

# THE REBELLION

December 2013

Walpole High School

275 Common Street

Walpole, MA 02081

Volume 16, Number 2

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## State Champions!

By Matt Brownsword  
Class of 2014

Something just had to give. With the incredible success of Walpole Fall Athletics, there was just one missing element. Football, which had been a preseason pick of some to win the Division 3 State Championship, lost in the first round to North Attleborough. Volleyball lasted a round longer before suffering a defeat to a nationally ranked Barnstable team. Girls Soccer made it to the South Sectional semifinals before being defeated in double overtime, while their male counterparts made it all the way to the Division 2 State Championship, where they lost to Masconomet, 4-2.

But on the last day of tournament action, the Porkers capped off the most successful fall sports season with cathartic emphasis: a State Championship victory.

Field Hockey topped Longmeadow by a score of 1-0 to give the Porkers their first state championship win since 2006. Senior Captain Lina Feeley scored the lone goal of the game off of a penalty corner that came out to the left side of the apron, where Feeley gathered the ball and, diving off balance, snuck the ball into the near post, past the sprawling Longmeadow goalie. "It was a corner that we kind of messed up," said Feeley. "But we just improvised and I was lucky enough to put it in."

For those who can see past the modesty, there was really nothing lucky about the goal: it was as impressive as her play throughout the game, as she lead the Porkers the whole game. Coming up with key defensive stops in the midfield and directing the Walpole possession, Feeley was arguably the best player on the field.

However, another senior Captain — Brown commit Ashley Waldron — came up with the biggest defensive play of the game. On a Longmeadow penalty corner, Longmeadow got the ball behind

senior goalie Erin Leblanc and a wall of Porker defenders, but Waldron cleared the ball off the line at the last second.

"I don't really remember what happened," said Waldron. "All I know is that I got knocked down for a second and then I think [senior goalie Erin Leblanc] got a touch on it. It was a crazy play."

Leblanc came up big a few times, kicking away some threatening chances for Longmeadow. Longmeadow's Mary O'Reilly was the most dangerous player throughout the game and unleashed a hard shot from about 20 yards away that Leblanc had to push to the side.

Juniors Lauren Hirshom and Ania Egan, and senior Lena Ford led the Porkers' defense to their third shutout of the postseason and their first shutout in the last three games.

Other than those close calls, the play was pretty even: Walpole and Longmeadow traded spurts of possession, with Walpole having a majority of the penalty corners but fewer shots, especially after they went up a goal. "I'm so proud of this team,"

said Feeley. "This is what we worked for all season and we all did a great job to win this game."

Senior Captain and Boston College commit Brooke Matherson — the leading scorer for the Porkers on their run — was kept quiet for most of the game, as Longmeadow double and tripled team the star forward. Freshman Melanie Weber provided the most spark for the Porkers up front, as her speed gave Longmeadow problems defensively.

"[Melanie's] been awesome all year," said Matherson. "As a freshman, she's been so important and will have a bright future."

Even with the undefeated regular season, this Porkers team was not supposed to match up against the state championship teams of old. "I think we proved a lot of people wrong," said Feeley. "Of all the past teams, this wasn't the strongest one."

A huge difference with this year's team and last year's team was strength of schedule: the Porkers are not really challenged with their normal Bay State

competition, other than the odd close game against Wellesley or Norwood. However, coach Marianne Murphy added some new, non-league games to the schedule — including Andover, Beverley, and Franklin — in order to prepare the Porkers for the challenges they faced in the tournament.

These changes worked: against perennial Div. I powers, the Porkers proved their talent and mental toughness in the Dennis Yarmouth, Duxbury and Acton Boxborough games. It took a late goal by Matherson to beat DY, a 2-goal comeback to beat the Dragons in overtime for the South Sectional Final, and two goals — including one as time expired — again from Matherson to knock off the Colonials, who had eliminated the Porkers three out of the last six years.

But in their longest State Championship drought in recent memory, something just had to give for the Porkers. And off of Matherson's heroics in earlier games, Leblanc's goalkeeping, Waldron's defense, and Feeley's game winning goal, something finally did.



Senior Captain Lina Feeley retains possession on her way to the goal.



Senior Captains Lina Feeley, Brooke Matherson, and Ashley Waldron celebrate with their trophy.

Photos/ Mike Greulich

### Sports spark **Twitter** Brawls

By Hannah McLaughlin  
Class of 2014

In recent years, Twitter has become a resource for virtually everything in society. Apart from functioning as an efficient means of transmitting important information, the popular site is predominantly used to connect an individual to everyone in his or her social sphere. Since its official launch in 2006 by web designer Jack Dorsey, Twitter has garnered notoriety as an innovative Internet invention with incredible potential for increased communication. But what happens when the allotted 140 characters per tweet create combative comments fueled with fury?

Toward the end of the 2013 fall sport season, Walpole

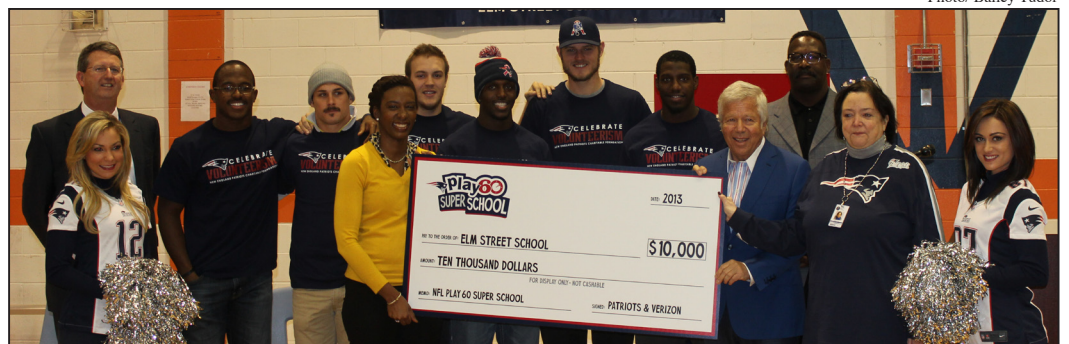
High School students heavily relied on Twitter for score updates during the many play-off games. However, as school pride increased with every win, so too did hostility between students of opposing high schools who exchanged hateful messages via social media.

When squabbles between school student bodies escalate as they had during playoffs, Walpole High Administration is left with no choice but to intervene in issues regarding student behavior—not only in the classroom, but also online. Acknowledging social media forums for their convenient and beneficial components, Vice Principal Mr. William Hahn also recognized the potential for growing problems.

*continued on page 10*

### NFL Play 60 comes to Walpole

Photo/ Bailey Tudor



Patriots owner Robert Kraft presents a \$10,000 check to the Elm Street School.

By Bailey Tudor  
Class of 2014

Four hundred students from kindergarten to fifth grade at the Elm Street School wore their favorite Patriots apparel, carried their homemade posters, and anxiously awaited the arrival of the football stars on December 3. While many stu-

dents piled inside the gym, others waited eagerly outside to greet the NFL Play 60 bus as it pulled into the entrance. They were about to meet some Patriots players in person.

Back in November, Elm Street Elementary School was selected as the grand prize winner of the NFL Play 60: the Super School Program

which awarded 34 elementary or middle schools across the nation for their dedication to healthy living in the classroom and in the community. For the grand prize, the school received a \$10,000 grant and a visit from some of the New England Patriot's players.

*Continued on Page 9*



# EDITORIALS

## Slow rollouts exacerbate America’s issues with Obamacare

By Mary Hinton  
Class of 2015

From the Country Music Awards to Rush Limbaugh to even The Daily Show, seemingly everyone from all political backgrounds is mocking Obamacare. Since the program's launch, the healthcare website has crashed on several occasions, and millions of Americans are unable to register for Obamacare. At the CMA's, Brad Paisley and Carrie Underwood opened the show singing an ode to the President’s project entitled "Obamacare by Morning." Though it was sang in jest, the song did express the ongoing frustration felt by of millions of citizens nationwide who were met with great difficulty applying for healthcare via health-care.gov As Carrie and Brad pointed out, the heathcare site processed "over six people" because that was all the healthcare system's site could seem to handle. The site only managed to successfully register 25,000 people during the month of October, for it impeded the supposedly simple process of registration by crashing on millions of Obamacare candidates. Though the Obama administration aims to accumulate over

seven million applicants by the end of March via the recently fixed website, the President’s logic appears slightly flawed. Even if the lofty goal is attained, how useful is it when 48 million Americans are uninsured? And, even if the registration numbers do improve, the greater concern is the demographic that makes up those numbers: individuals who are sick. In order to survive, Obamacare will need a significant number of healthy individuals to sign up, for it is their insurance payments that will offset the health care costs of the most sick. If those healthy people refrain from signing up and if insurance companies are solely dealing with a demographic of sick individuals, their health care will not be as affordable as it is promised. Instead, the country will experience something much worse than a failed website rollout; it will experience what people are calling a death spiral — a term used to describe how the most sick individuals will make the Affordable Care Act become vastly unaffordable and potentially lead to the program’s collapse. This potential collapse would not be a website problem for the Geek Squad; this problem would be a policy problem that would have much greater significance.

Additionally, some individuals who believe that they have successfully signed up for the healthcare system may be in for a startling surprise. The site is now sending insurance companies incomplete information of consumers who signed up for the Affordable Care Act — an oversight that will eventually leave these people uninsured and the government again at fault. The system’s failure is an excellent example of why the federal government should not be overly-involved in healthcare. There are 300 million people in the US; offering just one system for such a large, diverse nation is simply a call for chaos. Moreover, the main problem with the Affordable Care Act concerns an element in its name— affordability. Jessica Sanford, a single mother from Washington state, wrote to the President in October, thanking him for giving her affordable health insurance; consequently, Obama shared her story with the nation as model for other Americans and a message to his critics. However, several days later, Sanford realized her tax credits had been taken away completely. If Obamacare cannot deliver affordable healthcare to women like Jessica, is it really upholding its claim of affordability?

## Fantasy Football’s impact hurts more than it should

By Nicholas Fuller  
Class of 2014

A twelve year old boy named Nathan watches his favorite team — the New England Patriots — play the Pittsburgh Steelers. The date is November 3, 2013 — week 9 of the NFL season. The Patriots, up 41-31 against their opponent with 5:25 minutes left in the fourth quarter, get the ball back following a Steelers touchdown. Their juggernaut offense of this particular day refuses to let up. Tom Brady throws a pass deep left to wide receiver Aaron Dobson for an 81 yard touchdown, Brady’s fourth of the day. The team and crowd celebrate. After the play, Nathan, watching things unfold, slams the couch pillow. Visibly upset, his face collapses into it. He wishes for the unique ability to put on a happy face — one that could mask how he feels — but he can’t. Nathan’s fantasy opponent has Tom Brady; Matthew Berry put Brady on his “hate” list for week 9; Tom Brady was only projected to garnish 20 points against the Steelers defense. Instead, Brady decides to display his 2007-like self, scoring a whopping 57 fantasy points. In addition, his opponent chooses to play an unknown running back named Zac Stacy, who rushes for 127 yards and two touchdowns. Nothing good can completely salvage this miserable fantasy day — not a Patriots victory, the kid’s favorite dinner, friends, no homework, a snow day — absolutely nothing. He fails to see that fantasy football is just a game. Why is that? This question is particularly confusing to some people who understand fantasy football, so expecting someone who has never played it — i.e the clueless mom or dad — to know is an even taller task. Essentially, fantasy football is a game in which a person drafts some of the best players from all over the NFL onto his team and plays an opponent each week. The individual player competes in a league against his opponents, often friends or family, and tries to win each week. The game is supposed to provide even more enjoyment to watching football each Sunday; however, it usually has the opposite effect. Meant to be a fun game by nature, fantasy football has instead become one major problem. The real nature of the game has the

potential to negatively affect those who are sucked into its competitive and obsessive addictiveness — yes, these are very, very real. The competitiveness is intrinsic; typically, the fantasy player is naturally competitive and wants to win. The addictiveness, by contrast, is driven by the popularity of the game and sports journalists’ and analysts’ promotion of fantasy football as being extremely important. Weekly columns such as Mathew Berry’s week 9 love/hate list reveal the process. In this particular column, Matthew Berry, a fantasy football analyst and sports journalist, discusses how a bad day of fantasy football damages his life personally, outside of the fantasy universe. He repeatedly states this line: “It was a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day,” which derives itself from the story Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day. The column is well-written, thoughtful, and follows the structure of children’s story book. In a sense, it is also awe inspiring, for it is the perfect example of how deeply rooted fan-

tasy games are in American society. Anyone who has ever played fantasy football could tell you a similar story to Mr. Berry’s. Kevin Curran, for instance, admits fantasy football carries people away. He said, “I pay way too much attention to it, but I can’t stop.” Moreover, some fantasy players so fervently root for other players on opposing teams to do poorly that they actually celebrate when an opposing team’s player gets hurt or injured. In real life, no one is rooting for an athlete or person to break an arm or leg. There are large amounts of inhumanity in hoping someone becomes physically impaired. Yet, in fantasy football, it is no big deal because that means you have a better chance of winning the game, and winning the game is all that matters. It shouldn’t. Contrary to the philosophy of many, winning fantasy football is not that big of a deal. Imagine if you took everything about life seriously, or, in other words, too seriously. Now think of fantasy football. What would that be like? Where’s the fun in that? . Winning and losing are both parts

of life, yet no one can deny that for the fantasy player, fantasy becomes reality: what happens in a game impacts that person. It affects how they watch football — the lense through which the game entertains them. The final score of the game is irrelevant; Peyton Manning’s stat sheet is more important. As weird as it is, the game also affects their real life. It shouldn’t. There shouldn’t be hard feelings. There shouldn’t be priority here. I’m not saying someone who has a team should be indifferent to the game and not enjoy it — these things are great. But again, it is natural for people who play fantasy football to want to win. And sometimes, even a rational person allows the desire of victory to permeate their common sense, which, when in control, says, “Calm down. It’s just a game.” Fantasy football will be popular for many years to come; however, a person who plays it needs to be able to resist the media influences and stressful problems the game causes. For once a player lets go of that sharp competitiveness and obsession, he will be able to enjoy the games for what they are actually supposed to be: fun.

# THE REBELLION

Walpole High School’s newspaper is committed to informing the public, reflecting the students’ views, creating a public forum and serving as an educational medium.  
Check out our new website [whstherebellion.com](http://whstherebellion.com)

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# Is the new grading policy necessary?

By Lauren Wigren  
Class of 2016

Imagine slaving over English questions for hours and not receiving credit. Now imagine missing soccer practice for that math assignment that you did not have time to finish the night before. Do you remember that French quiz that you were hoping for a higher grade on? Did you remember to get that parent signature on your failed French quiz? With all of these inconsistent changes, students are no doubt asking themselves: Why is all of this necessary?

