

THE REBELLION

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WALPOLE HIGH SCHOOL

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Mike Smith brings “DUDE. be nice” campaign to Walpole



Photo/ Otero family

ABOVE: Mike Smith poses with junior Alex Otero and sophomore Megan Fisher in the cafeteria after the assembly.

By Brianna Conley
Class of 2015

Clad in a “Dude-Be-Nice” beanie, numerous arm tattoos, a black “Omaha: We don’t coast” t-shirt and shaggy shoulder-length hair, Mike Smith fittingly looks exactly like what his job title suggests: a “Professional Teenager.” This thirty-year-old teenager, however, does not live in his parents’ basement. Rather, in addition to being a motivational speaker, he is the CEO of two non-profit organizations, the creator and producer of “The Har-

bor TV,” and promoter for popular skater clothing brands. As Mr. Smith took the Walpole High School auditorium stage on March 26 for four separate assemblies (one for each student class), he recounted the defining moments of his own adolescence to convey to the student body his lessons of kindness, acceptance, and sincerity.

Although Mr. Smith changed the format of the presentation for the different classes, he fixated on two main themes: “Finding your Calvin,” and “Leaving a legacy.”

Raised in Imperial, Nebraska, Mr. Smith was not an ideal student in high school: as a talented yet arrogant athlete, he maintained a C average and treated others with disrespect. Then on one evening after his father had been diagnosed with cancer, his mother told him a harsh truth.

“We’re not proud of the man you have become,” Mr. Smith recollected.

Ashamed of his actions, he stripped his walls of all his athletic trophies and academic awards. He then took a sharpie and wrote down all of the things that were important to him: things like teammates, family, kindness, and compassion. Above his door that night, he scrawled the following question: “What’s your legacy?”

Through this story, Mr. Smith encouraged students to reflect on the legacy they will leave after they go on to college. He spoke the harsh truth that the “things” high school students care about from instagram likes to sports records will not matter to anyone in the future. Rather, he said students need to live passionately to leave a meaningful and lasting legacy.

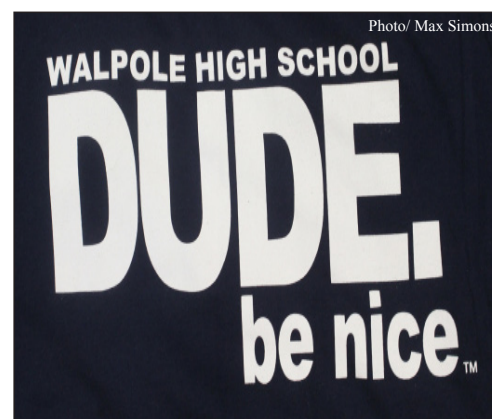
“He was realistic about telling us who we are,” said senior Danny Bean, “and did not attempt to avoid the truth of our generation.”

“How will you be remembered? What will your legacy be?” said Mr. Smith.

In the second half of the presentation, Mr. Smith spoke about his senior-year transformation after befriending a quiet freshman named Calvin. Because of that friendship, Mr. Smith spoke about the values of acceptance and kindness.

In other words, he encouraged Walpole High students to “find [their] Calvin.”

At the conclusion of the Senior Class assembly, Mr. Smith surprised the Walpole High School Student Council Advisor Ms. Kerry McMenimen by introducing a sixteen minute “Dude. Be Nice” video created by students to honor their teacher. The video included clips of Mike Smith,



Photo/ Max Simons

alumni, current students, and Ms. McMenimen’s family — all thanking Ms. McMenimen for her meaningful actions in the Walpole community.

“It was truly rewarding being able to recognize such an underappreciated member of our school community,” said Student Council Secretary Annie Gallivan.

Later in the day, Mr. Smith talked with students in the cafeteria and posed for pictures. Throughout that day, many students reacted positively to his presentation.

Senior Kody McCann said, “Mike Smith’s message is the only message I have never forgotten. He is so down to earth and his story is simple, but powerful. I have seen him three times and he doesn’t get old.”

Changes to school calendar are still uncertain

By Meghan O’Meara
Class of 2016

The Walpole School Committee met on Thursday, March 12 to discuss possible changes to the calendar for both the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years. This year, the late start combined

with the six snow days pushed the end of the school year back to June 26. To avoid this late release next year, the School Committee School Committee sent out a survey on Friday, February 27 to parents and employees regarding the calendar and used these results to propose an amended calendar for next year as well as the end of this school year.

There were a total of 1,104 survey responses and 289 comments. Eighty-four percent of respondents wanted to reduce number of religious holidays—allowing excused absences for religious reasons for students and employees—and avoid conducting test or exams on those days, reduce the number of early release days, and

combine February vacation and April vacation into one vacation in March.

The modifications made to the school calendar are meant to account for snow days and avoid the extension of the school year into late June.

“Schools are very hot and not air-conditioned,” said Superintendent Lincoln Lynch, “and people basically feel that effective learning doesn’t take place during the last few days of June.”

A major potential change to the calendar is one unified March vacation, which replaces both February and April vacation. This change in particular has sparked controversy among parents, students, and faculty. Many students are in favor of the March vacation because they want to end the school year as early as possible.

Freshman Danny O’Leary said, “I’d like [a March vacation.] I think that it would make [the school year] a lot easier, and February is a waste of a vacation since Christmas vacation is right before it.”

However, some people do not think that making such a major change to the school calendar is necessary.

History teacher Christopher Jean said, “There is no need to overreact to one particularly brutal winter and jump to a conclusion.”

Administration used feedback from the survey to construct a potential calendar for next year. They propose students start school on Wednesday September 2, and the school year ends on May 24 for seniors, June 10 for everyone else. With this proposed schedule, students have a full day of school on Yom Kippur and Election day, but not Good Friday. The potential calendar also shortens February vacation by having an early release on Friday and no school Monday or Tuesday. However, students return to school on Wednesday.

“What we’re gaining in summation is we’re gaining 5 school days during the year,” said Superintendent Lynch, “and we’re moving the end of school up a week in June and allowing for 5 plus days from June 10th on.”

The proposed calendar is not final and there is a commission of administrations, staff, parents, school committee members to decide on the calendar. The School Year Calendar Committee will meet to discuss the calendar and make possible changes, but administration feel that the current proposed calendar will work academically.

Superintendent Lynch said, “We’ve been guided by the survey and the majority of comments for what is in the general good for the majority of all students.”

Graphic/ Ellie Hilty



Photo/ Max Simons

Make March Matter p.10-11



Photo/ Alex Otero

Boys Lacrosse p.18



Photo/ Kaitlin Brown

New Athletic Director p.20

School Committee votes to increase student fees

“That would be awesome because we’re getting out so late this year.”
—Sophomore Mia Straccia

“I think that it’s a good idea because going to school in the summer is a lot harder.”
—Senior Larry McCarthy

“I think that would actually help if we get out earlier because we get more summer.”
—Freshman Zach Schultz

“There’s no need to overreact to one particularly brutal winter and jump to a conclusion.”
—History Teacher Christopher Jean

“I like vacations how they are.”
—Sophomore Tess Lawlor

“I would be fine with that. It’s my ideal situation since summer would be longer.”
—Freshman Lena Astarjian

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THE WALPOLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND CLASS OF THE MONTH

JANUARY

SENIOR	MICHAEL MAZZOTTA
Mike is a conscientious student and a natural leader in the classroom. Earning excellent grades throughout the semester, Mike also made insightful contributions to class discussions. Whether working individually or in a small groups, Mike's work ethic, intellect, and insight are admirable and in addition, have a positive influence on his classmates. Mrs. Karen Sullivan	
JUNIOR	JULIE HINTON
There is one word to describe Julie's achievement in Pre-Calculus during the month of January, namely "perfection." Julie is the only student out of my two sections of Pre-calculus to receive a perfect score on our two-day midyear exam, which was the culminating assessment for a semester's worth of trigonometry concepts. The exam included questions of both the multiple-choice format and the free response variety. One day was with calculator and the other was without. It did not make a difference to Julie. She mastered it all. Her work was flawless. Julie understands not only the overarching concepts and is also attentive to the details. It is incredibly rare that a student would not make a single mistake on a 2-day exam. To cap off the month, Julie scored a perfect score on the next quiz, which covered sequences, our first non-trigonometric topic of the course. Julie has been a strong mathematics student throughout the year, but her work in January was particularly impressive, making her deserving of the honor of Student of the Month. Mrs. Kathleen Milne	
SOPHOMORE	ALEXANDER CERQUEIRA
Alex is a student in my Advanced Accounting course. To say that Alex is always on task and ready to learn would be an understatement. Alex is always prepared and willing to contribute during class discussions. He enthusiastically solves all assignments and volunteers to help any student who may be struggling with the material. In addition, he has become a leader to his other classmates, as they look to Alex as a measure in which to judge their own success. Finally, he has maintained a solid "A" average since the beginning of the year and is always respectful to everyone in class. Alex is an invested student with limitless potential. For all these reasons and more, Alex truly deserves to be January's Student of the Month. Mr. Joseph Braccini	
FRESHMAN	LUCCAS FERREIRA
It is my pleasure to nominate Luccas for freshman Student of the Month. Luccas has done a wonderful job all year in a highly competitive Spanish II Honors class. This term he has a 99% average. Not only is Luccas successful in all the language skills, he is the nicest young man you will meet. I can count on Luccas to always have a positive attitude and to help other students when necessary. To any question asked, Luccas is the first with his hand raised. As I have stated, he is hard working and quite helpful. Mrs. Joanne Sprague	

ACTIVITY AWARD

KEVIN XIA	MATH TEAM	MRS. K MILNE
Kevin was the math team's top scorer in the month of January. He earned 16 out of a possible 18 points with perfect scores in both Algebra1 and Geometry. Kevin was not only named as high scoring junior for the meet, but he is also listed among the top juniors in the entire league, which is comprised of 36 teams. Kevin has been making valuable contributions to the math team since his freshman year, both in the individual rounds and in the team round.		

CLASS OF THE MONTH

FRESHMAN CP2 ENGLISH	PERIOD 7	MS.GOULD
I would like to nominate my period 7 Freshmen CP2 English class for the January Class of the Month. This month we have been working on reading, researching and writing about Animal Farm. The students were asked to conduct research on the Russian Revolution and then present that research to the class. During the research process, the students already began to make connections to the text and talk about the history in a passionate and critical way. The students work independently and diligently during class research and writing days, and they are open to pushing themselves to learn and new skills along the way. We have been using the chrome books during the writing process so that Ms. Garrity and I can make individual comments during the process. Not only do the students listen to the comments, they ask questions to make sure that they are addressing them correctly. As a result, the presentations & essays they have produced are quite elevated for the class standards. I respect and want to commend this class for their dedication and respect as well as their energy. It has been a pleasure to teach, challenge, and get to know this class.		

