

# The Top 5 Holiday Movies of All Time

## We Rank The Best of the Best of the Yuletide Classics

By TAYLOR HABERKERN

For getting snuggled on the couch with hot chocolate or to watch with your crazy little cousins, this is a list of the Top Five Movies to watch during this year’s holidays.

### #1: *A Christmas Story*

Unless you’ve never turned on TBS, which annually plays this movie for 24 hours on Christmas, you’ve probably heard of *A Christmas Story*. A bittersweet movie that describes one boy’s crazy Christmas where he was obsessed with getting a BB gun, the boy’s older self narrates and offers perspective on the Christmases of his childhood. Ralphie, the boy, has to deal with a annoying little brother, parents, triple dog daring and bullies. All the while, he keeps dreaming and praying for that BB gun Christmas morning. This 80s movie, set in 1940s Indiana, is a classic that can’t be forgotten in this list.

### #2: *Elf*

Imagine being raised as an elf your whole life and then trying to survive New York City. A classic featuring Will Ferrell as Buddy the elf, *Elf* is a hilarious movie about how a baby got into Santa’s bag

and ended up at his workshop and stayed there. It will make all ages laugh

people have watched or at least heard of. For those who haven’t, it’s explained

are animated versions, but in 2000 there was the live-action film. Jim Carrey play

Kris Kringle and a young girl named Susan Walker who is missing a lot of her



Christmas spirit; it’s a really heart-warming story and movie to watch. With people saying he’s crazy, little girls with no spirit, and adults he hopes to bring together, this is a tale that no one can ever top. It’s a perfect movie if you want to grab some close family or friends and snuggle up with some hot chocolate to watch. Don’t let the black and white scheme fool you, old or not, it’s a great movie.

at Buddy’s antics at trying to bring Christmas spirit to everyone around him, including his rediscovered family consisting of a Scrooge-like father and a brother that doesn’t believe in Santa. Sweet little subplots, with a hint of romance throughout the movie, make it into a nice movie you could watch with everyone.

### #3: *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

Another great classic that I’m sure most

in the title. Mr. Big Green and Mean, aka the Grinch, steals Christmas. A fact about it some people forget is, it was based off a book written by the one and only Dr. Seuss. It was

the green, small-hearted Grinch who lives alone except for his dog Max. It’s movie you can put on for the little kids when all the Christmas specials like Rudolph are done that will



### #4: *Miracle on 34th Street*

actually written before ‘The Cat in the Hat’ and in 2000, it was turned into a hilarious movie. Now there

you watch the original or one of the remakes, you can’t deny a classic like this movie. A story of

### #5: *The Santa Clause*

Imagine your dad scaring Santa off the roof, causing him to fall, and so your dad becomes the new Santa. As crazy as it sounds, that’s the whole plot of this hilarious movie, starring Tim Allen. This movie focuses on Allen catching Santa during his trip around the world and having to take his place. With his young son encouraging him along the way, elves, an ex-wife who thinks him to be batty, and, of course, more elves, it’s a hilarious comedy Christmas movie that would be great for the whole family to watch together.

## AMC’s Top 5 Holiday Classics

### 1. *It’s a Wonderful Life*

Whether or not you have your own guardian angel hovering, the lesson here is that it’s not money that makes you rich.

### 2. *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*

This sixties stop-motion-animation movie is impossibly cute, right down to Sam the Snowman

### 3. *National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation*

Decking the halls and other traditions are all colossal failures for the Griswold family -- riotous because it hits close to home.

### 4. *A Charlie Brown Christmas*

Charlie Brown sets out to find the true meaning of Christmas in this animated anti-commercialism classic.

### 5. *Home Alone*

A game changer for the Christmas-movie category: it has action, like a zip line to the neighbors’ house.