This year, Walpole High School has introduced a new grading policy that is designed to increase responsibility among students. However, it seems to be doing more harm than good. Specifically, it suggests that teachers no longer trust students, for instead of treating them as increasingly independent adolescents, students are now being treated as unreliable miscreants to be punished for the slightest error.

In years past, students who did not complete homework received a zero in X2, while students who did complete the assignment received full credit. If a teacher allowed it, some students also could retake quizzes if they felt that they did not do well, but there was no formal policy in place requiring any extra work or parent signatures.

Unlike last year's system, the grade is now based on quality, which means teachers are grading more assignments — and which subsequently also means fewer homework assignments are entered into X2. However, even if a homework assignment is not entered into X2, students are required to stay after for "homework club" (detention) on that very day to complete the assignment. While some teachers take into account the inconveniences that requiring a student to stay after may cause, others are far less lenient. Ultimately though, this grade may or may not even count towards a student's term average (depending on a teacher or department). Rather, students receive a homework "comment" on their report cards to reflect how much effort they have put into their homework. The graded homework assignments are then included in some other X2 category — not homework.

This requirement to stay after school is largely what concerns students. With outside pressure from sports, club meetings, appointments, and bus schedules, the possibility of staying after school proves to be a nightmare for many. "What if I have some-

thing I have to do after school?" said junior Mackenzie Lachkey. Teachers and administrators believe that this new policy will reinforce self discipline and ultimately teach students to be more responsible, but the only thing students seem to be learning is that having a bad day is completely unacceptable.

Missing sports practices and club meetings are not students' only concerns, however. The new homework policy also teaches students that hard work does not always pay off. With this new philosophy now in practice, diligent, responsible students still find themselves with less-than-satisfactory grades because the effort they have put into their homework usually does nothing. And with the threat of homework club potentially interfering with their after-school-lives, students are forced to spend these long hours doing tedious work — work that will not help them in the long run.

Besides homework, the new grading policy extends to quizzes as well. If a student wants a better a grade on a quiz, the process of retaking it is equivalent to the stress and tediousness of jury duty. Not only is an extra-help session strictly required beforehand, but a formal contract and parent signature is also mandatory in the foreign language and science departments. Sophomore Natalie Luongo said, "The signature should not be required. The student's grade is their responsibility."

Essentially, administration needs to trust students. Though backed by good intentions, the new grading philosophy has left a bad taste in the mouth of many. Students feel mistrusted. Students feel overwhelmed. Students feel as though their hard work is being ignored. Students do need to learn how to be more responsible; however, forcing them to complete a long, potentially vigorous, ungraded assignment and involve their parents in their academic decisions is a brutal process.

Last year, students had a chance to make their own decisions. They did not receive detentions, but they did receive zeros. If it happened once to an exceptional student, this zero served as a warning. Meanwhile, students who consistently did not complete their homework chose to damage their grade and chose that detention. That policy showed them that life could be easier if they simply did their homework. This policy allowed students to make mistakes and face fair consequences.

If the goal is to teach students self-responsibility, it is in the best interest of administration, teacher and students to revert back to the old policy. After all, aren't students in highschool to learn how to come adults, not depend on them?

# Mixing with Mel: A Christmas Special

By Melanie Caneja  
Class of 2015

Imagine you are going to a holiday party, but you don't know what to bring. Do you make something? What if you mess it up? What if someone else is making it? Should you just buy something? Well, you can throw all these questions away because I have a recipe for you that not only is simple as ever but also unique.

All it comes down to is three simple words: Peppermint Oreo Truffles. Sent in by one of my readers, this recipe is definitely a hidden gem among the holiday desserts. Virtually any crowd will be impressed and think you are a baking genius.

To get started, you need 1 normal sized package of Oreos, 1 (8 oz) package of cream cheese, peppermint extract, and candy canes. The last ingredient you need is either white chocolate almond bark, or if you are like me (and not a fan of almonds), use white chocolate chips — you will need 16 oz of either one.

The first thing you need to do is finely crush all the Oreos. The easiest way to do this is to use a food processor (I use my kitchen Ninja, but whatever kind of gadget you have is great); however, if you do not own a food processor, putting the Oreos in a large Ziploc bag and crushing them with a rolling pin will work just as well. Once all the Oreos are crushed, put them in a bowl for now.

Next, you will need the cream cheese and peppermint extract. Scoop the whole package of cream cheese into a bowl (make sure it is a different bowl than the one the Oreos are in), and then add in 1 teaspoon of peppermint extract. You will then need to use a mixer (like the one used for the cookie dough recipe) to blend the two together.

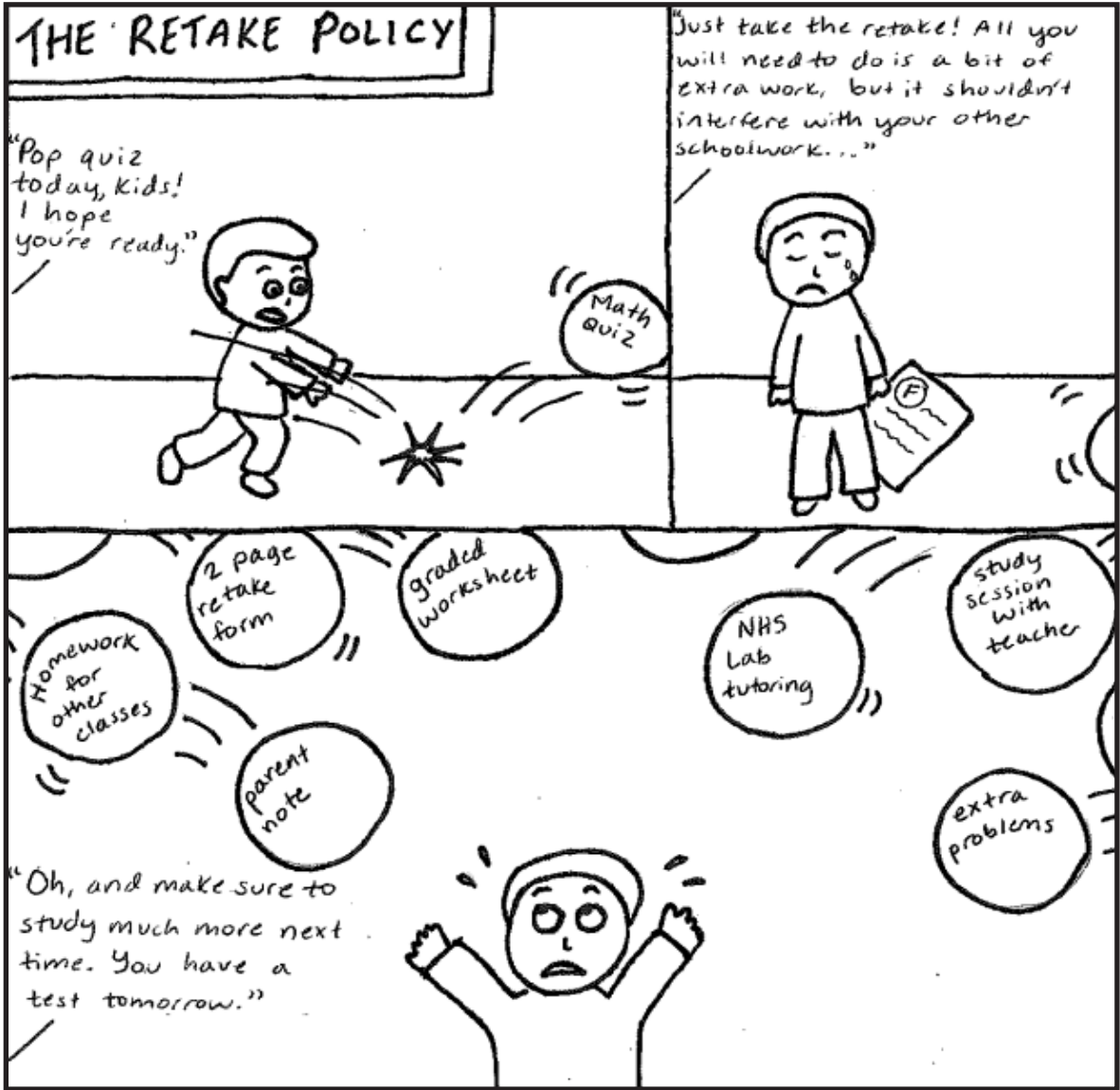
Now that your cream cheese and peppermint are combined, add this mixture to the crushed Oreos. This step is very important because you want to make sure the Oreos and the cream cheese are evenly mixed. Using the back of a spoon (preferably rubber since the mixture will stick the least to this kind of spoon), stir the mixture while pressing it along the bottom and side of the bowl. Now be patient, this step can be very frustrating, for it seems like the mixture will never be even, but trust me it will — it just takes time. So, make sure you do this until the Oreos and cream cheese are well combined and evenly moistened, for this mixture is the basis of your truffles.

Set a long sheet of wax paper over a cookie sheet. Next, scoop the Oreo mixture into 1 inch balls and place them on your prepared cookie sheet. You may need two cookie sheets, depending on size. Also, this step can be even simpler if you have a cookie dough scooper. Once you have scooped out all the mixture, place the truffles in the freezer for 10 to 15 minutes.

While your truffles are in the freezer, you can take this time to melt the chocolate coating. Whether you are using the almond bark or the white chocolate chips, this step is the same either way. Put the chocolate in a large, microwave safe bowl and place it in the microwave. At first, you can put the chocolate in for about 40 seconds to get it hot; then, take it out to stir it, and place it back in for about 10 to 20 seconds at a time (stirring the chocolate in between each time) until the chocolate is completely melted. Also, I suggest to deal with the candy canes while the truffles are in the freezer, too. For this, take about 3 to 4 candy canes and place them in your food processor (again, if you do not have one, use the rolling pin and Ziploc bag). Crush the candy canes until they are in small, fine pieces. These pieces will be the finishing touch to your truffles.

After the chocolate is melted, the truffles should have spent enough time in the freezer, so you can take them out. This last step is where things get messy, but it is definitely worth it. Take each truffle ball and roll it between your hands to ensure its round shape. Then, dip each ball into the melted chocolate, evenly coat it, and place it back on the cookie sheet. Immediately after, sprinkle the top of the truffle with the crushed candy canes. Once you do this for each truffle, you are done! All that is left is to allow the truffles to set, making sure the outer coating hardens and the candy cane pieces stick. Lastly, just make sure to store them in the fridge when you are done.

So, say good-bye to the same old boring desserts you're used to seeing this time of year, and enjoy this fun, new Christmas treat.



Cartoon/ Anna Van Der Linden



Dedham Savings

is pleased to present

The Walpole High School Students and Class of the Month

SEPTEMBER

SENIOR

KIMBERLY NG

Advanced Accounting

I would like to nominate Senior Kimberly Ng for September Student of the Month for Advanced Accounting. To say that Kimberly is successful in this course would be an understatement. Kimberly has risen to the top and is the measure for which her peers use to evaluate their own success. She has a desire to learn and is intellectually mature beyond her years. She displays a strong work ethic at all times. She never forgets to do an assignment or has an excuse for anything. Kimberly just gets things done no matter what else is going on in her life. With regards to leadership, Kimberly leads by example. She does what is right because she has ethics and wants to succeed. Kimberly has provided great leadership in both accounting courses over the past two school years and collaborates well with her peers.

Mr. Braccini

JUNIOR

BERGOMI FRANCOIS

French IV

Bergomi is a leader in his class. He is always positive and helpful to all. When he enters my classroom, everyone greets him and returns his wide smile. He always speaks French and is open to sharing information about Haiti in easy-to-understand French. Bergomi’s sense of respect for himself and others is rare. He treats everyone with incredible respect, and in a supportive manner. If another student needs help, Bergomi gladly lends a hand. Students do seek him out when I am not available. Bergomi is the glue that holds the group together and keeps us all happy and energized.

Mrs. Liz Pierce

SOPHOMORE

JESSICA CONNOLLY

Geometry

Jessica is off to a phenomenal start in Geometry. She received perfect scores on three out of four quizzes and on our Chapter 1 test. Jessica shows an excellent command of the vocabulary and notation. She is consistently able to translate a Geometric situation in an Algebraic equation. Her homework is always complete, and she is ready to participate in class. I am incredibly proud of what Jessica has accomplished so far.

Mrs. Kathleen Milne

FRESHMAN

KRISTA JAMESON

Algebra I

Krista is doing a great job in our new Common Core Algebra I course. She has done an excellent job recalling knowledge and skills from last year’s course and applying these to the Algebra I concepts. We do many word problems in this new course and Krista takes these challenging problems in stride. She asks great questions that dig deeper and she models productive student behavior. Krista is very deserving of the title Student of the Month.

Mrs. Caitlin Sullivan

OCTOBER

SENIOR

JACQUELINE STRATTON

Sociology

Jacqueline is an outstanding student, who consistently performs well on assessments but more importantly, has shown genuine curiosity and interest in the topics discussed in Sociology. She is frequently a catalyst for discussions, makes insightful observations, and brings positive energy to the class.

Mrs. Karen Sullivan

JUNIOR

JESSICA CICCKETTI

Algebra II

Out of my 3 sections of Algebra 2 CP2 (over 50 students), Jessica had the highestterm 1 average. Only 1 of her assessments during the entire term fell below 90% (she got 84% on one quiz). She shows tremendous attention to detail and true mastery of the mathematics. Jessica does not hesitate to ask questions when she has them and always completes every assignment to the best of her ability. Additionally, she is always pleasant to both me and to her peers. She gets along with everyone and works well her classmates. Jessica is an excellent candidate for student of the month honors.

Ms. Lerner

SOPHOMORE

MEGHAN O’MEARA

Spanish III

It is my pleasure to nominate sophomore Meghan O’Meara from my Spanish III Honors class for Student of the Month. She is hard working and highly motivated. Meghan has the highest average (98) in a competitive honors class of thirty students. However, I am also nominating Meghan for her wonderful attitude. She comes to class with a smile on her face and is always ready to work. No matter how tired she is from all her honor’s classes, I can count on Meghan to give a hundred percent. She is a kind hearted and well-mannered young lady. I consider myself fortunate to have had the pleasure of teaching her for two years.

Mrs. Joanne Sprague

FRESHMAN

ANDREW MOORE

Algebra I

I would like to nominate Andrew for student of the month because of his hard work and willingness to challenge himself. His completes all work that is expected of him without complaint. He troubleshoots problems that he has incorrect without needing a teacher to prompt him. He often finishes problems from assignments before other students, but instead of being unproductive; he moves on and tries another more challenging problem. I made a mistake when typing a problem on a worksheet one time that made the problem extremely complicated and difficult. He had already dived into the problem before I could warn him of the difficulty. When I told him that it was more difficult than I had intended, he said OK and continued to work on it. Andrew is very deserving of student of the month. His interest in learning and unwavering drive should be recognized and commended.