FEBRUARY

SENIOR	BRIAN TRACEY
Brian consistently participates in discussion, has a 100% homework average, and works independently on alternate projects with other non-AP students. He is a pleasure to have in class and I am thrilled that the combined leveled class did not discourage him from studying his fifth year of French. Mrs. Lisa Osborne	
JUNIOR	NICOLE BOGRETT
Nicole has a positive attitude towards the class every time she walks into the room. She has become a leader in the classroom and helps the class stay on task. Nicole takes initiative to come ask for extra help or work she will miss BEFORE she misses a class. Nicole continues to strive to do better in class. Mrs. Megan Schwartz & Mr. Mitch Mortali	
SOPHOMORE	NICOLE HAY
Nicole is an enthusiastic participant in class. She always has her homework done and frequently raises her hand to answer questions. She also knows when to ask questions and when to seek extra help. Nicole has shown improvement since she transferred into my class. I proudly nominate her for Student of the Month. Mrs. Kathleen Milne	
SOPHOMORE	ROBERT WATERS
Since the beginning of the school year, Robert has demonstrated his love for programming by spending numerous amounts of time working on his assignments at home and after school. He is always looking for ways to make his programs more user-friendly. In short, Robert's love of programming and his willingness to go beyond the minimum requirements make him a worthy candidate for Student of the Month. Mr. Jay Neubauer	
FRESHMAN	WILLIAM PORTER
Billy has been having an excellent year in Science. He is working as a member of the STEM group, and as such has just completed a science fair project, which was outstanding; not only was the experiment itself a thoughtful and relevant choice, but his analysis and presentation were of exemplary quality. Billy has a bright future ahead of him and he is a positive leader among his peers; he makes hard work and success the new "cool"! Ms. Sue Wick	

ACTIVITY AWARD

JEANNE CONROY	MATH TEAM	MRS. K. MILNE
Jen was captain of her team and was instrumental in moving us up one position in the standings from 9th to 8th place out of 36 teams in the Southeastern Massachusetts Mathematics league. Jeanne also has been a valuable asset to the team since she joined us.		
LEAH ERWIN	YEARBOOK	MS. WALLESTON & MS. GOULD
As a senior, Leah has a personal stake in the quality of this book. She is helpful beyond description to our project. Please honor Leah's unwavering dedication to yearbook this month with this award.		

CLASS OF THE MONTH

PRE-CALCULUS HONORS	PERIOD 2	MS. WATTERS
This class has such a positive outlook on learning and life. They are particularly supportive of each other in and outside of class. They are always giving encouraging words, fist pumps and high-fives during class and especially prior to assessments. We have created a very collaborative, safe, positive environment in the classroom where they are challenged and successful. They inspire me!		

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

LAWRENCE MCCARTHY	MR. SZYMANSKI
Sometimes there really is the "all around nice guy" type of student who is polite, shows respect to others and themselves, and otherwise does all that is required. Larry fits the bill. He was also the manager of the varsity boys' basketball team. Larry works hard and is cooperative. He often remains after class to ask me a question to further his understandings. I am pleased to have had Larry for two years and can think of no better good citizen.	



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Stina Cofsky elected to student council state board

By Lucy Lynch
Class of 2015

This year marked the 38th annual Massachusetts Association of Student Councils (MASC) State Conference – a conference attended yearly by Walpole Student Council Advisor Kerry McMenimen and twenty of her Student Council officers that takes place in Hyannis each March. This year, as in years past, Walpole Student Council garnered success in their work, achieving the status of Gold Council of Excellence for the third year in a row, based on their cumulative “Binder of Excellence” that is graded by the State Executive Board. In addition to the announcement of Excellence awards, each year at MASC, a new Executive Board is elected. Last week, for the first time in school history, Walpole High School sent a student – junior Stina Cofsky – to the state podium, where she was elected to the office of 2015-2016 MASC State Secretary.

In Kerry McMenimen’s eight total years as Walpole Student Council advisor, she can note the remarkable growth and expansion of her council. Just a few years ago, Walpole StuCo was not a name to receive national, state, or even regional recognition. That has since changed. Two years ago, Walpole Student Council attended their first national conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. Four students, now current seniors, Annie Gallivan, Lucy Lynch, Mary Hinton, and Kody McCann attended the event with McMenimen. At this conference, they learned of their recognition



as a National Council of Excellence, an award only given to a handful of high schools in the United States. Here, also, Kody McCann befriended Southeastern Massachusetts Association of Student Councils (SEMASC) Executive Director Linda Francis, who urged him to run for SEMASC office in his junior year. While McCann was unsuccessful in his two campaigns for SEMASC President and Vice President, he was the first to run for a position outside of Walpole’s council. His campaigns and Walpole’s awards of Excellence from the state and national level laid the foundation for Walpole’s next campaign.

When current junior and Student Council Assistant Secretary Stina Cofsky attended last summer’s National Student Council conference in Florida

with McMenimen and fourteen other Walpole StuCo members, she realized her goal of running for Massachusetts State Secretary. After seeing motivational speakers and leaders in Orlando, Cofsky said, “I’m just going to go for it because I love Student Council and no one in Walpole has ever done this before.” The national conference became one of the best experiences of Stina Cofsky’s life – the enthusiasm and individuality of each student she met from around the country drove her to want the experience of Student Council on a more enriching level.

Thus, earlier this year, Stina Cofsky began her campaign on the platform of trying to create a better school culture by reducing negativity. In addition to her “Stina For Secretary” Twitter account,

poster, buttons, and stickers, she had the daunting task of writing a speech to read to hundreds of Massachusetts students. Following her speech at MASC, Cofsky was informed that she was one of two finalists – out of five total candidates – for the position of Secretary. And after the re-voting between Cofsky and the other finalist, Justin Petrie of Tewksbury Memorial High School, she was announced as the new MASC State Secretary on Friday, March 13 at the Hyannis Resort and Conference Center.

Even with the support from Walpole Student Council and student council friends from other towns, Cofsky was stunned and thrilled to hear her name announced as the new State Secretary. “When I took my SATs the next day, I found myself drifting off so many times because I kept thinking about how happy I was to have been elected,” said Cofsky. Her win stands as a huge accomplishment for Walpole Student Council itself and for Cofsky. Earning this position was important to her as Student Council has taught her to embrace individuality and positivity, like her campaign platform, which is definitely something she wants to embody when she begins her term as MASC Secretary this summer. Her advisor is especially proud of this accomplishment. “Stina’s campaign proves the importance of fostering leadership in our schools. Kids want to be leaders and to have their opinions heard. Stina’s election shows how our community has many great leaders and a bright future,” said McMenimen.

After-school intervention programs cut due to grant decrease

By Anna Van Der Linden
Class of 2016

When students are struggling academically, there are a number of solutions they can turn to. From National Honors Society peer tutors to teachers who will sit down after school to help a student understand a lesson, Walpole High wants to ensure that students get the most out of their education. For some, a useful way to get extra help was attending the After-school intervention programs.

These after-school programs primarily worked with those who need significant help in a certain academic subject in order to bring up their MCAS scores. The sessions in this program included Homework Club, Writing Lab, Math Lab, and Biology Lab. Although these labs were available to students with lower MCAS scores or those who simply needed to catch up in a certain subject, students could be recommended for the labs by their teachers.

Due to a decrease in the Academic Services Grant, Walpole High School stopped running the After-school intervention programs as of February 26.

“I would love for the programs to return this year. Right now, we have run out of funds,” said Mr. Connor.

The Academic Services Grant has been fluctuating across the state primarily due to a lack of need, as MCAS scores have been increasing. The grant is usually higher when scores need to be raised, as the funds can be used for special academic assistance programs. As a result, higher scores are rewarded with less extra money.

“For example, if MCAS scores improved significantly, the funds would be reduced because there would be less evidence of need,” said Walpole Assis-

stant Superintendent Dr. Jean Kenney.

For Walpole High specifically, grant money has been decreasing slowly in recent years; however, the grant suffered a massive cut from the 2013-2014 school year to the 2014-2015 school year. Funding went down from \$13,200 to \$7,700.

Dr. Kenney said, “It has generally had two parts to it: one part for intervention and support services for students who have not scored at the proficient level in MCAS for either ELA, Math, or Science during the school year and one part to provide summer services during the summer school sessions.”

The school system previously provided supplemental instruction for grades 4-12 as well as tutoring for high schoolers. In later years, Dr. Kenney, Mr. Imbusch, and the assistant principals met to create a new plan to serve students after school.

“We focused on two areas: homework and direct intervention for specific subjects,” said Kenney. The programs were completely dependent on the grant, and the sharp decrease in funds made these cuts inevitable.”

The After-school intervention programs were widely used across Walpole High. While the labs were commonly used for support when a student’s teacher could not

stay after school, the Homework Club program served a slightly different role: keeping students out of detention.

“Homework Club was a good alternative to detention for students who didn’t do their homework or needed some assistance doing it,” Mr. Connor said, “We could see more students getting hour long office detentions for failing to do homework when it’s due.”

Mr. Connor called the loss of these programs “disappointing,” as these interventions were purely for the benefit of Walpole High students. “If more money was available, then we could pay the staff to stay after and resume

the programs,” Connor said. If the programs are removed, students will probably need more one-on-one time with teachers in order to get the help they need. Teachers will still be able to refer kids to the Peer-to-Peer tutoring lab. As for the return of these programs, Kenney and Connor are staying positive. “I plan to carefully watch for the opportunity for additional funding and will apply as soon as any becomes available,” Dr. Kenney said. “These programs will be reinstated as soon as funds allow.”

Mr. Connor also said, “I anticipate the programs returning/restarting at the start of the next fiscal school year.”

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WHS pledges to stop the use of the "R-word"

By Erin Pitman
Class of 2016

Students and teachers encouraged the entire student body to end the use of the "R-word" on Wednesday, March 4. At the table set up in the cafeteria, students signed the "Spread the Word to End the Word" banner to symbolically show their support. Chromebooks were also available, so individuals could pledge their online support for the cause. Adding to the 555,000 people around the nation who have already given their support to the cause, over 250 Walpole High School students and faculty members registered to take the pledge during the four lunches.

Although some students helped implement the advocacy campaign, many members of the student body became aware of this issue because of the project.

"I feel the 'R-word' is a very derogatory word and this is a great way to spread awareness that this word should not be used to talk about any person," said junior Catherine Paul.