# Interstellar Review

## “Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night”

By Charles Beers

When I left the theater after watching *Interstellar*, three things were reverberating in the depths of my mind. The first was the thought-provoking questions the movie posed, as well as the truly mind-boggling twist that upends everything you thought you knew about the adventure. The second was my own inner turmoil as I struggled to place this sci-fi epic somewhere on the list of Christopher Nolan's greatest films. Did it dethrone *The Dark Knight* or *Inception*, or was it even that good in the first place? The last was I couldn't shake that headache that follows any intriguing movie, a result of the desire to know about the director's inner motives and also to get Han Zimmer's ear-shattering, yet addictive, soundtrack out of my subconscious.

It's been nearly a month since I saw the movie, and I believe, as the awards season draws near, that this is as good a time as any to evaluate one of the year's most ambitiously divisive films.

To start off, was the movie any good? In my opinion, it was exceptional. I was worried going in that Nolan would focus too much on explaining the worlds that he created and stray too far away from the true heroes of the story. However, Nolan navigates around these narrative traps and makes sure the audience is emotionally invested at every step in this seemingly endless journey. In one particularly moving scene, Nolan demonstrates his mastery of blending scientific and emotional story elements into one incredibly moving work of art. During one of the astronauts' missions to examine a planet and see whether or not it can sustain human life, the main characters spend about an hour

trying to battle the nature of the planet and escape with the information they need. In that short span of time, decades pass aboard the ship they left in orbit, and also back on Earth, where the explorers' families feel the inevitable strain of time. Not only does Matthew McConaughey's character realize that he has lost his chance to see his children grow up and even start families of their own through watching some incredibly intense video journals, but he has also caused his family to lose faith in his return home, making him feel immense guilt when staring at the sorrowful faces of his abandoned children. Every character is played perfectly in this movie, emphasizing the hard-hitting consequences of each and every decision made by the crew, which ultimately makes every second of the film engaging.



I do have some gripes with the film, mainly in the fact that some characters feel rushed and overlooked.

For instance, McConaughey's daughter Murph, played by Oscar winner Jessica Chastain, is presented as the protagonist on Earth who

felt like an artificial plot device. But perhaps my main problem with the movie is, while it handles its scientific subject matter extraordinarily well, I think it assumes too much of the audience when presenting the topics of interstellar travel. In the beginning, during the first stages of the journey, the explorers took the time to illustrate what they were doing and how the complex process of space travel worked, making it easier and more enjoyable for viewers

struggles to continue the research needed to save Earth from extinction. She clearly overshadows the brother, whose story is almost treated as an afterthought for the last third of the movie. Additionally, there is a twist in the middle of the narrative that also left me feeling slightly disappointed, as a central character to the plot makes an ex-

to follow along. However, by the film's mind-boggling conclusion, I felt like I was running a race. While I was panting and struggling desperately to reach the finish line on my final lap, the filmmakers were already accepting their awards on the podium. The film holds no punches in its ending, and it definitely makes the audience members use their brains. However, unlike *Inception*'s ending, which was easier to follow due to the simplistic ambiguity of its final scene, *Interstellar* throws tons of images, symbols, and references to extraterrestrial beings in a matter of minutes, catching me completely off-guard and making me feel like a spinning top again. However, in spite of these occasional missteps, *Interstellar* is a truly remarkable film due to its powerful acting, careful

and meticulous representation of the subject matter, and its balance of scientific and emotional storylines.

So, where does it rank? Before watching this movie I had seen only *The Dark Knight* trilogy, *Inception*, and *Man of Steel* (which I still count on this list because Nolan was listed as the producer). Out of this bunch of stellar movies, my top three would be, in this order: *Inception*, *The Dark Knight*, and then *The Dark Knight Rises*. However, I believe *Interstellar* has the power to knock *Rises* out of its third place spot among my favorite Christopher Nolan films. While it doesn't reach the emotional intensity of *The Dark Knight* or the engagement of the deceptively complex *Inception*, it does hold its own as a unique sci-fi journey. I was amazed at how far *Interstellar* would go and how many boundaries it pushed. The graphics were amazing to look at, the new worlds felt fresh and innovative, and even the ending, while confusing, went in a direction that I thought would be dismissed. I love Christopher Nolan movies because they always make me think, and *Interstellar* is no exception. Here, Nolan has faith in the audience to start questioning deeper ideas and even our future as a species, which is where the narrative truly shines. One day I hope critics look back and re-evaluate *Interstellar* as the masterpiece it is, and redact some of the negative reviews of the movie. But for now let's hope that the movie goes far during the awards season and earns the recognition it deserves for the boundaries it pushed. Until then, we are clear for takeoff.