Mrs. Sullivan & Mr. Morgan

ACTIVITY AWARD

Junior

Hillary Castillo

Freshman Leader

In addition to her involvement in our Freshman Orientation program as a Rebel Ambassador, Hillary volunteered to serve as one of our “Homeroom Captains” – a new program that placed her in a leadership/ helping role with a freshman homeroom for orientation through the first seven days of school. In a role that proved challenging and awkward for many others, Hillary was outstanding. She embraced the challenge, pushed through the awkwardness, and ensured that all of “her” assigned freshman had the information and support they needed.

Mr. Patrick O’Toole

ACTIVITY AWARD

No Student was nominated for October’s Activity Award.

CLASS OF THE MONTH

COLLEGE WRITING

PERIOD 5

From the very first day, they have been invested in the class, even in the grammar exercises. What has really impressed me is the effort they have put into the editing process. While some classes are resistant to giving their peers useful feedback, this class gave the peer editing session their all. They made constructive comments that were critical, positive, and helpful to their partners. They also participate well in full class discussions where they ask questions and think about the topics in a new and insightful way. I have enjoyed getting to know this class, and look forward to working with them throughout the year.

Ms. Gould

CLASS OF THE MONTH

AP US HISTORY II

PERIOD 5

I have been teaching this class for 2 years now, and I have gotten to know them very well. One would be hard pressed to find a group of harder working students than this one. Over the past couple of years, every member of this class has worked consistently to improve both in and out of class. In addition to improving their reading and writing skills in history, they have all shown themselves to be well-rounded people. Many of them are school leaders, serving on the student council or volunteering to help in charity events in the community. Others are artists, dancers, or athletes who improve the school community through their efforts. Lastly, some of them have had me as a teacher for three years. Anyone who must endure that, and is still smiling at the end of the day deserves high praise.

Mr. Balkus



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# Student Council mixes things up at the Annual Pep Rally

By Bailey Tudor  
Class of 2014

As the regular season for many fall sports came to an end and teams prepared for their first games in the state tournament, there was an air of excitement and unity around the school. Every fall, hundreds of screaming students have made their way out to Turco Field, sat in the stands, and anxiously watched as fellow classmates and teachers participated in games and activities meant to inspire and the crowd. Over the past years, the Fall Pep Rally had been designed as an outdoor event with similar activities — such as the Relay Race, the donut eating contest, tug-of-war, and the teacher joust. However, this year Student Council and the Administration made numerous changes to the Fall Pep Rally on Thursday, November 24.

The Student Council and other Administrators moved the event into the gymnasium and separated the audience by grades with the intention of creating a more enthusiastic environment.

"Even though we could not fit the whole school into the gym, we were willing to take a risk and change things up in order to create a louder, more spirited atmosphere with more student participation," said senior Jack Stedman, the President of the Student Council.

Students had mixed reactions to the change in venue and in the make-up of the audiences. Senior Jacqui Stratton said, "I didn't get why it was split up like that, but I know that the whole school couldn't fit in the gym." Many students did not like that the Pep Rally did not consist of the whole school; however, most generally approved of the indoor location.

With the theme of a new and improved Pep Rally, Student Council attempted to design a Pep Rally that had more direct student involvement and less sitting and observing. Although many of the activities were relatively the same, numerous ones were created or altered including the relay race, the blind folded money search, the half-court shot contest, the gummy worm toss, and musical chairs.

The overall level of excitement throughout both Pep Rallies was an improvement from past years, according to various StuCo members that helped out.

Junior Claudia Schoenthaler said, "People were actually paying attention and participating this year — it was fun." Unlike Turco Field where student participation is less reverberated, the gymnasium made the students' cheering and yelling more palpable.

Of all of the new events added this year, the money-search received the greatest reaction from the audience. The crowd was on their feet as senior Wesley Doolan searched for the loose \$20 bill on the floor blindfolded, eventually sprawling himself out in desperation. Likewise, the transformed relay race was a nail-biter as the pairs of seniors and freshmen from each sport pushed and carried each other on

scooters, wheel-barrow raced, and were shoved into sleeping bags. It was a very close race, but football prevailed.

The junior-sophomore rally was much different from the senior-freshman one, as different events drew different reactions from the crowd. Although the crowd was not as enthusiastic as the previous one, they supported the volunteers in most events, especially the ones that involved some sort of timed competition. Some crowd favorites were sophomore Kevin O'Leary, who successfully made a half-court shot before the 30 second buzzer sounded and junior Olivia O'Brien, who triumphed in a tight game of Musical Chairs, taking home 20 dollars, which was placed under the winning chair.

Although there was a drastic change to the flow of the annual Pep Rally this year, it was successful, according to Stedman. "The indoor pep rally idea was one that we came up with a few weeks before in order to try to augment the school spirit," said Stedman. "And we think it worked."

Despite a few problems, it went well and we hope to continue this in the future." "It's a challenge," said senior treasurer Matt Brownsword. "Every year, we have differing opinions and new ideas of how to make the pep rally better, and achieve its goal of exciting the student body. This year, we went with something that we thought would accomplish that and also be more energetic, and I think it worked for the most part."

Despite some initial problems — an extremely low volume microphone and a few inappropriate reactions from some crowd members — the student body seemed to enjoy the change in venue, and Student Council hopes to continue the indoor pep rally next year with some improvements.

Photo/ Bryan Kelleher



Senior officers Peter Hoegler, Jack Stedman, Ashley Waldron, and Matt Brownsword announce the Pep Rally events.



Junior Rachel Goula takes a half court shot.



Sophomore Kaitlin Brown and Junior Joe Delaney lead the wheelbarrow race.

Photos/ Bryan Kelleher



Walpole High School's Senior Class cheer for their classmates.



Students compete in a doughnut eating contest at the senior-freshmen pep rally.



# Walpole High Drama Club presents ‘A Christmas Carol’

By Peter Hoegler  
Class of 2014

Amid the hustle of the holidays, the Walpole High School Drama Club celebrated the Christmas season with a cast of colorful characters. On Friday December 6 and Saturday December 7, Walpole students gussied up in 19th century garb to perform a holiday classic in their production of “A Christmas Carol.”

From Charles Dickens’ classic novella comes the Lynn Stevens stage adaptation— a powerful production which tells the heartwarming tale of a miserly man’s transformation. With the help of three holiday apparitions— the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come— Ebenezer Scrooge learns to abandon his selfish attitude and instead adopt one of generosity and sympathy. Just as Scrooge overcomes his demons and appreciates the importance of family, audience members watching with their families were able to experience a similar set of emotions as a result of the Drama Club’s exquisite acting skills.

“It’s just a fantastic story, even if you set aside the holiday aspect of it,” Director Jim D’Attilio said. “The story is just great.”

D’Attilio, who has overseen the Walpole High School drama club for 21 years, altered the play from its original version so that the group could perform a slightly modified version of the same play every four years.

“Mr. D’Attilio worked so hard to make this play a success,” said sophomore Matt Moriarty, who played the Narrator, Belle’s Husband, and a Businessman. “He made advertisements and created online sales so that we could perform in front of a sold out audience. You cannot ask for anything more from a Director.”

Moriarty alludes to the new on-

line ticket sales and increased advertisements around the school and in the Walpole Times which helped make this year’s installment of “A Christmas Carol” a complete success. The Drama Club was especially pleased with the result of the well-publicized play, for both shows were close to being completely sold out.

The production starred senior Rory Hardiman as the grumpy protagonist and junior Katie Trudel, senior Genevieve Canavan, and senior Doug Stewart as the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future, respectively.

“All of the actors were awesome,” said Hardiman. “The play was certainly a lot of hard work from the actor’s and crew’s perspective, but in the end, it worked out for a great show.”

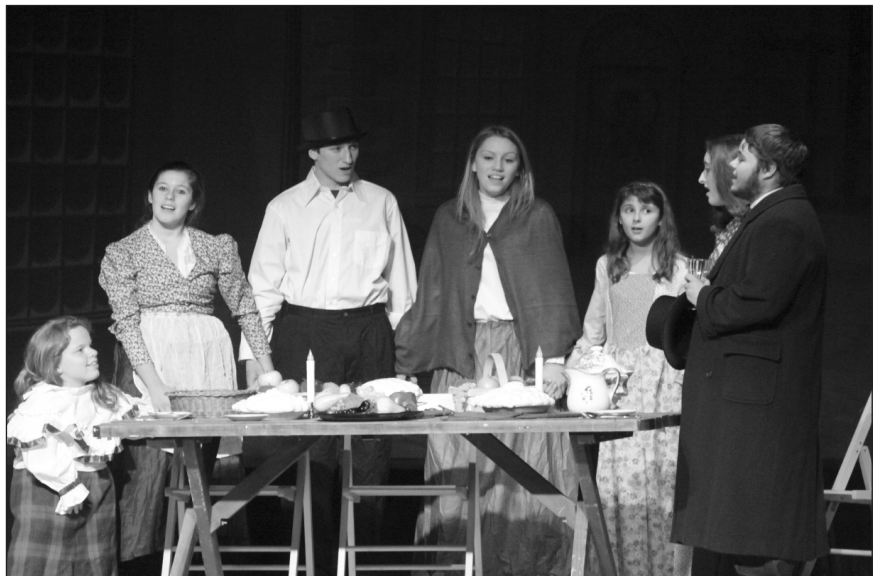
Hardiman stole the shows on both nights with his amusing portrayal of Scrooge, the archetypal grump. Hardiman’s facial expressions and character were perfect for this production.

The set was an amazing 3-D structure that exuded the atmosphere of the mid-1800s and set the stage for a Christmas play. As Hardiman walked the stage that was modeled after the London streets, D’Attilio had eleven carolers singing on an elevated stage that was obfuscated by a black curtain. Also, a frightening doorknocker adorned Scrooge’s door and well-timed audio cues built the suspense for Scrooge’s haunting.

Unlike most holiday classics, it was clear that D’Attilio wanted his production to be a dark story. Two of four spirits that visited Scrooge were Halloween-level scary. Scrooge’s former partner Jacob Marley (senior Mike Griffin), heavy with chains, sprung up to warn Scrooge. The Spirit of Christmas Yet to Come (Stewart) stood on stilts and wore an enormous black gown—reminding the audience of a silent Grim Reaper. Without



Senior Rory Hardiman who plays Ebenezer Scrooge, ignores caroler junior Samantha Huynh.



The cast during a Christmas dinner scene in the Cratchit home.

saying a word, Spirit Future merely pointed and sent shivers up the spine.

Of course, “A Christmas Carol” would not be complete without the adorable Cratchit family led by Mrs. Cratchit (junior Lauren Lorusso) and of course Tiny Tim, who perfected the crutched walk.

Christmas has come early for the Drama Club, who put on a fantastic show in front of a sold out audience. This production is exactly what D’Attilio was hoping for as he continues to accrue his Drama Department into something Walpole High School should be extremely proud of.

## Underdog Kody McCann runs for SEMASC Presidency



Junior Kody McCann delivers his presidential speech at the fall SEMASC Conference.

By Abbey Smith  
Class of 2014

Seven years ago, the Walpole High School Student Council was virtually nonexistent in the regional, state, and national levels. However, WHS’s StuCo has recently made huge strides in becoming a more successful student council—becoming both a Massachusetts Gold Council of Excellence and a nationally recognized Council of Excellence in the 2012-2013 school year. More recently, junior Kody McCann, a Student Council member, became the first WHS student to run for the Southeastern Massachusetts Association of Student Councils (SEMASC) President. On November 22 McCann, along with 40 other members of Walpole’s Student Council, attended the annual regional conference at Whitman-Hanson High School. Each year at the fall conference, candidates from different high schools run to be elected to the President Elect position, shadowing the active president for the remainder of the year before becoming the president themselves the following school year.

This year there were four candidates up for the position: McCann, Samuel Botelho from Middleboro High School, Patrick Butler from Rockland High School, and Madison Utz from Plymouth South High School. At the start of the conference, each candidate took the stage to present their speeches to the SEMASC audience. McCann’s speech took on an underdog theme, as he opened it up by talking about the Red Sox, which one year ago was the worst team in the AL East and came storming back in the 2013 season to win the World Series. McCann often referenced the popular Drake song lyrics, “started from the bottom now we’re here”, which the Red Sox appropriately used as their post-World Series win theme song, to relate the WHS Student Council to the Red Sox. A once nonexistent Student Council is now a nationally recognized council, much like the once worst team in baseball is now a world champion.

McCann then focused his speech on his own individual accomplishments and motivations for running for the position. He said, “In a region like this, sometimes a new perspective is needed for the president position. And that’s why I’m standing up here. In order to compete with the best regions, we need to evolve. We need a new direction, and I’m willing to lead SEMASC in that right direction.” After completing his speech, McCann received a round of applause from the audience as well as a standing ovation from the Walpole StuCo members.

McCann’s interest in running first began last Spring at the National Association of Student Councils (NASC) Conference in Las Vegas. After talking to Linda Francis, the head supervisor of SEMASC, and spending three days with kids from across the country who are as invested in student council as McCann is, he decided pursuing the position was something he wanted to do.

To prepare for his campaign at the conference,

McCann had to write his speech as well as prepare a sign, order buttons, and practice his speech—as votes are based mainly off of the candidates’ speeches due to a lack of opportunities to campaign before the conference. McCann said, “The most important part of preparation was practicing my speech, so I practiced it in front of everyone I could find in the week leading up to the conference.”

Despite McCann’s preparations, Botelho ultimately won the campaign and was named the 2014-2015 SEMASC President. Although McCann was not victorious, he was successful in taking a step forward in the world of Student Councils that no WHS student has taken before. Student Council Advisor Ms. Kerry McMenimen said, “We are an up and coming force in state student councils and we are showcasing fabulous student leaders.”

McCann’s abilities as a leader do not stop at Student Council; McCann is also involved in basketball, Agora, the Global Studies Program, Film Festival, and the German Exchange Program at the high school. He is also a peer counselor and a member of the Wapole Brigade. Student Council President Jack Stedman said, “Kody is always enthusiastic about what he’s doing and his ability to be so involved in not only student council but also so many other school clubs shows how dedicated he is to the things he does.”

McCann’s willingness to step out of his comfort zone and run for a prominent position at SEMASC parallels Walpole StuCo’s recent determination to make itself known in a sea of school councils. Despite his loss, Kody serves as a model for both students and councils everywhere that wish to shatter the status quo and stand out. Regardless of the election’s outcome, McCann’s attempts should not be perceived as one small step at SEMASC, but instead as one giant leap for the underdogs.