The campaign was a collaborative effort between numerous student groups. Mrs. Mary Caine, a teacher in the Career and Education program, headed the campaign with the help of Student Council and Best Buddies. Mr. Mitch Mortali, the director of Best Buddies, and Ms. Kerry McMenimen, the Student Council supervisor, also joined Mrs. Caine in leading the campaign.

"This year, we did announcements and video clips on the daily news of how

the word impacts people with intellectual abilities," said Caine, "and in the cafeteria, students are taking the actual pledge on the 'R-word' website, so we can be able to tally how many students from Walpole High School took the pledge."

In past years, the Rebel Report News has called attention to promoting respect by agreeing to stop the 'R-word'; however, this is the first year that students could make the pledge to stop using the "R-word." The campaign also distributed flyers around the school to explain the harmful effect the "R-word" can have on special education students. The flyer stated the following: "The 'R-word' is the word 'retard(ed)'. Why does it hurt? The 'R-word' hurts because it is exclusive. It's offensive. It's derogatory."

"I feel like it is our job to promote tolerance and make the school a safe, warm, and embracing place for all," said Mr. Mortali. "If students feel that way, it is easier to learn. I feel like Walpole High does that and it is mainly a testament to the students."



ABOVE: Career and Education students and teachers aided students in pledging and banner signing during lunch block.
BELOW: Students show support of the movement by signing the Spread the Word to End the Word banner.



Photos/ Christian Carr-Locke and Jack Bushway

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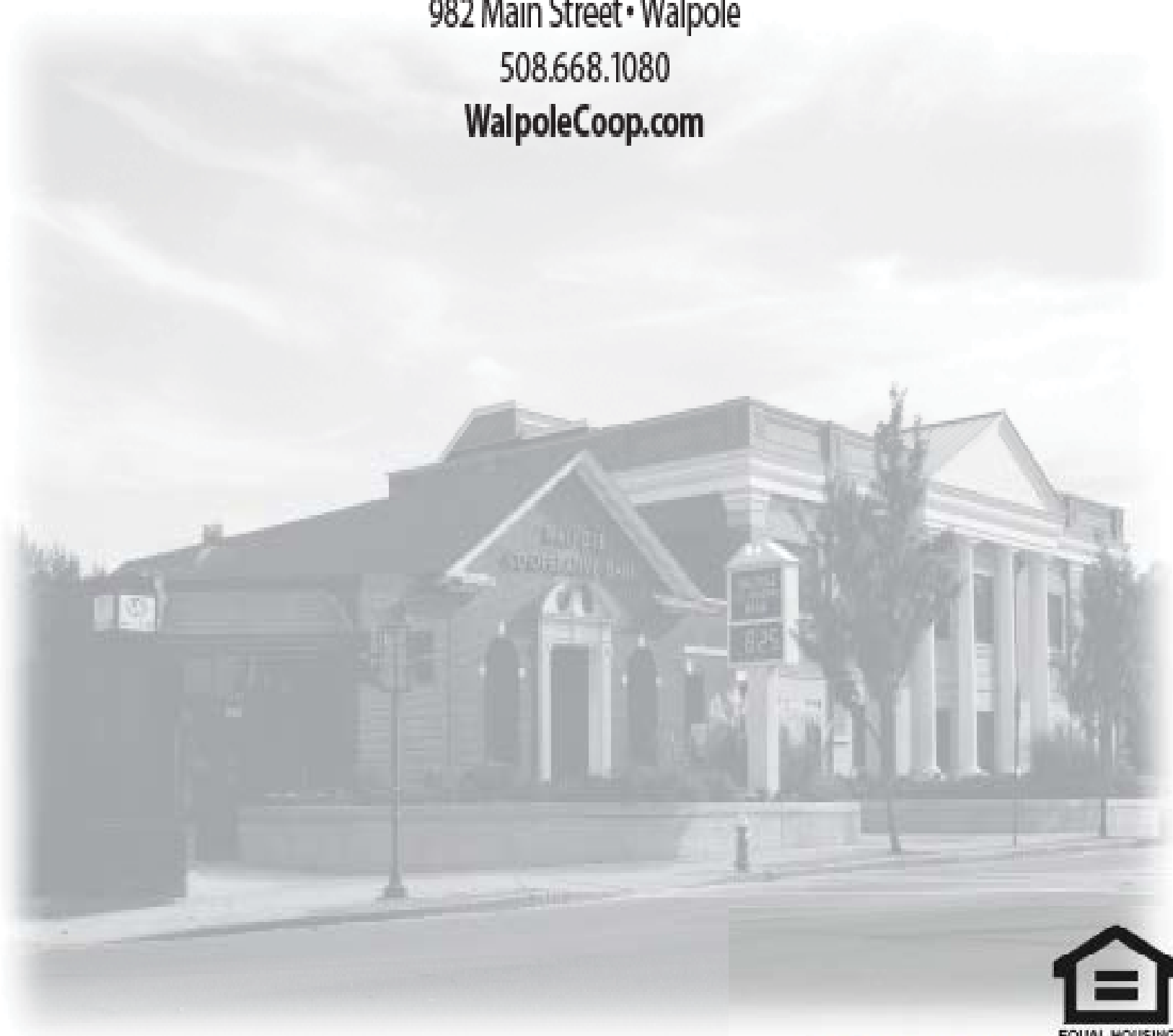


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EDITORIALS

Walpole's alcohol education programs need reform

By the Rebellion Editorial Board

A North Andover mother appeared in court to face charges after hosting a party with underage drinking at her home on Tuesday, March 31. Over 50 guests — including her children — attended the party, where the mother allegedly charged an admission fee of \$5 per person. She was charged with delinquency of a minor, procuring alcohol for a person under 21, and keeping a disorderly house; additionally, she is required to stay alcohol free and to have no contact with any minors other than her children.

While her situation is an extreme (most likely because she charged for entry), her negligence is only abnormal because of her explicit awareness of what most teenagers actually do. According to Walpole's results from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2011 — an anonymous survey given to random public high schools every other year — 23.4% of Walpole teenagers have tried alcohol by the age of 13. Some parents are not aware of this behavior; however, many parents are knowingly ignorant.

Underage drinking is a huge problem in America — in 2013, the Institute for Social Research reported that roughly 68% of high school students have engaged in underage drinking at least once. In Walpole, the majority of youth alcohol education comes from school mandated health classes starting in middle school. Students learn the effects of alcohol on the body and the legal consequences of participating in underage drinking. Additionally, the Walpole Coalition for Drug and

Alcohol Awareness hosts annual video and poster contests to raise awareness in teenagers about drug and alcohol use. However, the focus of both of these programs is why one should not drink and how one can refuse a drink. So what happens when a student does choose to drink? Without any information on responsible drinking readily available to teenagers, how can we expect teenagers to make smart decisions about alcohol?

Underage drinking is a dangerous issue in our society, but what is even more dangerous is teenagers engaging in underage drinking without any knowledge or resources about how to drink responsibly. So rather than preaching an abstinence only approach towards the underage consumption of alcohol, adults instead need to educate teenagers honestly and realistically about not only the consequences of drinking, but also about how to drink responsibly and safely in the event that a teenager does choose to drink.

The first step towards a safer and more effective method of alcohol education is removing myths and stigmas about alcohol. We as a society need to realize that alcohol is not simply a poisonous toxin—it is also not an idealistic remedy for social pressures. When educating teenagers, adults tend to utilize scare tactics and horror stories in order to discourage teenagers from drinking. And although educators try to paint alcohol as a dangerous substance, our culture glorifies the consumption of alcohol. Between beer commercials featuring women

in bikinis and men with six packs and popular artists singing about parties and drinking, minors are frequently exposed to the idea that if one drinks alcohol, they will achieve social idealism. In reality, neither side is correct.

Instead, adults should educate teenagers about what alcohol really is — a normal part of adult culture that has consequences when abused. Responsibility for alcohol education should not be left to schools; instead, parents should honestly educate their children about the dangers of alcohol early on in order to not only teach them why underage drinking is wrong, but also to normalize the idea of alcohol consumption. Parents need to understand that many teenagers will and do drink, and teenagers are far more likely to be honest about their drinking habits if their parents do not overreact about the issue of underage drinking.

Of course, this is a feat easier said than done, as underage drinking does have serious legal consequences and parents are right to want to keep their kids safe. However, the repercussions for irresponsible drinking are even more dangerous; for example, according to the Administrative Office of the Courts, over one million teenagers drove while drunk in 2011, and 8 teenagers die every day from drunk driving. If one has an honest conversation with his or her parents about alcohol, he or she will likely be more comfortable asking for help such as a ride home, which reduces the possibility of drunk driving. The discomfort of asking a parent for guidance is worth the poten-

tially fatal effects of underage drinking. But before teenagers can open up to their parents about drinking, our society needs to change the way we think about and treat alcohol, particularly involving underage drinkers, so that teenagers can safely have these conversations and ask for help when needed.

Because of the stigma surrounding alcohol, teenagers who make the decision to drink often have little to no information on how to drink responsibly. Teenagers need to know about things such as alcohol equivalency so that they understand that a sip of beer is far different than a sip of vodka.

Rather than strictly limit any alcohol consumption until one is an adult, European countries often do not have a drinking age; instead, they introduce alcohol to minors gradually so that they can learn to be responsible when they reach the legal purchase age (which is usually 18). The American cultural stigma of alcohol is completely removed from European society, which allows European teenagers to learn how to drink alcohol safely under the guidance of adults.

The alcohol epidemic is not an issue that legal reform will change; instead, our society and our respective alcohol education programs need to take a different perspective in order to see a change in teenage drinking habits. Underage drinking is an issue that will not fix itself, and it is up to our culture to remove the stigma, provide more information, and hopefully teach teenagers to be safe and responsible whether or not they drink.