# NHL Coverage: Fire on the Ice

## Winning Islanders Are Reigniting Ancient New York Rivalry

By Vincent Fredericks

The Islanders, New York's losing hockey team for years, is making a surprising comeback this season. With other New York teams in a variety of sports coming up short and disappointing fans, the Islanders are the only New York team worth talking about.

The New York Islanders are playing strong games during their final season at the Nassau Coliseum.

They'll be moving to Brooklyn next season, contending for first place in the NHL standings. If these past games are any indication, they're planning on a lasting comeback. There's much more work ahead before they fully convince everyone, but Tavares, the veteran captain of the team, appears to have been rewarded for his decision to remain loyal to the team that picked him first out

of everyone in the 2009 NHL Draft.

"They drafted me, invested a lot in me as far as being part of turning

suddenly, and probably never will be, an Islanders town. If that didn't happen in any of the years from 1980-84, when they

they were at their best, were deeply detested by a large segment of the hockey fan populace around the tri-state area.



things around," Tavares told ESPN.com. However, not all of New York is excited about the Islanders' comeback. Greater New York is not

won four Stanley Cups and 19 straight playoff series, it never is going to happen.

In fact, the Islanders, even in the past when

The Islanders served as both the prime rival and tormenter of the Rangers, who were then, are now, and always will be the king of a larger part

of the state. The Devils have tried for most of the past 25 years to serve as the Rangers' surrogate rival, and there have been some lasting memories borne out of that to be sure, but the Islanders are still the main nemesis. 2014 has been a relatively depressing year for New York sports teams. New York teams in baseball, football, and basketball (apart from the Knicks), are having difficult seasons, raising the ire of many fans. As it stands now, supporters of New York sports teams across the board are feeling dejected as they move into 2015.

If the Islanders can be the standout for all of New York, so be it. They want a taste of the Stanley Cup again and they're working exceptionally well for it.

# Jeopardy Night Scores Big!

may not get past him. I think his strengths tend to be my weaknesses. I think we were fairly evenly matched but I wasn't confident that I was going to beat him.

Q: How did you enjoy the evening as a whole?

D: I really enjoyed the evening. I thought it was a fun experience, I enjoyed my participation in it and I would definitely do it again.

Q: There are reports that the Class of 2015 will be hosting a second competition. Would you be up for a second attempt at winning the Jeopardy crown?

D: I would love to participate again. I would like to see the same process where people take a qualifying test and we can see more students get involved. And that's all I have to say about that.

Q: Do you have any suggestions for the future?

Are there any elements of the event that you would like to see improved in future competitions? D: I thought it was well run. For the mostly part, the technology was good and there weren't many flaws in that sense. I thought it ran pretty smoothly.

I then went on to talk with the reigning champion, Mr. Schwendemann. Q: Are you an avid follower of Jeopardy? S: I watch Jeopardy every night if I am home in time

and I play along like the

online test every year in hopes of landing a spot on the show.

Q: What was your favorite Jeopardy question from the night?

S: I loved the baseball stadium category - I just couldn't buzz in in time - argh!

Q: What was your reaction when you defeated both Mr. Donovan and Caitlin Knowles? Did you expect to take down these intellectual pow-

S: I fully expected to lose - that's how much I respect both Mr. Donovan & Caitlin Knowles - I'm known more for my comedy than my intellect!