# Annual poetry reading reveals raw talent

By Hannah McLaughlin  
Class of 2014

On Tuesday, November 26, the Barnes & Noble Bookstore at the Walpole Mall was abuzz with activity. Walpole students, parents, and poetry-lovers alike crowded into the store's small Starbucks to hear some of Walpole high's most talented writers read their original poems aloud. This year, a host of high schoolers submitted sonnets and free-verse to be read at the annual Fall Poetry Night; as a result, more than 30 poems—comprised of a full range of emotions and subjects—were recited by their imaginative authors. While sampling strawberry cheesecake and sipping their Starbucks, spectators were treated to stories of stargazing, silliness, summer, and sorrow.

Even before the poetry reading commenced, palpable excitement permeated the room. Senior Maria Earabino kicked off the night's festivities when she performed original songs as entertainment for individuals who filed into the bookstore. Afterward, Seniors Andrew Hazerjian, Brian Hazerjian, and Jimmy Martin played until the poets were ready to read their works. After his performance, Brian Hazerjian said, "It was a very relaxed evening so we just had fun with it. We had a good time." The music succeeded in setting the calm, comfortable atmosphere that continued throughout the course of the night. After about an hour of performing, the musicians were met with a roaring applause from the appreciative audience.

At precisely 7:00pm, the first poet of many approached the podium to recite her works. Senior Maria Earabino received a warm applause for her inspiring poems entitled "All I Ask For" and "Untitled". Immediately afterward, sophomore Archana Apte read "Long Way Home," her intriguing piece that portrayed the painful memories of a young boy. Several students representing each grade showcased their writing skills and spoke of everything from anatomy to origami, from feelings to Fall Out Boy. At the end of the night, junior Katie Greulich's witty poem "Meat Patties" elicited many laughs from listeners.

One of the most notable readings was that of Senior Alexa DeMarco, a veteran poet at the annual WHS event. Pouring all emotions into her three poems, Alexa left the audience in awe of both her extraordinary writing skills and her courage in sharing such person-

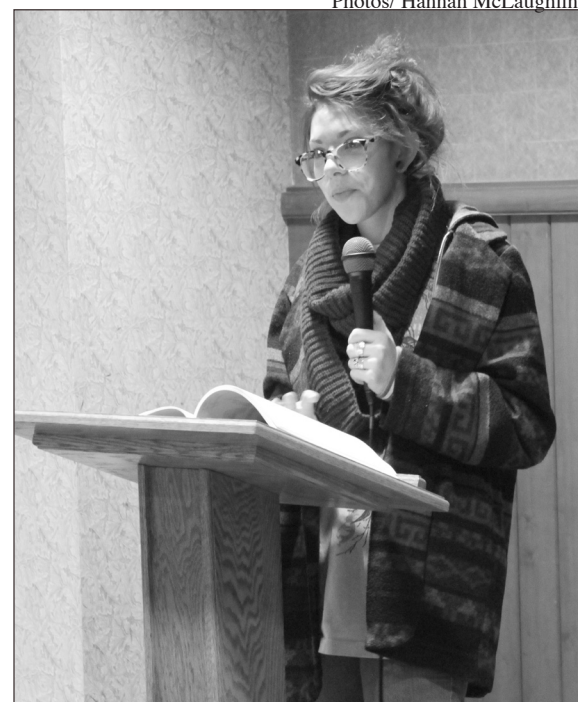


*Leah D'Sa reads her poem at Barnes & Noble.*

al experiences with a room filled with strangers. In "That Moment in Time," she spoke of finding pure joy in a seemingly hopeless situation. Next, DeMarco illustrated the flood of emotions that accompany pain in her second poem. In her final piece, Alexa revealed that source of her unyielding strength in certain situations is her guardian angel: her loving mother. The tear-jerking tribute resulted in erupting applause, and Alexa took her seat after a brief exchange with her mother, who was seated in the audience.

Crowd favorites included junior Leah D'Sa, senior Harrison Berkland, and senior Frank DeBlasio. While D'Sa put a sweet spin on young love, Berkland wrote an ode to his old dog. Yet the poet whose work received the most praise was DeBlasio. The final poet of the night, DeBlasio recited "Food"—a humorous piece devoted to the wonders of nutrition and metabolism. DeBlasio finished the night pondering, "Maybe I should increase my daily amount of fruits instead of letting myself fill up on junk. Maybe if I do that, I'll become a hunk."

Organized by English and Film teacher Mr. Michael Alan, this highly-anticipated annual event was yet again a massive success. Senior Cara



*Senior Cara Cianci reads her poem to the crowd.*

Cianci—a participant in this year's poetry reading—said, "It was definitely a fun atmosphere. Although it was my first time at Walpole High's poetry night, I have read my poetry in front of people before. I wasn't nervous at all." When asked about his thoughts on the reading, Mr. Alan said, "It was a great night with an eclectic bunch of poets. The range was very serious and personal to funny and humorous. Also, the Hazerjian's performance was great!"

Addressing the rumors of a Spring Poetry Night, Mr. Alan said, "Depending on our availability in the spring, we may be able to have a Spring Poetry reading. However, it mostly depends on both Mrs. Kerr's availability and mine." For several years, Mr. Alan—with the help of fellow English teacher Mrs. Laura Kerr—has helped young writers showcase their talents in a welcoming atmosphere while simultaneously augmenting their public speaking skills.

On Tuesday, November 26, spectators of all ages gathered in Barnes & Noble expecting a night of amusing anecdotes, scintillating sonnets, and thought-provoking poems. Unsurprisingly, the 2013 Fall Poetry Reading did not disappoint.

## Walpole High participates in annual Special Olympics bocce tournament

Photo/ Matthew Brownsword



*Members of Student Council and Best Buddies pose for a picture after the Bocce tournament.*

By Lucy Lynch  
Class of 2015

Recently, the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils (MASC) and Special Olympics formed an educational partnership geared towards leadership, unity, and inclusion among highschoolers across the state. This "Inclusion Revolution," a motto dubbed by MASC, has resulted

in multiple statewide events that promote stronger relationships among high school students, especially student council members and special education students. Movements like "Spread the Word to End the Word" and MASC's annual Bocce Tournament have been proven to be successful events for both associations.

This year, Walpole High School Student Council and students from

its Best Buddies program attended the second annual Bocce tournament for Southeastern and Central Massachusetts on Sunday, November 17 at Grafton High School. The goal of the Bocce tournament is for student council officers and their Best Buddies friends to enjoy a day of friendly competition and encourage participants to meet new friends and make lasting bonds, stressing the event's principle of inclusion. The morning began in the Grafton High School auditorium with an opening ceremony conducted by Grafton Student Council President Caitlyn O'Malley and Massachusetts Association of Student Councils President Jacqui Manning. They introduced

the towns who were competing with teams, which included Walpole, and the towns who arrived for the sole purpose of adding spirit as fans. After one of Grafton's own special education students sang the National Anthem, the games were set to begin.

Walpole had two groups competing—the green team and the purple team. On the green team were juniors Kody McCann and Claudia Schoenthaler, senior

Robbie Lederman, and Best Buddies participant Ryan Cisternelli. The purple team members were juniors Annie Gallivan and Lucy Lynch, senior Harrison Berkland, and Best Buddy Eric Folan. Overall, both teams were successful as McCann's team finished with a handful of wins over host town Grafton and David Prouty High School.

Attendance at Grafton High was significant for Walpole High as it was the first Special Olympics event that the Student Council has ever attended, and thus was a new experience for all who participated. Despite not having a playoff round and having unnecessarily purchased an outdoor bocce set for an indoor tournament, most Walpole attendees thought highly of the event. Student Council treasurer Matt Brownsword said, "I was upset that there were no playoffs, but overall, I really enjoyed the tournament."

Walpole's attendance at the Bocce tournament shows how student councils across the state are making more of an effort to reach out to all students at their schools. Participating in these statewide events has become increasingly important to Walpole High School Student Council and its adviser Ms. Kerry McMenimen, who plans on attending the Bocce tournament in years to come. She said, "Since our school isn't large enough to host this Special Olympics event, we definitely want to participate next year."



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**Next 1 Week Class – December 26th 8:45am-3:30pm**  
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# Elm Street Elementary School Receives *NFL Play 60* Grant

Photos/ Bailey Tudor



*Elm Street students pose with Patriots players, cheerleaders, and owner Bob Kraft.*

*Continued from page 1*

After the players exited the bus at Elm Street School, they walked through the decorated hallways to the gymnasium where the majority of the students screamed and cheered, gathering around Pat Patriot and trying to catch a glimpse of their heroes. As Pat the Patriot pumped up the crowd, Principal Mary Grinavic introduced Patriots owner Robert Kraft, who thanked the students and staff. He congratulated the school's dedication to health and fitness.

The Elm Street Elementary School stood out in their application because rather they had been implementing wellness initiatives for several years. About six years ago, they established a Fitness Incentive Month, where students were encouraged to exercise 60 minutes a day, and those who faithfully participate were eligible for prizes. Also, last year they piloted a Community Garden, with partnerships with the Board of Health, Norfolk Agricultural School, Senior Citizen Center, Department of Public Works and more. Elm Street also established a Running Club, and their Food Services Department instituted a healthier menu within all schools in the district.

"After reading the essays in the application, I felt our school was a great fit, that we have great programs implemented over the last couple of years, and we could answer these questions really well," said PAC President Tina Schmottlach.

Kraft then introduced the special guests individually — including Pat the Patriot, punter Ryan Allen, wide receiver Danny Amendola, defensive back Duran Harmon, quarterback Ryan Mallett, cornerback Devin McCourty, wide receiver Matthew Slater, two Patriots Cheerleaders, and retired linebacker Andre Tippett.

Superintendent Lincoln Lynch then welcomed the Patriots and highlighted the remarkable sense of community that is upheld in and out of the classrooms in Walpole. He said, "When you see Tom Brady in an interview he always talks about team, and teamwork. He never takes all the credit as an individual and neither do our students. Our students work together to make this school a better place," said Lynch. He said that the award is not merely an individual accomplishment, but one that is a testament to the Walpole community.

"This award is a testimony to their efforts to create a healthier body which leads to a healthier mind," said Lynch, "which creates greater learning in the classroom and that is why we're here."

Andre Tippett, the current Executive Director of Community Affairs for the New England Patriots and former linebacker, took the podium with Kraft, and together they awarded the Patriot Difference Maker of the Week, an award that recognizes a person who makes a difference in many lives, to Ginger DeShaney, journalist of Josiah Quincy School's health newsletter.

Kraft once more addressed the crowd and discussed the major success achieved at Elm Street Elementary school. "Great credit to the people who run [Elm Street] school. It's pretty cool that out of hundreds of schools, Elm Street won this award, and we love winners," said Kraft. Then, with the players and other guests, he handed Principal Grinavic a \$10,000 check for the

school's success in promoting a healthy environment.

With the \$10,000 grant, the school intends to purchase new equipment and establish health, wellness, and fitness oriented programs. "We have a great foundation of fitness and wellness programs and we are all looking forward to building on that," said Schmottlach.

Before the fitness activities began, a special surprise was announced: 11 students were chosen to travel to Gillette Stadium to participate in pre-game festivities as

the players take the field against the Cleveland Browns.

The NFL Play 60 was not only a spectacular moment for the Walpole Public School Community, but a life changing moment for the students at Elm Street. "The school and students will remember this day and this opportunity for a long time, probably forever," said Schmottlach. "The chance to interact with someone or people you consider idols or heroes is very significant and memorable, especially for a child."

Photos/ Bailey Tudor



*Patriots' backup quarterback Ryan Mallett high-fives Elm Street students.*

Photos/ Bailey Tudor



*Former linebacker Andre Tippett greets excited students.*



# The Brigade rallies student support for Walpole sports

By Peter Hoegler and Mary Hinton  
Class of 2014 and 2015

At the end of the Turco bleachers on October 25 when Walpole took on Natick in one of the best football games in recent memory, spectators and players witnessed something they have never seen before: roughly 250 students, mostly juniors and seniors, sporting Rebel apparel and cheering together as an organized group. Occasionally, during touchdowns and huge plays, wispy clouds of flour erupted above the heads of the crowd (simulating the snow spectators throw in the air during a celebratory moment of a wintry Patriots game). This White-Out is one of the cheering strategies of the student pseudo-club called The Brigade.

"We need more student support at sporting events," said Mr. Dave St. Martin, the faculty leader of The Brigade, at the official Brigade meeting on Thursday, October 17. "There are a lot of people at this school who want to show school spirit but are too hesitant. We think this new and organized fan section will help those kids break out of their shell."

Senior Peter Hoegler, one of the driving forces behind the Brigade said, "We had an unbelievable turnout at the Natick football game and hopefully it will only grow from here." And grow it has. As of December 7, @WalpoleBrigade— a twitter account created by Mr. St. Martin— had 638 followers. The account received about 200 of these followers after Mr. St. Martin's presentation at the Pep Rally on October 24.

Throughout the fall tournament season, the Brigade showed up in spurts because most of the games were on the road and typically far away from Walpole High. But at the boys soccer State Champion-



*The Brigade cheers as the Rebels score a touchdown.*

ship game at the Manning Bowl in Lynn, the Brigade packed roughly 200 students (80 of which came on the two fan buses) in their section— an incredible count for a game located an hour away.

The formation of this new, organized fan section boosted school spirit and certainly brought more attention to the fall sports teams. There is no doubt that the Brigade contributed to the Rebels success in the tournament, in which Walpole posted a 14-4 record and brought home one state title and one sectional crown.

At both high schools and colleges across the country, there are numerous active cheering sections at school sporting events. Students pack the stands, cheering for their team and antagonizing the opposing team. At Walpole High School, sports games often do get some

student fans; however, most students do not really pay attention to the game or cheer as much as other schools do. At football games, for instance, students usually mill about the softball field, rather than sit in the stands and cheer for the Rebels. At other sporting events— such as Golf, Swimming, Gymnastics and Tennis— crowds usually consist of only parents. But St. Martin hopes to change this lack of student support by introducing The Brigade, an official student fan section, to WHS.

St. Martin and Vice Principal William Hahn are simulating their project at Catholic Memorial, the school where they worked previously. Before they created the fan section, CM had the same problem as WHS: they lacked school spirit and did not get much attendance at sporting events. Now, the CM students wreak havoc when any opposing team from the Catholic Conference takes a step on their campus.

Last year, the Boys Basketball team lost to Hingham in the playoffs even though they had a huge lead for most of the game. One factor that helped the Hingham team rally to victory was undoubtedly their fan section. The Hingham students were loud and cheered throughout the game, bringing momentum to the team on the court as they rallied for a comeback.