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Body cameras may reinstall public trust in police officers

By Abigail Hile, Devin McKinney, and
Andrea Traietti
Class of 2017

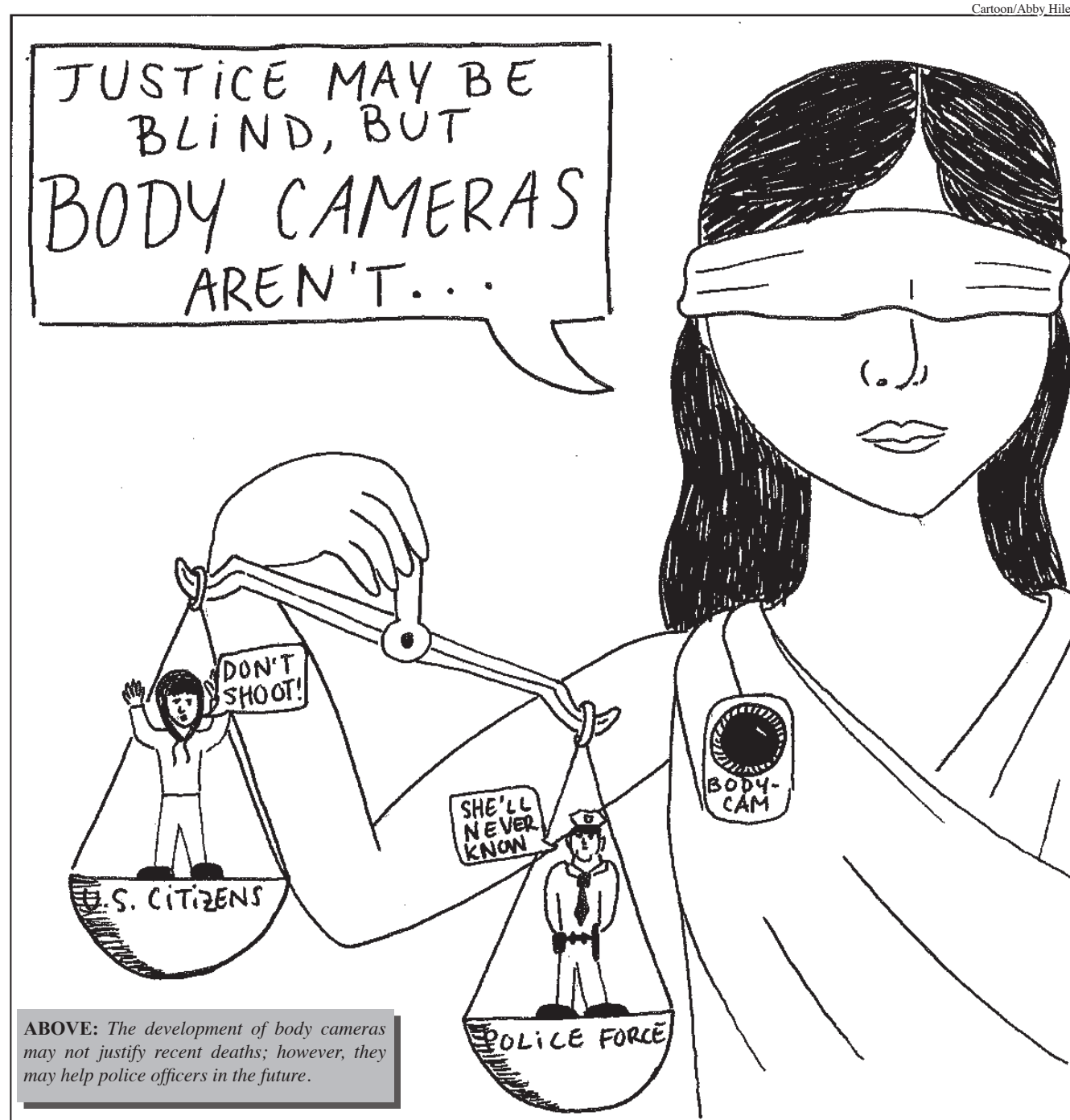
43-year-old father of six Eric Garner, 22-year-old father Oscar Grant, 18-year-old Michael Brown, 17-year-old Trayvon Martin, 12-year-old Tamir Rice. All victims of police brutality. All African American. With so many unjust homicides caused by the individuals paid to uphold justice, how can the public ever learn to trust the police again?

The answer: body cameras.

Since the recent shooting of unarmed teen Michael Brown on August 9, 2014 in Ferguson, Missouri, riots have erupted all across the country due to the fact that officer Darren Wilson, Brown's shooter, was not convicted. Rioters argue that there was an unjust trial for Wilson, and believe racism contributed to both the shooting itself and the trial. The Ferguson incident was just one example of an instance in which body cameras could have allowed for a fair trial, and therefore would have prevented the present controversy surrounding the case.

Following the decision not to put Wilson on trial, Brown's family started a campaign to try to get all on-duty officers to wear body cameras. The campaign has spread like wildfire, even reaching President Obama, who requested \$263 million to fund the purchase of police-worn cameras on Monday, December 1.

The price of the cameras ranges from \$100 to \$900, which many people argue is too much to spend. While the price is high, \$263 million would allow for the purchase of a significant number of cameras. Pro-Vision, a company that is currently the number one supplier of body cameras in America, sells the devices for \$300. With the money that the President requested, over 876,000 cameras can be purchased from Pro-Vision. The US's number two body camera supplier, Taser, sells the devices for \$400, allowing for the purchase of about 657,500 cameras. The investment in the new cameras, combined with



the many body and car cameras already in use, could improve trust and communication among ordinary Americans and officers.

Even more important is the fact that the purchase of the cameras could help defend American rights. Footage from these cameras could serve as evidence in court cases involving police brutality allowing a just trial

for the officer and his or her victim.

The video devices could also serve as a moral compass for the officers themselves. Officers will feel obligated to become more conscious of their actions while on duty, ultimately reducing the amount of scuffles between police officers and citizens. In the 2012 study in the Los Angeles suburb of Rialto, half of the police wore Taser body cameras

while on duty. As a result, the number of use-of-force incidents dropped by 59%.

While the cameras cannot change the racist views of some police officers, or justify the deaths of people like Eric Garner or Michael Brown, they can help make officers more accountable for their actions. Only through this accountability can Americans begin to trust the police force again.

The 2024 Olympics will disrupt Boston's way of life

By Lauren Wigren
Class of 2016

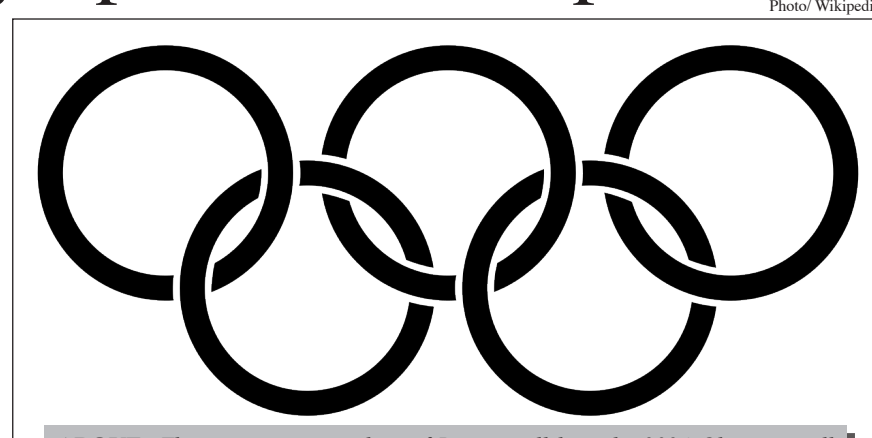
In 2012, British taxpayers contributed nearly £3 billion for security and lavish ceremonies while hosting the Summer Olympics in London. In 2014, Russia spent \$51 billion on the Sochi Winter Olympics—the most expensive Olympic Games held on record.

Hosting the Olympics would be an exciting endeavor. Boston would have an opportunity to display its unique culture and attract people from all over the world. The city would be crowded with tourists, who would spend money in Boston's numerous stores, restaurants, hotels, and local businesses. Bostonians could revel in the pride and prestige that comes from having hosted the Games.

Are Bostonians, however, able to handle the cost?

The Games are expected to cost \$4.5 billion—excluding security. A price that large will inevitably require tax dollars from the general public. Money that would normally be spent on education, healthcare, and infrastructure would instead be put towards the tremendous cost of the Olympics.

One of the basic necessities of a



ABOVE: The announcement about if Boston will host the 2024 Olympics will come from the IOC in 2017.

suitable host is space. If Boston were to be burdened with the responsibility of finding sufficient space to hold the Games, properties that are already in use would have to be sacrificed. Several local businesses and residences would have to relocate, and local parks and open spaces would be occupied for months. According to the Boston 2024 website, current organizers plan to use current facilities for 50% of the needed venues, which will include several college campuses. Furthermore, there are plans to construct an Olympic paradise in South Boston, including the con-

struction of media broadcast centers in the Fort Point area, and an "Olympic Boulevard" on Dorchester Avenue, according to Boston.com. Residents and business owners will inevitably be forced off of their properties.

In April 2013, Boston was reminded just how vital security is during city-wide events. Two bombs went off at the Boston Marathon, killing three and injuring dozens more. The Olympic Games will attract not only Bostonians, but spectators from all over the world, making Boston a primary target for terrorism threats. Boston would have

to take drastic steps in order to ensure the safety of the thousands that will be involved in both the games and the ceremonies. The Olympics would inevitably become a risky and costly endeavor.

While hosting the Olympics may have plenty of advantages, there are several drawbacks that need to be considered, and the people of Boston should ultimately be the deciding voice. Recently, the city of Boston has called for a statewide referendum on the bid. If granted, citizens will get a chance to vote on the issue in the November 2016 election. Bostonians should have been given the opportunity to speak up about the Olympics in the first place, before the bid was made. Whether or not the U.S. Olympic Committee decides to withdraw the bid, the citizens of Boston should at least be allowed the referendum.

The U.S. Olympic Committee should allow the general public, especially the citizens of Boston, to be represented. As for the citizens themselves, they should consider the cost before determining their stance. \$4.5 Billion is already an extravagant amount of money; and with security costs, we may soon find ourselves in a similar position to London and Sochi.



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MAKE MARCH MATTER

In an effort to spice up the seemingly never-ending month of March, the Walpole High School Student Council decided to have several school-wide events during March, a campaign better known as #MakeMarchMatter around the school and on Twitter. Starting with the Winter Ball on March 6, there were nine other events that took place in the past month which included the following: The Hypnotist, the Blood Drive, Mike Smith Live, Into the Woods, the Best Buddies Dance, the Dance Company Show, and the Robotics Competition at Bryant University. "My hope is that it becomes a tradition at Walpole High," said Student Council advisor, Ms. Kerry McMenimen.

WINTER BALL 3/6/15

Snow was not scarce in New England this winter, and neither were attendees at the Winter Ball. While Student Council has orchestrated countless Winter Balls in the past, no dance has ever attracted more students than this year's winter-themed dance with nearly 400 attendees. One of the most anticipated events of Student Council's #MakeMarchMatter campaign, the Winter Ball was originally scheduled for January 24, but due to the snow storm, the dance was moved to March 6. "Our effort to expand the Council this year definitely paid off. It definitely had a huge impact and I think everyone had a lot of fun," said senior Lucy Lynch, President of Student Council.