Q: What would be your ideal Jeopardy category? Your worst?

S: Shakespeare is my ideal category - my worst - anything involving geography.

Q: Did you enjoy the event? How would you describe being on your very own pseudo-game show?

S: I had a blast - I was nervous - believe it or not - I just didn't want to embarrass myself. Q: There are reports that the Class of 2015 will be hosting a second competition. Would you be up for defending your crown?

S: Always go out when you're on top - I will be in the audience next year cheering on my successor.





# SPORTS

## Huntington Fencing Fights for Kuver Team Remembers Inspirational Coach For New Season

By Hanae Wada

This season for the Huntington fencing team is a huge change. On July 1st 2014, former head coach, Alan Kuver passed away due to esophageal cancer. He was an inspiration to many of the alumni fencers and the previous fencers on the team. Rumors have been around if the fencing team will still continue, but as the winter season has come around, Athletics Director, Georgia McCarthy confirmed that the fencing team is still up and ready and will be supplied with a new assistant coach. This season's coaching staff consists of the head coach Mike Fabio, assistant coach Valinda O'Garra and another as-



sistant coach and new to the team Vernon O'Garra. Coach Vernon had fenced on the Huntington fencing team and had attended

personally dedicating my last season to him. In the beginning of the new season, things will be rough and be really different, but it will even out and we will do great. Coach Fabio has been with us and is doing a great job as head coach and the two other coaches are bringing great aspect and skills to our team." Plans have been made to dedicate Coach Kuver throughout the season and Georgia McCarthy has been deciding on performing a memorial before the annual relay comes up in January. Junior epee fencer Elisa

Medina states, "As a whole we will greatly miss Coach Kuver. He was someone



coaches will be tough but successful. We have our favorite coach Mike Fabio and even having alumni fencer from the team, Vernon will be a great honor to have. All of them will push us as hard and Kuver did and it will

who is irreplaceable and meant so much to us, not just for the team, but for the faculty who had the chance to work with him. I know he was one of those people who pushed me to do my best and take risks and I am proudly to say I had an honor to be taught by him. As for the new season, the new

be all worth it by the end of the season." As the new season has begun, Huntington's fencing team will have its first meet on December 8th at 5:00 pm at Jack Abrams STEM Magnet school against Commack High School. Please come out and support the team!

## Huntington Wrestling Looks Competitive

By JAMES ALLEYNE

This winter will be a very competitive one for the wrestlers of Huntington high school. Coming off a fourth place league finish last season, returning champs such as Jonny Arceri, Kyle Mock and Joseph Puca look to improve that placing this season. League place winners Ethan Dwyer and Jorge Villela, and first round-league tournament match winners Jared Leake, Will

Thomas and Carlos Pereira are also key wrestlers in the blue devil line up.

mark. Arceri compiled a 35-3 record as a sophomore and he is the only

season," Smith said. "We have some of the best wrestlers in the state."



Huntington has compiled a record of 570-163-7 record in 65 seasons of competition. The wrestling program is one of the strongest athletic programs offered by Huntington. Although they lack-depth in their lineup the wrestlers they have are extreme-

Puca returns to the mat after going 31-5. Mock is back after a great season last winter that saw him compile at a 32-3

Huntington freshman to ever win a Suffolk wrestling crown. "We are optimistic about the coming

ly strong and talented at what they do. We look forward to seeing a successful season from the blue devils wrestling squad.

### Key Stats From the 2013-2014 Season

- Huntington is 57-19 over the past seven seasons.
- During that span the Blue Devils won the league dual meet title in 2008, were co-champs in 2009, finished third in 2010 and 2011, placed fourth last year and fifth in 2012.
- The team finished fourth in the league tournament in five of those seven years, was second in 2010 and third in 2013.
- Arceri compiled a 35-3 record as a sophomore and is 101-19 over the past three seasons on the varsity. He is the only Huntington freshman to ever win a Suffolk wrestling crown.