"It was really evident how much a fan section can turn the momentum of a game," said Mr. St. Martin. "We believe WHS can be just as loud and supportive as Hingham was. Students will take initiative and spread it. They can go to a game, cheer, and at the same time have fun with their friends."

It seems as though the Brigade is the next big thing at Walpole High. Perhaps if Walpole winter sports teams meet their lofty expectations, we could see the Brigade as the next big fan section in the state.

## Post-season fall sports ignite student fights on Twitter

*Continued from Page 1*

Mr. Hahn said, "Social Media is simply a tool of communication. Like any tool of communication, it can be used to engage students and engage learning. Contrarily, it can be used by people to be hurtful and communicate poorly. It all really comes down to people's choices and what they want to do with those choices."

Regardless of the game's outcome, students verbally attacked specific individuals of rival towns with scathing insults and discriminatory statements. While one tweet following the Walpole Porkers' playoff win over Dennis Yarmouth on November 6 fomented the first fight, the second war of words escalated after a Masconomet student uploaded a parody video on November 13 criticizing Walpole's State Championship-bound boys soccer team. In each situation, these twitter fights escalated from a single tweet— a seemingly witty sentence or two which was most likely published for the sole purpose of attaining abundant "likes."

Such social media slander began at Walpole when a student tweeted homophobic slurs about the Dennis Yarmouth goalie—a formidable field hockey player with impressive stats and skills. As one of the few males in a predominantly female sport, this goalie is no stranger to discrimination and controversy regarding his stance in the league— yet on the day of his game against Walpole, the DY student faced an unprecedented onslaught of harsh criticism and accusations attacking his audacity to shatter the status quo and participate in the sport he loves.

During the field hockey South Sectional semi-finals, the then-ranked number 2 Porkers fought the 3rd-ranked Dennis Yarmouth Dolphins. Due to the Porkers' untarnished record, spectators and league-members alike expected an unquestionable Walpole victory. As the game progressed, however, Walpole was taken by surprise when Dennis Yarmouth's male goalie proved his athletic prowess by preventing the Porkers from scoring until the beginning of the second half. Though the Porkers played well offensively and dominated the game, the aggressive

defensive tactics of the DY goalie had threatened Walpole's eventual victory.

Completely discarding the player's phenomenal efforts, several Walpole students turned to twitter to taunt the goalie for not only being male, but also for losing to a team composed entirely of females. Similar chauvinistic tweets ensued as Dennis-Yarmouth students responded with their own insults; soon enough, a twitter fight was born.

While one particular DY Dolphin spearheaded the argument in defense of his school, three Walpole students staunchly stood by theirs. Rife with incredible bias, potent political incorrectness, and an utter disregard for online etiquette, the squabble soon deviated from the field hockey game as personal attacks were put into play. Caustic comments about weight, intelligence, family life, financial status—even sexual orientation—surfaced, which rallied students behind their rude representatives and in full support of each cruel remark.

Both student bodies—equally at fault for partaking in such inappropriate behavior—showed such little restraint in controlling their rage that the fight suppressed each participant's conditioning to be wary of what one posts on the Internet. One Dennis Yarmouth senior who did not approve of either party's defense of their school said, "High school kids don't realize how detrimental social media can be. A seemingly harmless argument can turn into words and statements that can't be erased or forgotten."

Walpole High School Vice Principal Mr. Edward Connor agrees. Citing the permanence of social media, he said, "Once it's out there it's out there forever and it can really put a stain on your character that you can't take back. If you're going to say something to someone, you should be able to say it to their face."

Yet regardless of a website's ability to assist the spread of cyber-bullying, twitter is not responsible for the formulation of offensive tweets. Regarding a student's accountability for their actions, Mr. Hahn said, "Because it's new, we as a society like to blame Twitter and Facebook for an individual's poor actions. Social media might make it easier for people to act poorly or aggressively, but it should not be

used as an excuse for bad behavior."

But at a time when pride is at its pinnacle— such as the playoffs— and the obligation to protect a school's reputation appears to be unquestionable, the ability for Walpole students to discern between acceptable and inappropriate behavior is especially precarious. Such blurred lines of behavior are illustrated in the second twitter-based battle—a fight that preceded the championship game for boys soccer. When news spread that a Masconomet Regional High School student created a video warning the Walpole soccer team to prepare for an embarrassing loss to the Masco Chieftans, Twitter was immediately abuzz with insults and threats from both sides.

The Masco student's video is a parody of an original video entitled "The One Man Thrill Ride" in which a former college baseball player expressed great confidence that his softball team would win an important game. In the recreation, the Masco student slightly modified the original so that his message would apply to the Rebels. The video had almost 500 views within its first few hours of being posted, but it was taken off of YouTube once the student began receiving vicious messages on Twitter. Although the Masco student never used profanities and had referred to Walpole only absurdly as a "bunch of joy boys" who would step onto the field "facing the largest collections of studs ever assembled," his humorous parody was viewed by almost every Walpole High student before homeroom on the day of the game.

Instead of the communities focusing on the game itself, students fixated on the video and the backlash from it. Paradoxically, the parody both increased Rebel pride and distracted from the game itself. For instance, the list to secure a spot on 'The Brigade' fan bus filled up quickly that morning, but many signed up only as a reaction to the "One Man Thrill Ride." While the Rebels competed for the first State Title under the 34 years of Coach Delaney's tenure, many students cared more about the sideshow of a youtube parody than the athletic prowess of the Rebel players.

These students were disappointed though. The "One Man Thrill Ride" who initiated all of the conflict was not

at the game to face his twitter enemies. Instead, the school and his parents prevented him from attending the State Championship for fear that he could be potentially hurt by angry adversaries.

As social media becomes more prevalent in society with each passing day, WHS Administration is often forced to intervene in online attacks. "We're not trying to be the social media police," Mr. Connor said. "That's not our intention." Yet when Twitter fights escalate, the school must step in to prevent further conflict. Regarding the protocol for addressing such issues, Mr. Connor said, "We talk to the student who is sending out these tweets. We discuss what's appropriate and what's not in terms of how to treat someone."

Though the reinforcement of such obvious social skills may seem unnecessary, many students fail to acknowledge even the most basic aspect of their conditioning: the Golden Rule to "treat others the way you want to be treated." Mr. Connor explained that a student's behavior is "reflective of yourself, your family, and your school. On Twitter, the students aren't really interacting more than they are just spewing their thoughts— positive or negative. Obviously, we have to deal with the more negative thoughts in a case by case manner."

The Masconomet and Dennis Yarmouth incidents showcase serious side effects of speaking one's mind with the intention of hurting someone else. Though freedom of speech is strongly encouraged in both social and school settings, freedom of slander is not. Based on the magnitude of recent events, it is evident that a serious reevaluation of morals and values is vital to the termination of Internet torment. When words— written, spoken, or published publically— are impetus for an individual to have to reconsider their safety at a school-related event or be forced to defend their right to play a sport they are passionate about, gone is a person's freedom to be themselves. Shattered is the confidence they once had to challenge longstanding stereotypes.

In such situations, is the defamation of an individual an acceptable example of exercising free speech? In most situations, it seems to have a hefty cost.



# Hypnotist mesmerizes WHS students

By Abbey Smith  
Class of 2014

Every year, Walpole High School students hold a variety of school-wide events. Mr. WHS, the Pep Rally, and the Date Auction have increased in popularity over the years, but the one that most students look forward to is the annual hypnotist show. On December 5, Hypnotist Jim Spinnato returned to WHS for another year of hypnotizing seniors and providing the audience with plenty of laughs.

Spinnato began the night by inviting any senior boy or girl volunteers up to the front of the auditorium and tested their ability to be hypnotized. Spinnato chose 20 seniors to participate; however, only 14 were ultimately able to become hypnotized: Jon Kelland, Garrett Barry, Mike Fortin, Casey White, Brooke Stampfl, Wesley Doolan, Katie LeBlanc, Erin LeBlanc, Maria Earabino, Anna Orfanidis, Pat Connell, Devon Cormier, Robbie Lederman, and Colton Mitchel.

After choosing the students, Spinnato

Photos/Bryan Kelleher



Senior Robbie Lederman dances around the stage, believing he is a ballerina.



Hypnotist Jim Spinnato speaks to the seniors on stage.

began the show in his traditional fashion by telling the hypnotized volunteers that whenever he said the word “microphone” they would think the person next to them smelled extremely good. Then, he told them that the people sitting next to them smelled extremely bad, resulting in students such as Earabino moving their seats to the edge of

the stage and as far away from their neighbors as possible. After he told them that the smell was gone, Spinnato introduced two new acts that he has not used in recent years at WHS: having all the students think their noses felt like gummy bears when they touched them, which entertained all the volunteers as well as the audience. Then, Spinnato had White and Stampfl as well as Cormier and Connell give each other “eskimo kisses” to make their noses feel even funnier.

One of the best acts of the night, a favorite that Spinnato uses almost every year, was when each of the students was assigned different tasks to perform when they heard certain words. One of the funniest portions of this act was when

Barry was told that he had to search for a dog named Fluffy which someone in the audience lost, and he proceeded to run around the audience screaming “Fluffy” at the top of his lungs while climbing onto the seats around the auditorium frantically searching for the lost dog. Stampfl was named the “Laugh Police” and she angrily yelled at the audience to stop laughing, which only made the students laugh more. As this was happening, Kelland began howling each time Spinnato said the word “moon” and every time Connell heard this, he approached Kelland and said to him, “You are the most attractive girl I’ve ever seen.”

Spinnato then moved on to his next act of the night, when he told the volunteers that they saw their celebrity crush in the audience and that if they were lucky, he could introduce them to the stars. In reality, their crush was really just one of their classmates, but the hypnotized students believed Spinnato anyways. Stampfl got to meet Dave Franco in the form of senior Matt Brownsword and Lederman got to meet Jennifer Lawrence in the form of senior Hannah McLaughlin. The funniest response came from Fortin, who said he saw Stevie Nicks in the audience. He then raced out into the au-

dience to senior Kara McLellan, who Fortin believed was Nicks. McLellan said to Fortin, “Hello Michael,” which caused Fortin’s knees to buckle and the audience to erupt with laughter.

For his final portion of the night, Spinnato assigned songs to some of the students who then performed individual dances when their song began to play. Earabino strutted around the stage believing she was a model and Erin LeBlanc showed her best moves as she auditioned to be Britney Spears’ backup dancer. They were followed by Orfanidis in a body building contest and Lederman leaping and twirling around the stage to classical music, believing he was a ballerina. Barry then took the stage as a belly dancer while Kelland danced to PSY’s “Gangnam Style” and was even joined by two voluntary backup dancers from the crowd who got up from their seats to dance around the auditorium with him. A definite crowd favorite was Doolan, who was handed the microphone for his performance as he proudly sang along to every lyric of Taylor Swift’s “You Belong with Me.” Connell then ran around the auditorium yelling, “Who’s your daddy?” and was followed by Cormier, who closed out the show with his attempt at Michael Jackson’s famous moonwalk.

After the show ended, Kelland said, “The experience was very unique, I was doing things I didn’t think I would ever do in front of so many people.” Not only was the show exciting for the seniors that were hypnotized, but it was also successful in entertaining all the students who weren’t hypnotized.

Senior Sara Murtagh said, “The show was really funny like it is every year. You could definitely tell that some people faked being hypnotized, but it was still entertaining.” Despite the skepticism over whether or not all the seniors on stage were truly hypnotized, the show once again proved to be a hit and is sure to be brought back again next year for another amusing night at WHS.

Photo/Mary Hinton

## Juniors prevail as champions

By Meagan Sundstrom  
Class of 2015

Having more experience and potentially more skill, many would expect a senior class to pull off a win over first-time players of the junior class in any given athletic competition. However, this year, the class of 2015 was able to achieve a victory over the opposing seniors in a close football game, giving them the opportunity to become the second class in Powder Puff history to win two years in a row. On Wednesday, November 27 at 11:30 a.m., Walpole High School’s Student Council hosted its annual Powder Puff game at Forekicks— a cutthroat competition between current juniors and seniors at WHS.

The traditional spirit of the rivalry between the two classes even spread to the coaches, Mr. Michael Alan of the Junior class and Mr. William Hahn of the Seniors. Both coaches enthusiastically and competitively led their teams by running original plays and positioning their players appropriately. Though Mr. Alan had nearly 40 players at his disposal, Mr. Hahn had to get crafty with the 15 seniors who signed up to play.

To start the game, the two team captains— Lauren Regan for the seniors and Meagan Sundstrom for the juniors — did a coin toss with referee Coach William Tompkins. Sundstrom won and gave the first possession to the Senior class. In the first play, senior quarterback Ashley Waldron found an opening in the defense and sprinted up the sideline for a touchdown after only a few seconds into the game. The early touchdown and successful two point conversion proved to the juniors that this would not be an easy victory.

Junior Marc Sheehan— Mr. Alan’s assistant coach— said, “I don’t think Waldron’s touchdown really got us worrying until we were on offense. When we weren’t able to score, we put a lot of pressure on the defense to stop Ashley and Lauren. The girls knew Ashley was a weapon, and after that score they fig-



The 2013 Powder Puff Champions were all smiles after defeating the seniors.

ured they should keep an eye on her at all times.” Despite the early intimidation, the juniors held the seniors to just eight points for the rest of the first half. With both teams finding it difficult to score from running plays, the score remained 8-0 with the seniors in the lead at halftime.

In the second half, the juniors were able to step up their game both offensively and defensively. Sheehan said, “It was all up to the girls to change the game. They definitely wanted to win, so they were able to adjust at halftime and come out playing strong.”

After a few minutes of play, junior quarterback Meagan Sundstrom found Summer King in the end zone for the juniors’ first touchdown of the game. Failing to convert on the two point conversion, the score stood at 8-6.

Both teams continued to play competitively; however the junior defenders— namely Hillary Castillo, Annie Gallivan, and Summer King— were able to stop many of the seniors’ running plays, which mostly came from Waldron and Regan. With only four senior substitutes as compared to the 28 juniors sitting on the sideline, Mr. Hahn’s team found it necessary to conserve their energy while simultaneously keeping the lead over their adversaries. As for the juniors, the game plan for the

remainder of the half was to stop the seniors in their next attempts to score. Junior Maureen Herlihy made a game-changing interception off of Regan’s pass to give the juniors a final opportunity to win the game.