Photo: Bryan Kelleher

INTO THE WOODS 3/13/15

WHS's Drama Club put on an incredible adaption of the award-winning musical, Into the Woods, from March 13-15. Fairy tales collide in an engaging story that follows a baker and his wife on their quest to reverse a curse. Along the way, they encounter legendary characters like Little Red Riding Hood and Cinderella. Junior Grace Hoegler who played the cow said, "This show was extremely challenging and I think we all worked really hard to make this great show come together. Into the Woods was one of the best shows the Drama Club has put on."



Photo: Alex Otero

DANCE COMPANY 4/2/15

After long practices running from October to March, the members of Walpole High's Dance Company finally got to show off their hard work to sell-out crowds at their "Magnum Opus" shows on Thursday April 2 and Saturday April 4. Closing night was bittersweet for many, especially Senior Captain Rachel Graham and Choreographer Kia Kaizer as their performances were their last of their career with the Dance Company. This was the 10th annual show led by director Rich Kim. Much of the audience "didn't really understand dance or hadn't really been exposed to a wide range of dance before they came to the show," Mr. Kim said.



Photo: Max Simmons

BEST BUDDIES DANCE 3/20/15

Members of Walpole High's Best Buddies club, a group of students dedicated to promoting inclusion of special needs individuals, gathered at Finnegan's Wake for the annual Best Buddies dance on March 7. Students broke out the limbo bar for the first time and tried something new. Junior Julia Adams said, "This was my first time attending the Best Buddies dance, and I really enjoyed interacting with everyone. We had a great time."



Photo: Julia Adams



Photo: Hiromi Kondo

3/5/15 HYPNOTIST

Wish you actually had an excuse for making a complete fool of yourself? On March 5, Comic Hypnotist Frank Santos Jr. visited Walpole High School to hypnotize students. Six boys and six girls were chosen to go on stage, but only ten were able to be hypnotized. Thanks to Mr. Santos, the WHS community is now aware of the talents of these students. Anyone who watched the show could tell you that senior Brian Jackowski holds the title for the next Beyonce. Taking over as the WHS Hypnotist, Frank Santos Jr. did not fail to make the audience laugh out loud this year.



Photo: Mark Callivan

3/21/15 ROBOTICS

Competing in their second FRC (First Robotics Competition) event in the month of March, the WHS Robotics team traveled to Bryant University where they competed against 39 other Massachusetts teams. The RoboRebels placed third overall at Bryant. While the team has shown improvement recently, they failed to qualify for the next competition. "The team really stepped it up at Bryant and proved how quickly we can turn a bad start into a top three robot," said senior Christian DeCelle, a member of the Robotics team.



Photo: Bryan Kelleher

3/10/15 BLOOD DRIVE

Walpole High School came together to donate blood to the American Red Cross on March 10. Over 70 student volunteers gathered in the gym to give blood. Due to the harsh winter, many blood drives had to be canceled and postponed. So, the Red Cross was very gracious for the Walpole students who donated. Senior Nicole Venuto, the blood drive chairperson said, "I felt the blood drive was a great success. We had a great turnout and many willing volunteers donating blood."



Photo: Julia Adams

3/26/15 MIKE SMITH

In his skater attire, complete with a beanie, self-described "professional teenager" Mike Smith spoke to students in a blunt and relatable way. He presented the students with the question, "What is your legacy?" and encouraged them to have a more positive influence on their communities. Students were inspired by Mike Smith's "DUDE. be nice" campaign, which promotes spontaneous acts of kindness. At the end of the assembly, members of Student Council surprised Ms. Kerry McMenimen, advisor of Student Council, with a video thanking her for making WHS a better place.

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ENTERTAINMENT

New show on ABC *Fresh Off the Boat* adds racial diversity to whitewashed television industry



ABOVE: The Huang family stars in ABC's newest sitcom.

By Emily Luong
Class of 2016

Over the years, the entertainment industry — specifically the television sector — has struggled to embrace diversity and continues to cast caucasians for lead roles. While these actors and actresses gain the spotlight, minorities are left in the dust. In an effort to eliminate the lack of diversity on television, ABC created a new series called *Fresh Off the Boat*. This show joins the channel's series *Black-ish* in the crusade to give minorities a chance to make their earned mark in the realm of television. *Black-ish* follows the Johnsons, an upper middle-class African American family and their journey to establish their own cultural identity within their predominantly white neighborhood. Similar in overall plot, premiering on February 4, *Fresh Off the Boat* is based off a memoir of the same name by Chi-

nese American food entrepreneur Eddie Huang. The story focuses on Huang as a child (Hudson Yang) who moves with his family from Washington D.C. to Orlando, Florida so that Eddie's father, Louis (Randall Park), can chase his dream of opening a steakhouse restaurant. Following the big move, the Huang family tries, often humorously, to adjust to the cultural shocks of living in an all-white community. Consisting of predominantly Asian actors and actresses, *Fresh Off the Boat* breaks the tradition of a white-dominated television industry by shedding some light into the everyday lives of Chinese Americans nationwide without being inherently racist or stereotypical.

Fresh Off the Boat is the first American comedy sitcom starring an Asian family since ABC's one season wonder *All American Girl* starring Margaret Cho during 1994. Twenty years later, ABC endeavours again to evoke understanding and interest of minority

cultures among American TV watchers. The number one obstacle in creating a show that centers around a racial group is to make sure that racism and stereotypes do not become a major element. Since *Fresh Off the Boat* is based off a real account of a Chinese boy, the show is not created from ignorant assumptions. While the common misconception about Chinese Americans is that they do not embrace assimilation into American society, the Huangs do just that. In the pilot episode, Louis continuously tries to convince his wife Jessica (Constance Wu) that the family's American midwest-themed steakhouse "Cattleman's Ranch" is the key to achieving the American dream. When Eddie finds himself in a new school dominated by white people, he ditches his homemade lunch of lo mein for Lunchables in order to get a seat at the popular lunch table. Moreover, in a particularly funny scene, when the neighbors come and introduce themselves to Jessica, they are surprised and shocked that her name is not something "more exotic". By showing the Huang's slow adaptation to American social norms with a humorous edge, *Fresh Off the Boat* portrays Chinese Americans as average American citizens and not as a separate, closed off group.

While the Huangs continuously prove to the community that they are making an effort to Americanize, they do uphold familiar characteristics that Chinese Americans watching the show could connect with. In the pilot episode, whilst grocery shopping for Lunchables, a woman approaches Jes-

sica with free samples of potato chips. In a slightly exaggerated scene, Jessica, not knowing the unspoken ways of Americans, takes the whole bowl out of the woman's hands and puts it into her basket. In the second episode, Jessica discovers that Eddie and his younger brothers are doing extremely well in school. Believing that their local school is not challenging enough, Jessica searches for a nearby "Chinese Learning Center" to enroll her boys in. In the fourth episode, the Huangs get a visit from Jessica's sister Connie, Connie's husband, and the sisters' mother. Jessica and Connie end up comparing who finds the most bargains to compete for their mother's affections. Although some people may argue that these instances uphold the Chinese American stereotypes of greed, obsession of school, and frugality, they are relatable and true to some degree to Chinese Americans.

Joining *Black-ish*, *Fresh Off the Boat* ushers in an era of television that will evolve into a multicultural platform in which actors and actresses of all ethnicities and races can be fairly represented. Although shows such as *Fresh Off the Boat* and *Black-ish* provide a much needed spotlight for Chinese Americans and African Americans, they still focus solely on their races for plot points. Hopefully, ABC's latest comedies and sitcoms introduce more diverse television shows and open up roles to minority actors that are about more than just their race, gender, or sexuality in order to expand the range of characters that are normalized within Hollywood.

Marvel launches first female-led television show

By Rachel Spang
Class of 2015

When *Iron Man* took box offices by storm in May 2008, no one could expect the tremendous success that the Marvel Cinematic Universe franchise would see, including over seven billion dollars pulled in at the box office in total. While facing tremendous success both critically and financially, the films of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) franchise have faced some criticism for an egregious lack of diversity in casting. White, male superheroes make up a huge majority of the protagonists, with the only exceptions being Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson) and Gamora (Zoe Saldana) as part of an ensemble of heroes in *The Avengers* and *Guardians of the Galaxy*, respectively. Despite these female heroes and the ladies involved in the ensemble cast of ABC's show *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.*, the MCU never created a female-headed project since its inception in 2008 before the premiere of *Agent Carter*, a spin-off of the popular *Captain America* films, in February 2015.

Agent Carter's greatest strength is its complete acknowledgement of itself as a female-driven program. Taking place in 1940s New York, the show does not shy away from displaying the misogyny

that Agent Peggy Carter (Hayley Atwell, reprising her role from *Captain America: The First Avenger*) faces in the Strategic Scientific Reserve, an intelligence agency concerned with finding Howard Stark, Carter's friend and weapon inventor accused of selling weapons to enemies of the United States. Both in the workplace and out, Agent Peggy Carter encounters sexism that parallels struggles that women in the workforce still face today; she is consistently underestimated by her boss Chief Dooley (Shea Whigham), forced to give the credit for her work to Agent Thompson (Chad Michael Murray), and treated as a secretary by her male colleagues.

Rather than accepting her role as a subordinate to her coworkers, Agent Carter begins her own investigation into the Stark case, as she and Stark's butler Jarvis (James D'Arcy) attempt to clear his name. While Agent Carter has a somewhat lengthy amount of plot, it has enough satisfying fight scenes to tide over the action-movie audience. Doing a majority of the fighting herself, Atwell shines in her combat scenes; while the conflicts lack the artful finesse of trained fighters and fan favorites like Scarlett Johansson's Black Widow, Agent Carter's simple and efficient fighting styles are entertaining and realistic.

The writers best develop Carter's character, however, not when she is disarming bad guys or cracking Russian codes, but while she attempts to manage her personal life outside of work, most notably her friendship with waitress Angie Martinelli (Lyndsy Fonseca), an aspiring actress who brings refreshing comic relief to the seriousness of the main plot. In one of the healthiest female friendships on television, the two continuously confide in one another instead of having a hostile or competitive relationship. Carter is very supportive of the women she works and lives with, and she places a large amount of importance in pure female

camaraderie. The concept is refreshing in today's age of very little female-to-female interaction without aggression.

Agent Carter is Marvel's first move towards diversifying their franchise; they also announced plans for *Black Panther*, their first film with a black hero in a starring role, and *Captain Marvel*, their first female-headed film. While some speculate that the sudden spike in diversity is Marvel's competitive response to DC's announcement of an upcoming Wonder Woman film, the expanding representation for leading roles is a step in the right direction for the multi-billion dollar franchise.



ABOVE: Peggy Carter fortifies her role as a female hero in a combat scene.