In the Class of 2015’s last offensive chance to win the game and be one of the very few classes to win the Powder Puff game as juniors, Sundstrom again found King cutting across the middle of the field. King then sprinted up the right side of the field straight through multiple defenders and into the endzone to score, putting the juniors in the lead 12-8. Sundstrom then drove in for the two point conversion, making the score 14-8 with three minutes remaining. Sheehan said, “The changes on the defense helped set up [Herlihy’s] interception, which, in my opinion, was the biggest and most important play of the game. It put the game in our hands, and our offense was able to pull through.”

Junior defenders again came in strong, preventing the seniors from scoring in the final minutes of the game. The Class of 2015 counted down the last seconds of the game and sprinted onto the field in celebration of their victory over the seniors— an accomplishment scarcely achieved in Powder Puff history.

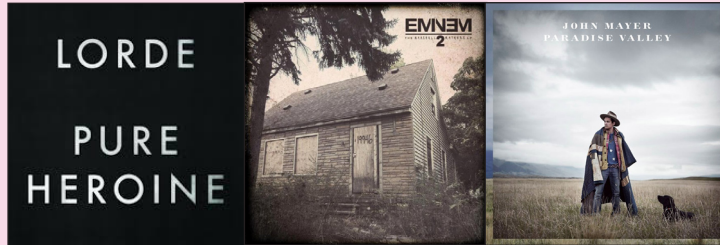


# Lorde's "Pure Heroine" Rules Billboard Charts

By Mary McAvoy  
Class of 2014

If you asked four fifteen year old girls what their favorite album of the year was, chances are their responses would differ vastly from that of an acclaimed critic from Pitchfork or Entertainment Weekly. Though many teens have distinct music tastes and take interest in artists outside of the Top 40 hit list, much of youth culture is centered around popular music and conformist taste (not to say that Eminem,

Katy Perry, and John Mayer did not release great albums this year). Despite the apparent social standard of pop and rap music dominating the airwaves, artists that break the "pop music" precedent are often thrust into the mainstream and make an unexpected mark. With high-profile artists such as Justin Timberlake, Drake, and



Lorde's *Pure Heroine*, Eminem's *MMLP2*, and John Mayer's *Paradise Valley* were three of the most popular albums of 2013.

Miley Cyrus constantly gaining media attention, it is unthinkable that a widely unknown sixteen-year-old's individual music could rise to the top of the charts seemingly instantaneously; however, Ella Yelich-O'Connor (aka Lorde) acquired her fame based solely off of pure talent.

Though the young New Zealander had already accrued a substantial following after releasing her March 2013 EP *The Love Club*, she seemed to have come out of nowhere when her hit track "Royals" debuted at number one in the United States in October. The slow, smooth beat combined with Lorde's crooning vocals gives the popular song an air of sophistication uncharacteristic of the usual repetitive drone of Kiss 108. Since "Royals" proved astoundingly successful as a single,

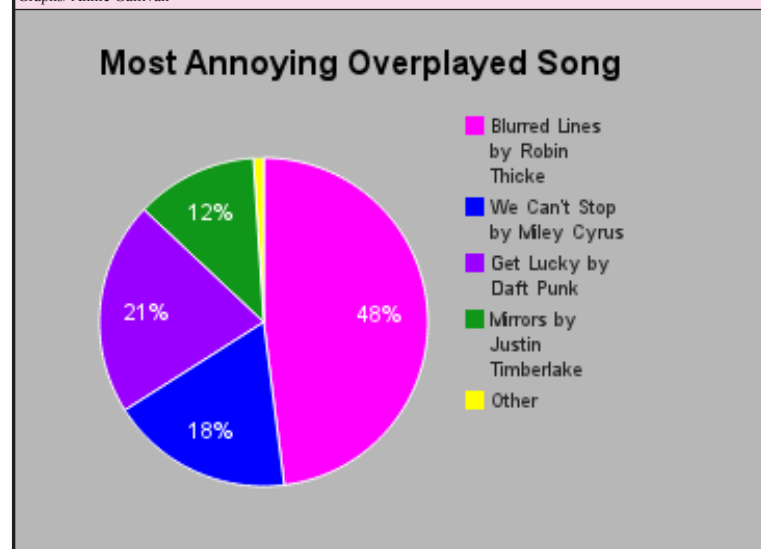
radio-worthy "400 Lux" to the ambient, atmospheric "Ribs." While songs such as "Team" and "White Teeth Teens" bounce with bubbly pop energy, Lorde's delivery is just as effective on slower, multi-layered tracks such as "Buzzcut Season" and "Still Sane." Youth-oriented lyrics such as "It drives you crazy, getting old" and "I'm kind of over getting told to throw my hands up in the air; so there" are relevant to teenage listeners, making the album accessible to a large audience not only because of its unique musicality but also because of its lyrical relevance.

Though great music, both m a i n -

stream and obscure, has been released this past year, Lorde's *Pure Heroine* earned the top spot on our school-wide survey of favorite albums of 2013 (followed closely by John Mayer's *Paradise Valley* and Eminem's *Marshall Mathers LP 2*). Though the album is certainly commendable because of its individuality and unexpected success, Lorde's creation of distinct music that attracts a large variety of listeners, from indie rock enthusiasts to Taylor Swift-listeners, is most praiseworthy.



Lorde has become a prominent music icon in the USA.



Survey results for the most annoying overplayed top 40 song of the year.

## Comedy and horror prevail as favorites in 2013 box offices

By Mary McAvoy  
Class of 2014

Movies with a strong following or fanbase, often those based on books (i.e. *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*) or sequels (i.e. *Iron Man 3*), face a great challenge in pleasing the most expectant followers of their franchise but are always able to fall back on the success of their film in the box office. Although diehard fans are often difficult to please, a familiar audience can provide an advantage. Comedies and horror movies, on the contrary, are very hit or miss—the goal is to have viewers doubling over in laughter or sleeping with the lights on when they get home. We have all seen our fair share of mediocre comedies and laughably unalarming horror films, but fortunately, a few outrageously hilarious and terrifyingly spine-chilling films are released each year. Here are two WHS student favorites from 2013:

### We're The Millers

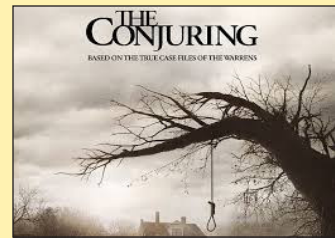
The ideal comedy is meant to be offensive to a fault; unfortunately, films often take the obscenity too far, portraying scenes in a manner too crude to be considered funny. *We're The Millers*, though it has many over-exaggerated scenes, lacks any extreme offensiveness, especially because of its offbeat "family" plot. Main character David Burke (Jason Sudeikis), a local drug dealer, is at a loss when he is mugged outside of his apartment, losing thousands of dollars worth of profits he owes to his supplier Brad (Ed Helms). Brad, in response, offers David a large sum of money plus the repayment of the deficit as long as David holds up his end of the deal: smuggle a huge shipment of marijuana across the border. David formulates a plan to avoid suspicion at the border, enlisting the help of stripper Rose (Jennifer Aniston), street-smart punk Casey (Emma Roberts), and his nerdy next-door neighbor Kenny (Will Poulter) to pose as his fake family (the "Millers") and "vacation" in a rented RV. Some of the funniest scenes involve the Millers' encounters with fellow "RV" family Don, Edie, and Melissa. The uncomfortable "family" bonding between the characters is unforgettable (especially the fan-favorite scene of Kenny singing TLC's "Waterfalls").



"We're the Millers" is popular in the comedy genre.

### The Conjuring

*The Conjuring* received an overwhelming amount of votes for "Scariest Movie of 2013" in our recent survey. Though some rightfully argue that the trailer overhyped the film and spoiled many of its most climactic scenes, the suspenseful progression of the scenes works effectively and terrifies audiences in the way a classic horror film should. James Wan, director of *Saw* and *Insidious*, skillfully progresses from the gory, visually terrifying scenes in his past films to instill terror through a classic (and supposedly "true") ghost story. The movie, of course, kicks off with an unsuspecting, innocent family moving into their new home in Rhode Island, an ancient-looking farmhouse that would normally arouse suspicion or distaste in buyers. Though the film follows the formula of the average religious horror film—complete with possessions, strange noises, and exorcisms—the progressions of conflict are presented in a startling and truly terrifying manner.



Most students voted "The Conjuring" scariest movie of 2013.

## Series finales meet success

By Mary McAvoy  
Class of 2014

Based on our WHS student poll, the top four television moments of 2013 include:

### Breaking Bad Series Finale

Possibly the most watched television finale in the year, with 10.3 million viewers, AMC's *Breaking Bad* is certainly among the most popular pop culture phenomena of the decade. As if the plot is not already engrossing enough (the show features a high school chemistry teacher and father turned crystal meth manufacturer in order to provide for his family), the inventive writing, eye catching direction, and fantastic acting give the show an extremely addictive quality. The storyline examines the thin line between good and evil, and characterizes Walter White (Bryan Cranston)'s tragic descent into malice and arrogance. The show's final conclusion at the end of its fifth season has been praised by the majority, and fans of the series will greatly miss tuning in every Sunday.

### Pretty Little Liars Relevation of "A"

Fans of the ABC Family drama *Pretty Little Liars* and haters alike were most likely thinking "It's about time" when they saw or heard the news: "A," the malicious blackmailer and enemy of the show's four teenage protagonists, has finally been revealed. The revelation of "A" adds a new level of suspense to the show, as the viewers now know something Spencer, Hanna, Aria, and Emily do not. The season four winter premiere, hyped up by the climactic summer finale and the creepy Halloween special, is sure to be a hit

### Dexter Series Finale

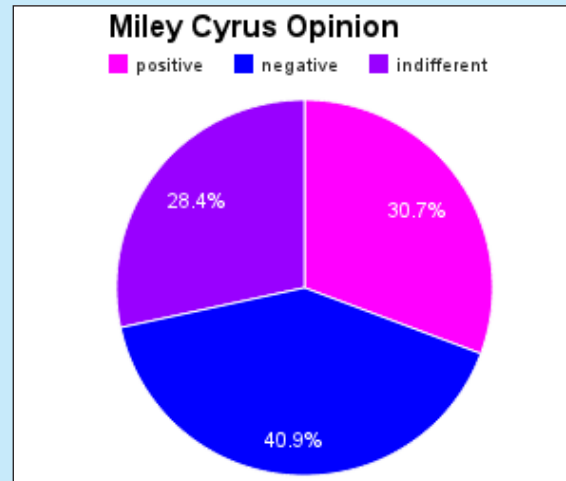
After eight successfully terrifying and

entertaining seasons, Showtime's acclaimed drama *Dexter* finally came to an end with its September 2013 finale. The show stars Michael C. Hall as Dexter Morgan, a forensic analyst for the "Miami Metro Police Department" who struggles with his double life as a serial killer, hunting down criminals who have escaped conviction. The show plays on morals, as viewers often find themselves emphasizing with the controversial protagonist. The finale of the gruesome, enthralling series, though deemed unsatisfying by various critics, was watched by the largest audience in Showtime history; however, unlike *Breaking Bad*, many viewers and critics were not satisfied.

### Glee's Tribute to Cory Monteith

After Cory Monteith's tragic passing in July, many saddened *Glee* fans wondered what the fate would be for Monteith's character Finn Hudson on the popular Fox comedy-drama *Glee*. Instead of starting off the new season with a typical premiere, producers created a tribute episode to not only the life of Finn Hudson but also of Cory Monteith. The raw emotion delivered by the other stars of the show celebrated life and love, but also dealt with loss. Though a few fans were disappointed that what happened to Finn was never stated, most agreed the ambiguity made the episode more effective. As character Kurt emphasized in the episode, "I care how he lived."

## In the spotlight: Miley Cyrus



Students express mixed opinions on Miley Cyrus.

By Karalyn Kickham  
Class of 2014

Miley Cyrus came into 2013 like a Wrecking Ball, showing the world that she truly "Can't Be Tamed." After chopping off her gorgeous long locks in 2012—a choice that was very controversial to the public eye—Miley completely changed her image in the music industry as well as the world of

entertainment. All eyes were on Miley this year, as hardly a day went by without hearing some mention of whatever crazy antic she was involved in at the time.

With the expectation of her new album, *Bangerz*, to be released in October, Miley Cyrus has had fans hyped up since the beginning of the year. In June, Miley released her first single "We Can't Stop," along with the song's scandalous music video. Repulsive to most but adored by dedicated fans, the "We Can't Stop" music video had very little clothing, very little class, and a lot of twerking. This video also introduced "the Miley Cyrus pose"—sticking out your tongue and pretty much never putting it back in.

August brought about the MTV's Video Music Awards, and Miley was scheduled to perform, but no one could have predicted the horror that would ensue. Wearing basically underwear, Miley danced inappropriately with Robin Thicke and a foam finger, and every second she wasn't singing, her tongue was out of her mouth again. Shortly following this performance, Miley's engagement to Liam Hemsworth was officially called off and the couple split. Naturally, Miley unfollowed Liam on Twitter. Way to stick it to the man, Miley.

Miley released the music video for "Wrecking Ball," a song from *Bangerz*, on September 9, this time wearing nothing. Miley had her tongue out again in this video, but for a different purpose: she was licking a sledgehammer throughout the music video. Most recently, Miley confirmed that she just does not care what people think of her when she smoked onstage at the Europe Music Awards on November 10.

Miley's provocative performances and bold decisions this year have certainly grabbed the world's attention in both positive and negative ways. Some people think that Miley knows exactly what she's doing in terms of publicity and gaining the media's attention. Senior Hannah McLaughlin said, "Miley's a fabulous marketer. She's doing everything right in terms of what she wants: for people to talk about her and buy her album." Others are supportive of her freedom of expression and support her right to make her own decisions. Senior Peter Kougas said, "She is an artist. It is her own art and if she wants to express herself like that, I have no problem with it." Some, on the other hand, are not as comfortable with Miley's drastic change over the years and wish she never grew out of her days on Disney Channel. Sophomore Meghan O'Meara said, "I liked [Miley] better as Hannah Montana." Whether they be in love with or disgusted by Miley Cyrus, most people can agree that it would be nice to see a different face in the spotlight for 2014, or at least a face with a tongue staying in the mouth.

## Best Concerts of 2013

### Taylor Swift—Red Tour

"I liked the Taylor Swift concert because it was themed. It was her Red Tour and everything was mostly red. Her outfits were amazing too. She looked so good and sang amazingly."  
-Freshman Tayla Randall



Taylor Swift sang at Gillette Stadium in July for her Red Tour.

"I had awesome seats at the Red Tour at Gillette, and I was really close to Taylor so it was a lot of fun."  
-Junior Sarah Armstrong

### John Mayer—Born and Raised Tour

"I really liked the John Mayer concert because he's a really good performer and he sang all my favorite songs."  
-Junior Claudia Schoenthaler

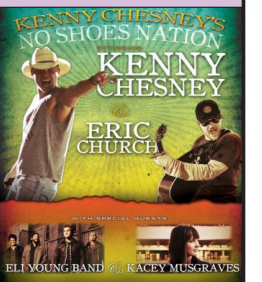


John Mayer performed at Comcast Center.