Response to gay couples on television reveals inequality

By Emily Massarelli
Class of 2015

If one takes a snapshot of the last century, in terms of society's acceptance of sexualities that vary from the previous singular "choice" of heterosexuality, the United States has advanced quite a bit. General societal acceptance and legality—36 states have legalized gay marriage—have begun to favor other sexualities, specifically homosexuality. Many people argue that said acceptance has been fully achieved as homosexual relationships may be seen in many aspects of media; however, the response to this presence within television for instance may exemplify the exact lack of acceptance our country has yet to overcome.

The presence of gay couples on television began in less popular soap operas and was seen as yet another controversy-stirring characteristic of the genre, which its viewers ate up as usual. Since this particular growth in presence, the normalcy of homosexual couples or otherwise on television has grown substantially. Various dramas, thrillers, and comedies have embraced the presence of relationships other than heterosexual ones—as this is much more representative of a realistic society. However, presence does not translate to acceptance and the variance in audience reactions to gay kisses and relationships exemplify that in terms of acceptance versus homophobia, our culture still has a long way to go.

The shows that have featured homosexual couples range in genre, as well as audience age range. Not sur-

prisingly, the least backlash and controversy comes from preteen or teen audiences for shows such as *Pretty Little Liars* (ABC Family), *The Fosters* (ABC Family), and *Teen Wolf* (MTV). The growth in acceptance among youth of homosexual couples on television parallels the overall growth in gay acceptance among younger generations—for the most part. This growth in itself presents hope despite blooming controversy that remains.

Perhaps one of the most prevalent milestones in acceptance of differing sexuality on television was the triumph of Ellen DeGeneres. On her 1998 sitcom *Ellen*, the main character (Ellen DeGeneres) comes out to her therapist (Oprah Winfrey) in a scene meant to parallel Ellen's true coming-out. Unfortunately, in response to the revelation that Ellen is gay, the sitcom was canceled due to a loss of audience majority. Ironically, she now has a net worth of 285 million dollars thanks to her highly popular talk show. In a similarly unfortunate manner—although to a lesser degree—many popular shows of 2015 receive negative audience response or ratings due to an introduction of homosexual relationships.

The highly popular drama *Empire* which premiered January of this year experienced first-hand the shockingly negative response of audiences to gay relations within their show. Writer, director, and producer Lee Daniels remarked that the show's focus group "was at a ten until the two men kiss. So at the end the questioner asks, 'why is it a zero when two men kiss?' And you knew that the hundred peo-



ABOVE: A gay man leans in for a kiss in one of *The Walking Dead's* controversial scenes.

ple in the room — a hundred people in the room, most of them, 90 percent, 95 percent of them were heterosexual — didn't want to admit to their homophobia so they just sort of look at the floor—it's like not admitting to be a racist... 'But can you tell me why you're at a zero? Why do you go from a ten to a zero?' Because it's unaccepted."

A close comparison to *Empire's* controversial situation is AMC's *The Walking Dead*. Recently, the show featured a gay couple who shared a kiss upon finding out that one their loved ones were alive. A single kiss, which led to a drop in ratings and uproar amongst fans. These are fans who can handle seeing a young boy shoot his own mother in the head, but apparently cannot handle a single kiss simply because it is shared by two men. Actor Ross Marquand, who plays Aaron, one half of the couple, remarks that "When

you lose someone, or you feel that you have lost someone, it doesn't matter what the situation is, you mourn them and you miss them and you want them back and you will do anything in your power to protect the ones you love."

What Marquand is saying in a more blunt manner: their characters are displaying genuine human emotion which should not be changed by their sexual orientation. Everyone is human and everyone is the same, regardless of their sexuality. The intolerance of relationships that differ from heterosexuality that still remains in television is merely representative of the intolerance within society as a whole. Until everyone can come to terms with the fact that one's sexuality is not superior or inferior to another, and that we are all equal as humans, the struggle to find an equilibrium of varying sexualities on television, and in return within society, remains.

Jon Stewart's departure from *The Daily Show* poses questions about comedian's future

By Natalie Luongo
Class of 2016

The news can be less than trustworthy these days. From Fox News and MSNBC's overt partisanship to Brian Williams' recent admission that he lied to the public, it is hard to find someone who will deliver the news without bending the truth. Surprisingly, many millennials have found that person in a comedian. Political commentator and comedian Jon Stewart's position on Comedy Central's *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* has made him one of the most unexpected-

ly influential individuals of the decade.

The Daily Show with Jon Stewart has had a larger influence on politics than any other show today. By connecting comedy and political commentary, Stewart makes current events easy to digest for those who are disinterested by more serious reporting on actual news networks. His show is also accessible—short, five-minute clips available on Comedy Central's website and app make it easy for young people with short attention spans to watch Stewart.

Admittedly, Stewart is not a substitute for real news. He presents a liberally-biased view on events and espe-

cially enjoys skewering conservatives. However, he also mocks some liberals and is not afraid to point out corruption or lies where he sees them. He scorned Hillary Clinton last month for using a personal email and refusing to release correspondence, and enjoys deriding CNN for their partisan politics. The media on both sides of the aisle is a frequent target. Fox News is an obvious victim for a liberal comedian's jabs, but Stewart also criticizes MSNBC and other liberal sources. Even if he is guilty of it himself, Stewart points out the bias that runs rampant in the media. Another one of his targets is the government. Stewart loves to poke fun at Congress for its deliberations, and his exasperation with its ineffectiveness is echoed by many members of the public. Congress is receiving its lowest approval ratings ever in current surveys.

If the *Daily Show* has any negative repercussions, it is that it has contributed to a culture of apathy and cynicism. Jon Stewart's sarcasm is contagious, and his scathing criticisms of society do not provide any suggestions for its improvement. The show is not very constructive. However, in an age where most comedy shows are busy cracking jokes about pot and sex, the *Daily Show* is a more educated alternative. Its informed comedy is more productive than any Seth Rogen movie a Comedy Central viewer could be watching.

Stewart is ranked as one of the

most influential and trustworthy people today. In a *TIME* poll after Walter Cronkite's death, readers chose Stewart as the most trusted newscaster on television. Despite his efforts to be seen as a comedian, he has emerged as a political figure, having more influence on young opinions than many politicians. Stewart's success is also reflected in his show's status as a launching pad for comedic greats. Steve Carell, Stephen Colbert, John Oliver, *Frozen* voice actor Josh Gad, and *SNL* "Weekend Update" anchor Michael Che all got their starts as correspondents with Stewart.

Jon Stewart's future is unsure as he leaves the *Daily Show*. He wrote and directed a film last year, *Rosewater*, about a journalist arrested in Iran, which received lukewarm reviews. It is possible that he could return to television or cinema with more stories about persecuted journalists in this country or abroad. His fans have speculated Stewart may also go into politics. It would not be the first time an entertainment star ran for office, with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Ronald Reagan as precedents. He could also have a career in serious journalism ahead, as Brian Williams' post as NBC anchor may open up. Stewart is a frequent critic of conventional news channels, but he could make a change by getting into the field. No matter what his course of action, even retirement could not erase Stewart's legacy as a seminal figure in politics.

Photo/Comedy Central



ABOVE: Jon Stewart has been an influential figure in both comedy and politics for years.

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SPORTS

Burchesky shines at international curling championship

By Lucy Lynch
Class of 2015

Last year, the world tuned in to NBC to catch the Primetime events of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi. As usual, most watched the Olympics for their favorite events. Statistically, Ice Hockey and Figure Skating are the most popular winter sports featured, but one ice event often goes unnoticed – curling. Most know of it and what it looks like, but know none of the rules and physical preparation curling requires.

However, one Walpole High School student knows all of this: senior Jenna Burchesky.

Having excelled in curling for the past six years, this month, she represented the United States in the Optimist Under-18 International Curling Championship. This annual, invite-only competition gives junior curlers from the United States, Canada, and Japan the opportunity to compete against each other. The competition started on April 1st and continued until the 5th in Edmonton, Alberta.

Curling is an ice sport, played by two teams of four players. Each player slides a 40-pound granite rock, or stone across the ice towards a common target, sweeping after the slide in order to get the rock closer to its mark. The team which gets more of its rocks closer to the center of the target is the winner.

“Curling is an extremely hard sport. It is a game of precision and inches. You could win or lose a game just by an inch. An extensive amount of strategy goes into the game because just like any other sport you can win or lose a game on strategy alone,” said Burchesky.

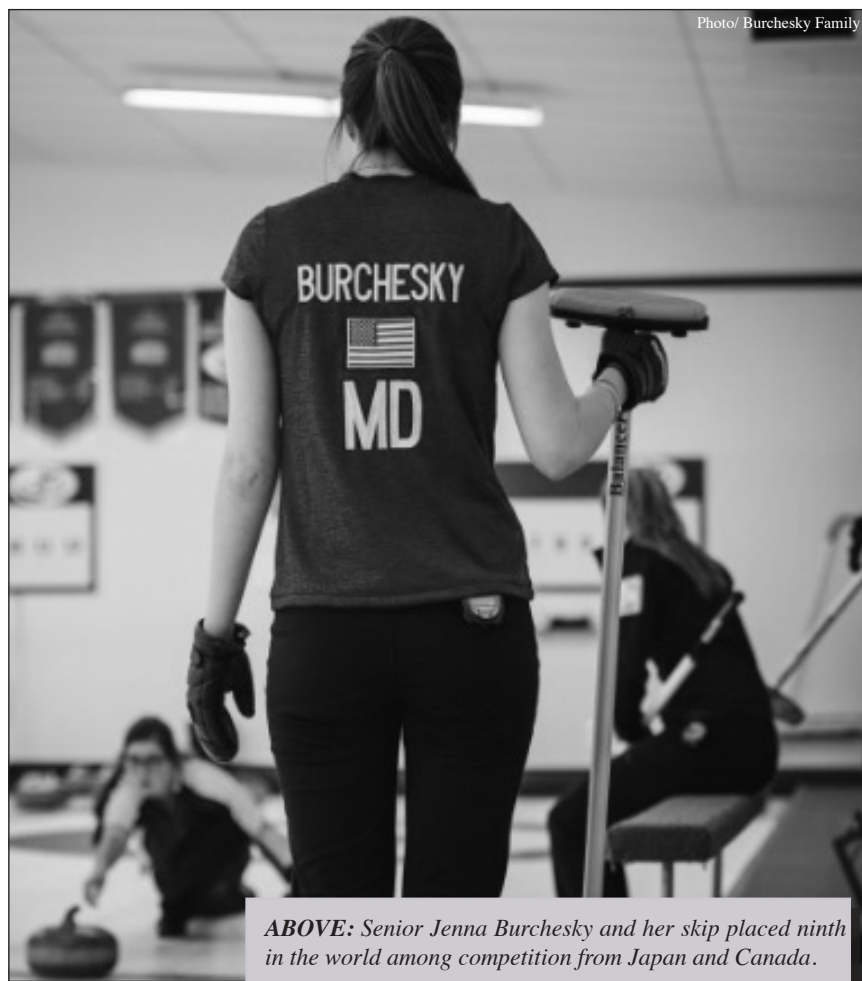
Returning for the 2014-2015 season,

Burchesky’s team won the regional championship as Team Massachusetts under the advising of the former USA Curling Coach. After nine round robin games, a tie breaker, and three medal games, the team headed to the gold medal round; a win meant the opportunity to represent the United States at Worlds in Estonia. Despite coming up short – her team lost 6-10 – their silver medal and title of second best junior women’s curling team in the nation earned the team great recognition.