"I've always listened to John Mayer, so it was awesome to see him live and get to hear all of his songs."  
-Junior Summer King

### COUNTRY FEST

"I had a ball at Country Fest. The Boys of Fall was my favorite song. I am sad though that Kenny Chesney won't be there next year."  
-Senior Sara Murtagli



Various country artists performed along with headliner Kenny Chesney.

"Country Fest had some good music and it was fun spending time with friends."  
-Senior Nick Cordopatri

## Would you do it for the Vine?

By Karalyn Kickham  
Class of 2014

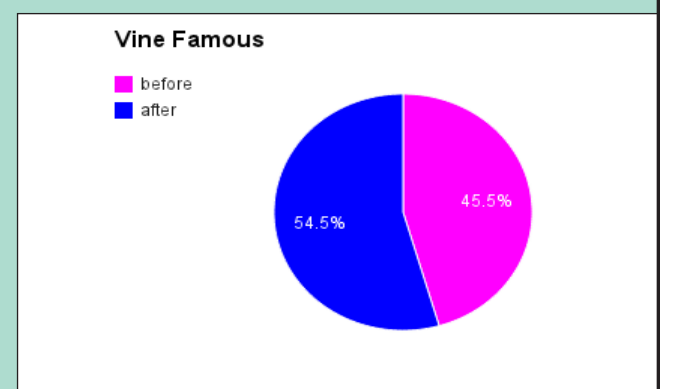
This newfound challenge—Do it for the Vine—arose from 2013's new form of entertainment. Vine, a mobile app owned by Twitter, allows users to create and share short video clips lasting no longer than six seconds. Through the creation of these short video clips and the rapid increase in popularity of the application, the challenge "Do it for the Vine" has arisen and presses users to their utmost creativity as users compete for likes and revines (revines allow users to share Vines created by other users on their own profile) in hopes to become Vine Verified—the highest privilege in terms of Vine popularity.

Debuting in January 2013 as a free application for the iPhone and iPod Touch, Vine became the new trend and within a few months was the most-downloaded free app in the iTunes store. While making a Vine video, users can start and stop filming simply by touching and releasing the screen. Vine users posted videos of all kinds, ranging from music to comedy to stop motion clips. Creativity trumped all, as the users who posted the most creative vines—whether they be artistically or comically—seemed to be gaining the most followers, likes, and revines. Vine then introduced a new feature: Vine Verified. Popular Vine users received a check mark next to their name on their profile, con-

firmed the identity of the account owner. Users who received the much-wanted verification check are now considered "Vine Famous" and subsequently have some of the most viewed and most popular Vines on the application.

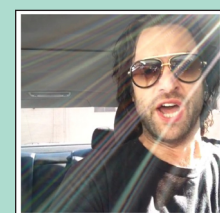
The Vine Verified concept has received mixed feedback, as shown through our school survey. 54.5% of Walpole High School students who took the survey liked Vine before users became Vine Famous, while the remaining 45.5% prefers Vine with the Vine Famous element. With almost an even split between the two choices, the question pops up of why people prefer Vine one way or the other. Those who preferred Vine before people became Vine Famous reason that local kids they know do not make as many videos anymore because their feed is full of posts from Vine Famous accounts. On the other hand, however, those who like Vine now that people are verified enjoy the surplus of Vines from well-known users. Senior Rob Lederman said, "There's a reason these people became Vine Famous. They are funny, so I like watching their videos."

According to our school survey, some of the most popular Vine users are comedian Chris Delia, most popular for his "Beautiful

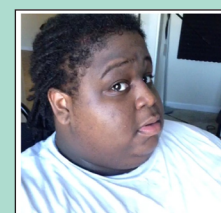


The majority of students surveyed liked Vine better after popular users became verified.

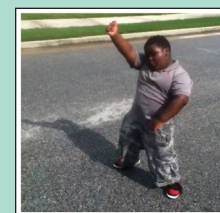
Versions" of popular songs and "Excuse me, sir" criticisms, Eric Dunn—part time college student, part time Vine sensation—and Bo Burnham, a comedian known for his clever use of puns. Our survey asked students what their favorite Vine is, and 26% of the response was Vines made by students who either currently attend or recently graduated from Walpole High School. With the increase in Vine Famous users, however, comes the decrease of posts by local kids. Vine Famous or not, those who frequently post videos on Vine created a new entertaining and addicting form of entertainment for 2013 that will hopefully last for several more years to come. And who knows, if popular Walpole users continue to "ooh kill em" on Vine like TerRio did, maybe one of them could reach the prideful title of Vine Verified.



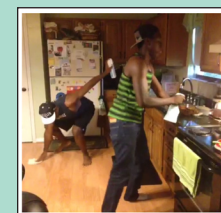
Chris Delia



Detrafx



Maleek



Eric Dunn



Bo Burnham



Jordan Burt





# Free-For-All Checking

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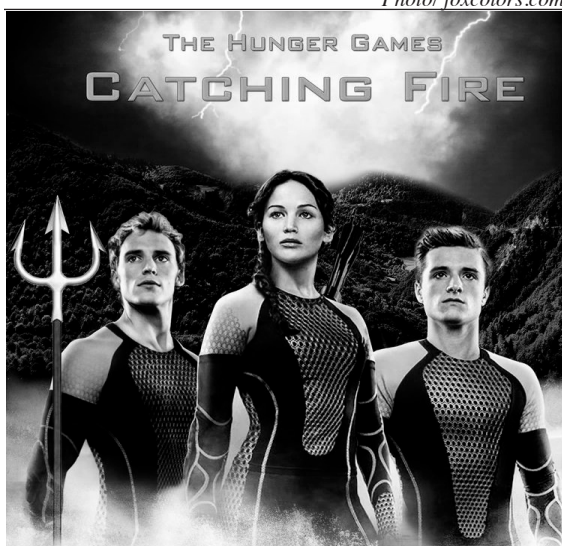
# “Catching Fire” sets new standard for book-to-movie adaptations

By Jamie Ferguson  
Class of 2015

Over the last decade, dystopian fiction has taken over the young adult genre. However, none have even come close to being as successful as Suzanne Collins’ *The Hunger Games* series. The trilogy quickly gained worldwide popularity since the first book’s publication in 2008, and the 2012 film adaptation only heightened the craze. The trilogy tells the story of Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence), a girl living in post-apocalyptic America (now called Panem) in a society controlled by the Capitol. By not only surviving but also outsmarting the 74th Hunger Games along with fellow District 12 tribute Peeta Mellark (Josh Hutcherson), Katniss unintentionally sparked a growing uprising against the totalitarian Capitol.

*Catching Fire* kicks off soon after its predecessor ended, with Katniss and Peeta about to embark on a victory tour throughout the districts. Before they leave, chillingly calm President Snow (Donald Sutherland) warns her that if she does not convince Panem that she is not a symbol of revolution, she and her loved ones will be killed. In addition to enforcing public floggings and executions, Snow further proves his control by announcing the third Quarter Quell, a special Hunger Games that occurs every 25 years with a particularly deadly catch. Instead of the random pool of children ages 12-18 from each district, the 75th Games will be made up of past victors from each district who are brought back to fight again.

While *The Hunger Games* focused more on the horrors of children killing children, *Catching Fire* steps away from the Games a little more in order to introduce its larger messages. Instead, *Catching Fire* is largely a story of rebellion, with the Games acting as an outlet in order to further prove the need for an uprising in a totalitarian society. The powerhouse supporting cast is even stronger than



Photo/ foxcolors.com

before, with notable performances by Elizabeth Banks as Capitol chaperone Effie (who brilliantly realizes the horrors of the games when she told Katniss and Peeta before they left that they deserve better) and Sam Claflin as the charismatic tribute Finnick Odair (whose charming exterior is slowly worn away to reveal a decidedly more sympathetic character). And although the story focuses on Katniss and Peeta, the supporting cast is what brings *Catching Fire* to life, with a returning cast of Stanley Tucci, Lenny Kravitz, and Woody Harrelson (as well as franchise newcomers Philip Seymour Hoffman and Jena Malone) all giving extremely strong performances across the board.

The story’s inevitable love triangle is thankfully downplayed, with the focus on revolution and corruption rather than who Katniss should choose as her love interest. The decision to not go the *Twilight* route in terms of a love story goes to show the scope of the film, as Katniss certainly has more to worry about than which boy she wants to date. That being said, the boys do play an important part in Katniss’ story, and have

more to their characterizations than acting as potential love interests. On one side is Josh Hutcherson as Peeta, and his tenderness and charisma makes him one of the most likable characters in the film. However, Liam Hemsworth as Gale (a brooding but interesting character in the books) is dull, quiet, and bland. In a scene where Gale is whipped by a Capitol Peacemaker, Katniss is visibly upset, but it is hard to feel compassion for such a one dimensional character on screen.

But as to be expected, the film’s true star is the unstoppable Jennifer Lawrence. Coming back from an Oscar win for *Silver Linings Playbook*, her fierce yet vulnerable performance carries the entire film. She balances Katniss’ anger, frustration, and sullenness while still remaining truly likeable, a feat many young actors and actresses fail to achieve. Katniss is becoming the voice of a generation, in both her fictional world and real life, and it’s a refreshing change to have a such a powerful female star dominate pop culture. Even more admirable is Katniss’ characterization of a girl who is both strong and weak, closed off and affectionate, brilliant and stupid. Katniss is not a glaringly masculine character, which goes to show that women do not have to act like men in order to be powerful. She is one of the most human heroes or heroines in recent history, and the depth of Lawrence’s performance is almost unheard of in a franchise.

It is not often that the sequel is better than the original, but *Catching Fire* is better than its predecessor from every angle. Gone is the headache-inducing shaky cam and stumbling pacing of the first film, and in its place is a sleek, streamlined force that commands undivided attention despite its lengthy 146 minute duration. Not only is *Catching Fire* a diamond in the rough in terms of book-to-movie adaptations, it is also a powerful and necessary commentary on a society not so different from the world today. In a culture dominated by violence and glamour, *Catching Fire* forces viewers to look in the mirror, and that is perhaps its most important feat.

## One Direction embraces new sound with “Midnight Memories”



By Rachel Spang  
Class of 2015

When people think of boy bands, their minds immediately picture hordes of screaming tween girls, repetitive bubblegum pop overridden with autotune, and the faces of well-groomed, nonthreatening teen boys plastered all over the walls of girls’ rooms across the nation. Until recently, British-Irish boy band One Direction has perfectly fit this image. The band’s first two albums, *Up All Night* and *Take Me Home*, captured the hearts of girls globally with cliched lyrics about unrequited love and catchy pop beats that lacked originality. However, their new album *Midnight Memories* shows that the often criticized boy band can break out of its pop shell and show a whole new dynamic side to the hackneyed image of a boy band.

The boys of One Direction haven’t just developed their sound; they did a complete 180 for *Midnight Memories*. The days of choruses and bridges filled with nonsensical “na na na”s are surely gone for the boy band now, as the album seems to be largely influenced by 80’s rock. Songs such as “Midnight Memories” and “Alive” give off a dangerous rock vibe, in sharp contrast from any songs in the previous two albums. They’re not exactly the new Nirvana, but the album is a distinct improvement from their previous sound. The album also seems to be folk influenced, with songs like “Story of My Life” and “Happily”

giving off a distinct pop-folk impression similar to that of Mumford & Sons.

The new album isn’t completely rock, however; there is a good amount of slower songs that shows a distinct enhancement in lyrical quality. The lyrical improvement could be attributed to the fact that the majority of the songs on the album were written by band members Liam Payne and Louis Tomlinson, rather having the songs written for them. *Midnight Memories*’ second single, “Story of My Life,” shows off the more meaningful lyrics that are displayed throughout the rest of the album in songs such as “You & I” and “Don’t Forget Where You Belong.”

Although the boys of One Direction have switched bow ties and blazers for t-shirts and ripped jeans, they haven’t exactly captured a complete “badass” image. In order to ensure their squeaky-clean reputation and young fan base, curse words have been replaced with “shhh”s in songs, despite the less-than-innocent innuendos scattered throughout. A few of their songs are less than extraordinary as well, such as “Does He Know?,” which is a complete rip-off of Rick Springfield’s “Jessie’s Girl.” The tenth track, entitled “Little Black Dress,” could have had the great potential of being another surprisingly rock inspired addition to the album, but is ruined by repetitious and unimpressive lyrics.

Although *Midnight Memories* certainly has its faults, the album is a surprisingly well-produced third album for the boys of One Direction. The rock vibe of the album may cause a decrease in the younger pre-teen audience, but it also may also open the boy band to a larger demographic of fans who enjoy the music rather than the band members’ pretty faces. Hopefully Zayn, Liam, Niall, Louis, and Harry will continue to improve and develop their sound in any upcoming albums in order to make them more than just a cliched boy band.

## Kelly Clarkson is “Wrapped in Red” and ready for Christmas



By Colleen Rockwell  
Class of 2014

Christmas celebration seems to come earlier every year. Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year for some, but the most stressful time for others. Even though Christmas is one of the busiest times of the year, hopefully people will find a moment in their busy schedules to admire the music and movies that come along with this joyful season. In the music industry, artists are known for recording Christmas songs and albums, and those who look forward to this holiday season have new Christmas songs to listen to every year to add to the festivities.

One artist who has decided to make a Christmas album this year is Kelly Clarkson, who was the first winner of the televised singing competition “American Idol.” Clarkson is one of the very few American Idol contestants to make it big in the music industry. Following her popular albums “Thankful,” “Breakaway,” and “Stronger,” Clarkson released her sixth studio album, “*Wrapped in Red*,” on Tuesday, October 29, and the album debuted at number three on the Billboard Top 200. “*Wrapped in Red*” is filled with original songs along with well-known Christmas classics.

Clarkson released a piano version of the classic hit “White Christmas” as the first single on her album. Her version of the song has a soft melody that is great to listen to. “Underneath the Tree” is an upbeat song off the album which shares

the same theme as Mariah Carey’s Christmas hit, “All I Want for Christmas is You.” “Underneath the Tree” is a good song to listen to and dance around to while decorating the tree with friends and family, and it has the potential to become a classic hit this holiday season.

There are five original songs on Clarkson’s festive album that she co-wrote: “*Wrapped in Red*,” “*Under the Tree*,” “*Every Christmas*,” “*Winter Dreams* (Brandon’s Song)” —which is about her first Christmas with her husband Brandon—and “*4 Carats*.” The remaining nine are Christmas classics that most people know, such as “Please Come Home for Christmas (Bells Will Be Ringing).” The track “*Run Run Rudolph*” is a trumpet-blaring song that shows off Clarkson’s rock star side.