“After my team’s performance at Nationals this year, the United States Curling Association decided that my teammate Allison Howell and I would represent the USA at the Optimist International Junior Curling Championships,” said Burchesky.

A third generation curler, Burchesky started competitively curling with the backing of her family six years ago. On her curling team, Burchesky attends ice practice six days a week and works out at the gym in her downtime. Her competitions are frequent – almost every weekend – and usually three or four days long. Not only are her competitions long, but they also often require lengthy travel. In addition to the New England area, Burchesky’s team frequents Maryland, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Wisconsin and North Dakota, and sometimes even outside the United States.

Additionally, the practice for competition is vigorous. Burchesky stresses the need for physical fitness. She said, “A huge part of curling is endurance. The main muscles used are biceps, quads, and abs.” Even though many do not know the rules of curling and what is required physically, the sport is intense, strategic, and one



ABOVE: Senior Jenna Burchesky and her skip placed ninth in the world among competition from Japan and Canada.

that requires great athletic strength.

Burchesky has been competing to represent the Eastern US for the past six years; however, she first qualified for Junior Nationals during the 2013-2014 season. At Junior Nationals, the top ten teams in the country play head-to-head to determine the USA representative at the World Junior Championships. In 2013, her team of four players and an alternate hailed from Maryland, Massachusetts, New

Jersey, and Wisconsin. Here, her team represented the state of Maryland as it was the home state of their “skip,” the team captain. In her first Junior Nationals, Burchesky’s team placed fifth in the Round Robin tournament.

At the Optimist International Championship last week, Burchesky and her team were ultimately very successful, placing ninth overall in Edmonton, an impressive feat for a first-time international competition team.

20 games in 40 days: baseball and softball adapt to schedule changes due to record-breaking snow

By Colleen O’Connor
Class of 2015

Snow.

To almost every resident of Massachusetts, this word has become the dirtiest four-letter word in the book this winter. Due to an unprecedented, record-breaking 108.6 inches of snow and six snow days this year, the snow has become even more of a problem now than when it started falling.

“Normally, there’s about 12 inches of frost on the baseball fields when the season starts,” said Athletic Director and Baseball Head Coach Bill Tompkins. “This year, there’s more like 40-48 inches of frost. That’s almost four times the normal amount.”

Even though all teams are affected to a degree by the snow, Baseball and Softball are the two most directly affected because they play their games on Eldracher Field and Chauncey Smith Field, both grass fields partially shaded by a treeline. Because of these snow-covered fields, Walpole Softball has their first scheduled game on April 20 at home against Bridgewater-Raynham, while Walpole Baseball plays on April 18 at Mansfield. In other words, the teams have a month

of pre-season practices before their first game; then, they have five and a half weeks to play twenty games.

The two teams spend their entire practice in the gym or running laps in the parking lot for conditioning drills, but they have not gotten much practice with the mechanics. Coach Tompkins even had his athletes start shoveling out Eldracher Field once the temperatures rose and the snow started to melt.

“Although we are hoping to get some time out on the turf and any other outdoor space that we can, that still may take a few weeks,” said Softball Head Coach Rachael Sprague. “I’ve ordered some new training equipment so that we can get creative with our drills indoors.”

On March 17, the MIAA met and made the executive decision to move the regular season cutoff date back a week to make it easier for both coaches and athletes to schedule and play as many games as possible.

Most teams have elected to push back the start of their seasons by two weeks or more now that a decision has been made, especially Baseball and Softball, two teams that now don’t start until the first weekend of April Vacation. To make up for lost time, many teams will have to play more games a week

than athletes are used to.

“Once we start playing games, we could end up having double headers, more than four games a week, etc. so having another week after Memorial Day will give us a little more room to breathe because we’ll be able to schedule make-up games that week,” said Coach Sprague.

The MIAA’s inaction on the subject until recently makes it harder for coaches to pick varsity rosters, as coaches had no idea whether or not to expect to play their first game until recently. They waited until the season had started to make the call, stalling preparation for a sports season that now, for most teams, will not start for a few weeks.

“The MIAA should have made a decision by now,” said Coach Tompkins. “This is something that hasn’t happened in the 42 years I’ve been here. There’s too much snow to plow off the fields.”

Though this winter has officially been deemed the snowiest winter in Boston and still feels like it hasn’t ended, there



ABOVE: As of March 5, Eldracher field had almost four feet of snow that needed to melt before the baseball team could take the field.

is a light at the end of the tunnel. The temperatures are slowly rising, the snow is melting faster than people thought it would. While the MIAA change provides some flexibility for game scheduling, coaches will need to adapt to the twenty games over forty days.

“Everyone is in the same boat,” said Coach Sprague. “It only makes sense to push the season back. We are going to be scrambling to make up all of these early season games over vacations, weekends, and in May.”

Boys Lacrosse gears up for conference schedule

By Ben Brownsword
Class of 2016

“Before our season opener we played on turf twice,” said junior attackman Ben Lucas. It’s not common for a team to practice on a parking lot right up to the season opener, but such is the case when Mother Nature spits out over nine feet of snow in the span of a month or so.

The lack of proper practice showed in the season opener, when the Rebels were demolished by Dover-Sherborn on March 31. However, Walpole was recovered and won their next game, a home affair against Scituate on April 4.

Dover-Sherborn — the squad that went one and one in back-to-back Division III State Finals in 2013 and 2014 — has been one of the best lacrosse programs in the state for a number of years. They came into the 2015 season keeping two of the finest attackmen in the state; one, sophomore Bailey Laidman, is a commit to the prestigious University of North Carolina and another is a commit to Bryant University in Rhode Island.

Their attacking talent was evident immediately as their high-powered offense scored seven goals in the first quarter alone. Walpole struggled to keep up with the frenetic pace of Dover-Sherborn’s attackmen, only scoring two goals in that time frame.

In the second quarter, Dover-



LEFT: Seniors Captain John Stanton (#4) and Trevor Brady (#9) go for the ground ball against the Scituate attackman. **RIGHT:** Sophomore Owen Hunter (#3) and Senior Matthew McCarthy (#17) swarm a Scituate player.



Sherborn’s dominance continued. Although they only scored one goal in the quarter, they held the ball for the majority of the quarter and did well to stymie the Walpole attack. However, junior goalie Charlie Harrington laid a massive hit on a Dover-Sherborn attackman that psyched up the Rebel bench, and there was finally a bright spot as senior attackman Mike Mazzotta scored the 3rd goal of the half for Walpole. “I felt good after I scored that goal. I thought we were going to get right back in it in the second half.”

Walpole was still shut out for the remainder of the quarter, and went into the half down five goals with the score at 8-3. Although Walpole looked to have a little momentum

after the Mazzotta goal, Dover-Sherborn came out of the half roaring.

They scored six unanswered goals in the third, including a stretch of play where they scored a goal, won the faceoff, worked the ball down the field and scored again in under a minute.

Going into the fourth, the score was 14-3 and out of the reach for the Rebels. Senior midfielder Seamus Ford scored two goals in the closing quarter to Dover-Sherborn’s one, but it was not nearly enough as the Rebels finally fell 15-5.

After the dismal defeat — albeit to one of the premier lacrosse programs in the state — Walpole bounced back against Scituate four days later.

The Rebels dominated possession from the outset and maintained

the lead for almost the entire game to win by a score of 9-6. They were led by two goals from senior midfielder Tim McNamara, along with a goal and two assists from senior attackman Tom DiCalogero.

The win will come as a big morale boost for the Rebels with Bay State conference matchups beginning on April 10 when the Rebels host Brookline. Walpole will play potent rivals Wellesley and Needham — both of whom are rated in the top 10 Division I programs by the Boston Herald — in the upcoming two weeks.

After the 1-1 start with a difficult schedule forthcoming, Walpole will need to keep the momentum from their Scituate win and continue it into their conference schedule.

Revised Spring Schedules:

For updated sports scores and schedules throughout the season, go to the sports and schedules tab on whstherebellion.com and select spring sports.

BASEBALL (0-0)

April 18	at Mansfield 11:00
April 22	vs Brookline TBA
April 24	vs Mansfield 3:00
April 25	vs Needham 3:45
April 27	vs Dedham 3:45
April 29	vs Norwood 3:45
May 1	at Weymouth 3:45
May 2	vs Wellesley 3:30
May 4	vs Framingham 3:45
May 6	at Braintree 3:45
May 8	at Natick 7:00pm
May 9	vs Natick 1:00
May 11	at Wellesley 3:45
May 13	vs Milton 3:45
May 16	at Milton 3:30
May 18	at Dedham 6:00pm
May 20	at Norwood 7:00pm
May 22	vs Braintree 3:45
May 26	at Newton North 3:45
May 28	vs Brookline 4:00

SOFTBALL (0-0)

April 20	vs B-R 1:00
April 24	vs OA 11:00am
April 25	at Needham 3:00
April 27	at Dedham 3:45
April 29	vs Norwood 3:45
May 1	vs Weymouth 3:45
May 2	at Wellesley 3:30
May 4	at Framingham 3:45
May 6	vs Braintree 3:45
May 8	vs Natick 3:45
May 9	at Natick 1:00
May 10	at B-R 2:00
May 11	vs Wellesley 3:45
May 13	at Milton 3:45
May 16	vs Milton 3:30
May 18	vs Dedham 3:45
May 20	at Norwood 3:45
May 21	at OA 3:45
May 26	vs Newton North 3:45
May 28	at Brookline 4:00

BOYS LACROSSE (1-1)

March 31	vs D-S L 15-5
April 4	vs Scituate W 9-6
April 10	vs Brookline 4:00

April 14	at Dedham 4:00
April 16	vs Needham 4:00
April 21	at Barnstable 12:00
April 23	at St. John’s Prep, TBA
April 25	vs TBA, TBD
April 28	at Milton 4:00
May 1	at Weymouth 4:00
May 5	vs Framingham 7:15pm
May 7	at Braintree 4:00
May 9	at Xaverian 1:00
May 12	vs Natick 7:15pm
May 14	vs Norwood 7:15pm
May 18	at King Philip 4:00
May 22	at Newton North 4:00
May 27	vs Wellesley 7:15pm

GIRLS LACROSSE (1-0)

April 6	vs King Philip W 15-11
April 9	at Foxborough 4:00
April 10	at Brookline 4:00
April 14	vs Dedham 4:00
April 16	at Needham 4:00
April 24	at King Philip 4:00
April 28	at Milton 4:00
April 30	vs Foxborough 7:00pm
May 1	vs Weymouth 7:00pm
May 5	at Framingham 4:00
May 7	vs Braintree 7:00pm
May 9	at Mansfield TBA
May 11	vs D-S 7:00pm
May 12	at Natick 4:00
May 14	at Norwood 4:00
May 19	vs Medway 7:00pm
May 22	vs Newton North 7:00pm
May 27	at Wellesley 4:00

BOYS TRACK (0-0)

April 15	vs Braintree 3:45
April 22	at Framingham 10:00am
April 29	vs Milton 3:45
April 29	vs Wellesley 3:45
May 6	vs Norwood 3:45
May 13	at Natick 3:45
May 20	at Dedham 3:45
May 26	BSC Meet 5:00

GIRLS TRACK (0-0)

April 15	vs Braintree 3:45
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April 22	at Framingham 10:00am
April 29	vs Milton 3:45
April 29	vs Wellesley 3:45
May 6	vs Norwood 3:45
May 13	at Natick 3:45
May 20	at Dedham 3:45
May 26	BSC Meet 5:00

BOYS TENNIS (0-0)

April 15	at Dedham 3:45
April 16	vs CM 4:00
April 22	at King Philip 12:00
April 27	vs Needham 3:45
April 29	at Milton 3:45
May 1	vs Braintree 3:45
May 4	at Weymouth 3:45
May 5	at Norwood 3:45
May 6	vs Framingham 3:45
May 8	vs Milton 3:45
May 11	at Braintree 3:45
May 13	vs Natick 3:45
May 14	vs Dedham 3:45
May 18	vs Norwood 3:45
May 19	at CM 3:45
May 21	at Natick 6:00
May 26	at Newton North 3:45
May 27	vs Wellesley 3:45
May 29	vs Brookline 3:45

GIRLS TENNIS (0-0)

April 15	vs Dedham 3:45
April 17	vs Randolph 3:45
April 22	vs King Philip 12:00
April 27	at Needham 3:45
April 29	vs Milton 3:45
May 1	at Braintree 3:45
May 4	vs Weymouth 3:45
May 5	vs Norwood 3:45
May 6	at Framingham 3:45
May 8	at Milton 3:45
May 11	vs Braintree 3:45
May 13	at Natick 3:45
May 14	at Dedham 3:45
May 18	at Norwood 3:45
May 26	vs Newton North 3:45
May 27	at Wellesley 3:45
May 29	at Brookline 3:45

WALPOLE HIGH

Alumni

TRACK AND FIELD: Conor Murtagh (Bridgewater State University) 3rd overall at Dartmouth Relays for 60 meter hurdles in 8.32s, named MASCAC Athlete of the Week four times (2/9, 3/9, 3/16, 4/6), 4th overall at NCAA Division III Meet (7.96s prelims, 8.09s finals), All-American; Gina Conti (UNH), five meet appearances, 500 meter run personal best 1:19.97, 400 meter dash personal best 1:01.54; PJ Hayes (UCONN), 6 meet appearances, 4th best time in American Athletic Conference this season in the 60 meter dash (6.81), 7th best time in American Athletic Conference this season with his 21.55s 200 meter dash; Connor McCarthy (Northeastern), 9th in the long jump at BU’s season opener with 5.69 meters, 7.46 60 meter dash, 2:46.77 1000 meter run.

BASKETBALL: Ryan Fogarty (Wheaton College), 24 games, 581 minutes, average 10.0 pts/game; Adam Quinlan (Salve Regina University), 25 games, started 20, 548 minutes, 6.9 pts/game; Tim Gallivan (Wesleyan University), 25 games, 272 minutes, 2.9 pts/game; Scott Arsenault (Lasell College), 22 games, 404 minutes, 231 pts total, 10.5 pts/game; Bridget Nicholson (Wheaton College), 21 games, 1.5 pts/game, 110 mins total.

SWIMMING: Danielle Sauve (RPI), Set school record in 400 freestyle relay (3:35.58), All-Liberty League First Team in 500 Freestyle and 400 Individual Medley, All-Liberty League Second Team in 400 Freestyle Relay, 200 and 400 Medley Relay, and 200 Freestyle, Liberty League Rookie of the Year; Jessica Sauve (RPI), Set school record in 400 free relay (3:35.58), All-Liberty League Second Team in 200 and 400 Freestyle Relay.

HOCKEY: Michaela Tosone (UMass Amherst), 33 games, 43 points.



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Captain Allie Morris competes at New Balance Nationals

Photo/ Lisa McArthur



ABOVE: Senior Allie Morris places seventh in her heat at Nationals with her second fastest time in her career, 11:16.21.

By Katie Carter
Class of 2015

Senior Captain Allie Morris, who is committed to run Division I at UMass Lowell next year, represented the town of Walpole at the New Balance National Indoor Track meet on March 13, 2015. Morris competed in the two mile race with 29 girls from across the country. With her second fastest two mile time in her track career (11:16.21), Morris finished 7th in the first heat of the Emerging Elite, and 18th out of the 30 girls who ran for the Emerging Elite nationals.

“It was an awesome experience to compete at Nationals against some of the best girls in the country,” said Morris. “I didn’t run my best time, but I thought I ran a pretty smart race.” Ranked third in her heat, she did not make any significant moves during the first mile. The pack ran the first quarter mile quicker than expected, paced at a 5:19 minute mile. Morris remained in the back end of the pack until the mile mark, around 5:30, when she broke from the pack and sprinted up 5 places. About seven minutes into the race, the entire pack of girls broke, creating a leading pack and chasing pack about 15 meters behind. Morris found herself in the middle of the two, setting the pace for the chasing pack. At the end of the race, with the first place runner finishing in 11:00.36, Morris placed seventh, just 16 seconds after.

“Morris ran one of her smartest races,” said Head Coach Conor Cash-

man. “She knew that first mile was going to be fast, so she sat back and let others do the hard work, so she could save her kick for the second mile.”

Exactly one month earlier, at the Division III Championship Meet, Morris placed second with her season best of 11:07.23, her fastest two mile of her career. This time also leaves her ranked second All-Time in the Walpole Indoor Track and Field Record Books. The time also qualified Morris for the New Balance National Meet, which had an entry standard of 11:12.

With her second place finish at the Division III meet, Morris also qualified to compete at All-States on February 21, 2015. Here, she placed 14 out of 25 girls with a time of 11:27.23.

Over the course of the winter season, Morris established herself as the second fastest two mile runner in the Bay State League, and the seventh fastest in the one mile. At the Bay State Conference Championship on February 4, 2014, Morris ran the one mile in order to improve her speed for the two mile. In the second lap of the race, Morris fell, but she was able to get back up, and finish second with a time of 5:15.49.

Going into the upcoming spring season, Morris will continue to focus on the two mile and also on the one mile. “This spring I would like to break 11 minutes in the two mile and place higher at the state meet,” said Morris. “I also would like to lower my mile time, and my split for the 4x8 and hopefully go to Nationals as a relay.”

Dowd to replace Tompkins as Athletic Director in 2015

By Olivia O’Brien
Class of 2015

For the last four weeks, Principal Stephen Imbusch, with the help of an Athletic Director Search Committee, narrowed down a field of over forty candidates to three finalists: Dave St. Martin, a math teacher and the Varsity Boys Basketball coach at WHS; Eric Karjel, Hopkinton High School’s current Athletic Director; and lastly, Ron Dowd, the Varsity Boys Hockey coach and also the head of Walpole High’s Transition (S.C.O.R.E.) Program. After careful consideration, Principal Imbusch elected Mr. Dowd on April 8 to take over the reigns of the Walpole Athletic Department starting next fall.

For the last six years, Walpole Athletic Director Bill Tompkins oversaw numerous Walpole Athletic accomplishments in his career: the 2013 Porker State Championship, the 2013 Boys Soccer South Sectional Championship, and the 2014 Boys Cross Country Division III State Championship. Although Mr. Tompkins was not directly a part of the selection committee, he spoke on behalf of Mr. Dowd’s character as Walpole Boys Hockey Head Coach.

“He’s been the hockey coach for three years and has been running his program much by the book and how I believe Walpole sports should be run,” said Mr. Tompkins.

Before coming to Walpole, Dowd was an assistant coach at Ashland High School after head coaching at Weymouth High School from 1995-2000. In 2012, Dowd coached his first season for Walpole High’s Boys Hockey team. Along with being the Head Boys



Photo/ Katlin Brown

ABOVE: New Athletic Director, Ron Dowd, accepted his new position on April 8.

Hockey Coach, Dowd has also been the Head of the Transition Program for the two years of the program’s existence, a position where he helps students with prolonged absences catch up on their makeup work before fully returning to their classes. Similar to the athletic director position, his current position as Head of the Transition Program requires him to work with many different stakeholders (parent, students, administrators, teachers) in the community. “Not only is [Dowd] very good with parents and students, but he also communicates well and is very organized. I think he will be a very good person for this job,” said Mr. Tompkins.

As for adjustments from his job in the high school’s transition program to athletic director, time consumption will be a major factor. However, Dowd believes his previous experience in Walpole will give him an advantage.

“I already know a lot of the parents, teachers, and town hall members so that’s going to help me big time and play to my strengths,” said Mr. Dowd.

Having been present for three of Mr. Tompkins’ six years as athletic director, Mr. Dowd learned a lot from Coach Tompkins’ leadership.

Mr. Dowd said, “Tompkins has been a great mentor hockey wise, school wise, and in life. The way he handles

himself, he’s a great inspiration.”

When asked, Mr. Dowd did not comment on whether or not he will return to the hockey program next season.

“With a lot more responsibility, I’ll have to be here a lot more next year,” said Mr. Dowd.

One thing for sure that Mr. Dowd looks forward to doing is creating a website for Walpole High athletics to incorporate online registration. However, Mr. Dowd believes that Mr. Tompkins has already built a solid foundation for Walpole’s athletic program.

“I hope to continue the tradition of Coach Tompkins and others before him,” Dowd said.