The record ends with the classic Christmas song almost everyone knows: “*Silent Night*.” Clarkson brings in her Nashville friends Reba McEntire and Trisha Yearwood to sing the classic song with her. This song is an amazing way to end the album, as McEntire’s distinctive voice is a powerful and effective addition to the voices of Yearwood and Clarkson. Most Christmas albums are very repetitive and lack any original songs—just classics recorded by different artists in their own ways. “*Wrapped in Red*” is a Christmas album that incorporates both—Clarkson combines a mix of original songs and classic hits everyone knows, but with her own twist to the hits that adds her own style. Clarkson has created an album that will soon become an album most Christmas enthusiasts will listen to for several holiday seasons to come. Clarkson has proven her versatility with this album, as in the past she has sung various genres of music from pop to country to these new Christmas classics. If anyone is searching for the perfect addition to the holiday season, Clarkson’s new album “*Wrapped in Red*” is the best fit.



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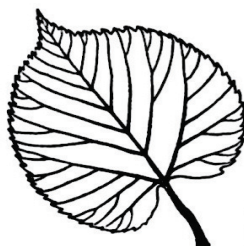
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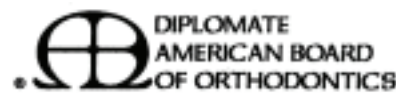
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## Girls Hockey looks to overcome inexperience

Photo/ Michele Lucas



Senior Captains Kaylin Hallet, Jenna Donahue, and Caitlin Barry.

By Ashley Levya  
Class of 2015

Last season, the Lady Rebels made it all the way to the semi finals in the South Sectional tournament after having an outstanding record of 11-7-1. This year the team hopes to achieve a better record and advance farther into the post season tournament than their past season.

This year's team lost many big contributors due to graduation. However, their biggest loss might have come when junior Captain Brooke Matheron decided to discontinue her hockey career at Walpole High School.

Senior Captain Jenna Donahue —and the hero of the Rebels' playoff win last year — said, "After we lost some great players most people were pessimistic about the upcoming season. I personally anticipate this year to be a good one although we lost players, we just have to find the motivation to win." If the success of the fall sports are indication, then Girls Hockey's relative inexperience could not mean anything come playoff time.

To achieve their goal of winning the

state championship the Rebels have to take one step at a time and qualify for the tournament first. Additionally, another goal includes winning the Bay State Herget Division One of the biggest games of the year will be against longtime rival, Norwood, who has one of the most potent offenses in the league.

Last year's playoff game against Medfield will hopefully give the girls the experience necessary to make the long tournament run that they hope to make. That game offered everything a tournament game has to offer — delays, overtime, penalty shots — so the girls hope to use that experience to their benefit.

One of the Rebels' strengths is their team chemistry, which translates to good communication on the ice. This will help creating scoring opportunities since most of the girls have played together for multiple seasons.

Senior Captain Caitlin Barry said, "Our weaknesses are that we have lost a lot of key players, so figuring out lines is going to be tough and we're also a really young team".

After having only 16 players come to the tryouts, all hands are on deck for girls hockey.

"We need everyone, from player one to player sixteen to step up if we want to succeed," said Barry.

The team consists of mostly sophomores and freshmen and there are a lot of inexperienced girls. The Rebels are a young team, however, they have the talent to repeat last year's success.

## Boys Hockey aims for more improvement

Photo/ Mike Fortin

By Michael Fortin  
Class of 2014

Coming off one of their best seasons in recent memory in which they went 9-6-5 and qualified for the State Tournament, Boys Hockey hopes to take this momentum into the new season. With second year Head Coach Ron Dowd and a slew of core players coming back the Rebels are looking to make the next step and clinch a Bay State Herget title and advance deep into the tournament.

Dowd, who brought a lot of excitement and energy to the program in his first year as Head Coach, looks to improve upon last season and put Walpole Hockey back on the map.

Senior Captains Pat Baker, Sean Donnelly, and Tom McNamara lead the team, all of whom have had plenty of experience at the Varsity level with Donnelly and McNamara being on the team since their sophomore year while Baker has started since his freshman year. Despite this experience, there is a lot of inexperience overall throughout the team after graduating 13 seniors.

The Rebels return a core group of players but have a lot of holes to fill. One thing the Rebels learned last year was how to win and close out games, Donnelly said, "We have a lot of returning players even though we lost a lot of seniors. We have kids who won last year and want to win again."

One hole the Rebels are searching to fill is who is going to fill the goal tending position after graduating Ray Mortali



Senior Captains Sean Donnelly, Tom McNamara, and Pat Baker.

and Ryan Erwin. Senior Tim Kurker and juniors Andrew Abbott and Robbie May will be the top contenders, all of whom played on the JV team last year. The strength for the Rebels in the past few years has been from the goalie position and the Rebels hope to keep this going.

One player to watch out for is the return of senior Billy Moore, who played for Boston Advantage last year, after playing for the Rebels his freshman and sophomore year. Moore played against Division 1 caliber players in this league as he has been exposed to elite competition for his age group. Moore, with the help of Donnelly and McNamara and fellow senior Pat Quinn and junior Danny Hamilton look to lead this potent offense.

"We have a lot of depth at forward, which could cause many teams problems as our offense could be the strongest in the Bay State," added Baker.

Coach Dowd along with the rest of the squad hope that last year's success translates into the new season with high hopes to make a run deep into the State Tournament.

## Boys' Indoor Track strives to reclaim Herget Title

By Makenzie Wilson  
Class of 2014

Last year, Walpole Boys Indoor Track placed 13th in Division II and ended the season with a 2-4 record. Compared to previous years, the 2012-2013 season was not as successful. However, the team is not letting last year's record hold them back from having a great 2013-2014 season as the boys are transitioning from Division II to Division III. Head coach Kevin Butera hopes that with the change, more individuals and relay teams will be able to qualify for the Division III Championship, and hopefully the Rebels will achieve his major goal for the season: win the Herget title.

Big competitors like Natick, Milton, and Norwood are stronger than ever and are also fighting to win the Herget title this season. Butera believes that with such tough competition, some of the meets this year will be close.

"The biggest expectation for me is having the captains all step up and lead this team not only through their solid performances, but also their work ethic,"



Senior Captains Jon Kelland, Robbie Lederman, Mike St. Germain, Anthony DiVirgilio.

said Buetera, "We have a very young team, so their leadership will be crucial to our success." This year's captains include seniors Jon Kelland, Mike St. Germain, Robbie Lederman, and Anthony DiVirgilio.

Headed by senior Captain Anthony DiVirgilio, most of the varsity distance squad comes from varsity cross country members. This group includes

seniors Mike Van der Linden and Pat Connell, who finished top 30 at the Division III Meet this fall. The group — rounded off by several excellent freshmen — is tough competition for the opposing teams.

The sprinting group, however, is weakened this year by the loss of graduates Connor McCarthy and PJ Hayes — the 55 m Dash State Champion — two highly competitive All State runners, in addition to several other competitive runners. Sprinting Captain St Germain said, "I think it's always hard when you realize that you can't rely on [the graduated seniors] anymore, especially since the class was so talented. However, judging by our success last year in the spring season, I am not too scared for the coming year. I know our veterans are ready to fight in order to make up for a tough winter season last year." This season, there is still a strong nucleus of younger runners who are key to restocking their depth in sprinting and hurdling.

"We will need a full team effort if we are going to have success this winter," said Butera. The boys' first meet will be against Dedham High School on December 12.

## Coyne, O'Hara, Orfanidis and Conti Lead Girls Indoor Track

By Gina Conti  
Class of 2014

Coming into the 2013-2014 Indoor Track campaign, the girls hope to continue their Cross Country success into the winter. In the 2012-2013 season, five runners qualified for the Division II meet, two runners qualified for All State Championships, and even one girl ran in the New England Championships. This year the captains are Kristen Coyne (a distance runner) Olivia O'Hara (a sprinter and jumper) Anna Orfanidis (a thrower) and Gina Conti (a middle distance runner). Also, this year both the boys and the girls Walpole Track and Field teams have been moved down a Division to Division III; thus, Walpole could send even more girls to All-States.

Unfortunately the girls lost their best athlete, Maddy Shea, to graduation. Shea competed in the All State Championships in the long jump her junior and senior year. Without Shea, the team looks to fill in her missing gaps. The other empty spaces include hurdles, shot put, and high jump. Coach Cashman said, "While we have



Senior Captains Anna Orfanidis, Kristen Coyne, Gina Conti, and Olivia O'Hara.

individuals who score necessary points in those events, we lack the top end talent that we have in other events."

With a successful Cross Country season and the break-out star of junior Allie Morris, the middle distance and distance events should be the strongest for the team. With the return of Gina Conti, a qualifier in the 600 meters for New England, the team

will have experience in the middle distance group. Along with the top distance runner in Morris, senior Kristen Coyne and junior Lucy Lynch will lead the mile and 2 mile crew. The girls also have strength in the 55 meter dash as well as the 300 meters. "We have have returners Dmitra Weathers and Hiro-mi Kondo and newcomer Olivia O'Hara who should solidify our sprint group. Kondo and O'Hara should also solidify Long Jump," said Coach Cashman.

The biggest change this year for Walpole is their transition from Division II to Division III. The change is not necessarily a bad thing because the state qualifying times are not as challenging to meet. For the season, Coach Cashman has certain goals he would like his team to reach by the end of February: "We want to win the Herget Championship, and we want to be competitive at the Division III State Meet this year." Last year the team did not win the Herget Title because the girls lost to Wellesley and Natick. This year, these teams will be the most challenging to beat again.

On December 12, the Rebels will compete in their first dual meet against Dedham.



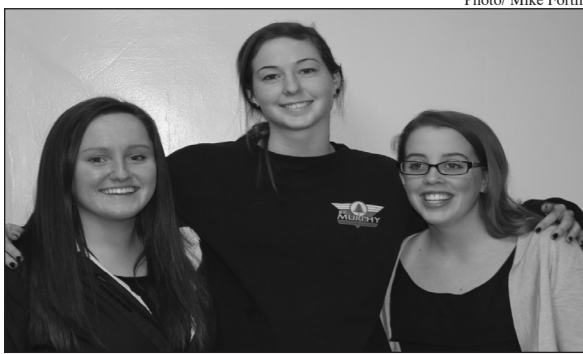
# Coach Gallivan brings new system to Girls Basketball

By Olivia O'Brien  
Class of 2015

As every new sports season approaches, players are bound to have to adapt to new changes. And, of course, this year is no exception.

All three teams— Freshmen, Junior Varsity, and Varsity — will be led by new coaches this year. The freshmen team will be led by Anne Marie Lavanchy; the JV team, Kim Sing, who is an alumni from Brockton High School. The new Varsity coach Jim Gallivan, who previously coached at Oliver Ames High School and Framingham State College, is bringing a new system to Girls Basketball this year. Gallivan said, “There is a lot of experience of the coaching staff this year.” New Assistant Coach Marion Houser is a former player of Oliver Ames High School and Boston University. The other Assistant Coach, Mary Birch, is a former point guard of St. Michaels College.

The Varsity team will be led by senior Captains Elizabeth Ryan, Nell Sandvos, and Bri Doherty. Sandvos said, “Despite all the changes and adjustments that come with a new coach, I’m re-



Senior Captains Nell Sandvos, Bri Doherty and Elizabeth Ryan.

ally confident in the returning players that we have. Hopefully the new talent that we have will make us as good as anyone in the Bay State League.”

Girls Basketball finished 10-7 last season, the last loss coming in the first round of the Division 2 Tournament against a very proficient Bishop Feehan team.

Junior Summer King said, “It will be a good year because our team has a lot of height and I think we will do a good job capitalizing on it.”

King is one of three players that is over six feet tall; the

other two are junior Olivia O'Brien and Doherty.

With returning players such as juniors Julie Moser and King along with Sandvos, Doherty, and Ryan, the team is bound to have experience on the court despite the loss of many key seniors last year. Last year’s captains, Lauren Bodin and Bridget Nicholson, scored most of the outside shots, so the team will be looking for shooters this coming season. With the loss of critical players, new players and underclassmen will have to step up.

Since this is Gallivan’s first year coaching for Walpole, he does not have a set lineup and rotation yet. Gallivan said, “I am looking forward to a lot of my questions being answered. I don’t know who’s on my team yet.” This upcoming season will be an opportunity for players that are new and old to start with a clean slate. Gallivan has not seen many of the girls play before, so no spots are definite and anyone can prove themselves. Gallivan said, “I am looking forward to seeing who has really worked their hardest to improve.” On Tuesday, December 17 against Newton North, the girls and the new coaching staff will begin their season in hopes of success.

## Determined Boys Basketball Group expects successful season

By Peter Hoegler  
Class of 2014

All offseason, Coach St. Martin and the Boys Basketball team had a terrible taste in their mouths.

In the first round of the Division 2 State Tournament, the Rebels surrendered a 16 point lead in the fourth quarter to the Hingham Harbormen, who won in dramatic fashion 63-62. After having such a successful regular season, the Rebels’ inexperience finally came back to bite them in the playoffs. But this season, St. Martin expects just the opposite.

“Experience is certainly going to help us this year,” said St. Martin. “Last year, we told our players what it was going to be like (in the tournament), but you have to experience it. These guys now have the poise to win the close games and make a run in the tournament. They don’t want to have the same fate as last year.”

Despite the devastating loss to senior Captain Maurice Young, who tore his ACL playing Irish Football over the summer, the Rebels should return to the court with vengeance. This season, the boys are led by seniors Adam Quinlan, Ryan Fogarty, and Scott Arsenault; and many key players of the bench, including senior Ryan Gulley, junior Pat Donovan, and sophomore Kenny Uhlar.



Senior Captains Scott Arsenault, AJ Quinlan and Maurice Young.

In the 2012-2013 campaign, St. Martin had trouble defining the point guard of the team, with both Johnny Adams and Fogarty in the starting lineup. But now with Adams at Boston College, Fogarty will be in the spotlight of the backcourt and called upon to lead the Rebels in scoring and assists. Gulley and Donovan will most likely split time at the shooting guard position.

In early August, while most of you were enjoying your summers, senior guard Scott Arsenault was putting in the work on the court. At the inaugural “A Shot For Life Challenge” in Hanover, Arsenault was crowned the “Best Shooter in Massachusetts.”

With a large crowd of friends and family looking on, the Rebels guard knocked down 90.6 percent of his attempts

to better runner-up Shiraz Mumtaz of Brookline High, who finished at an 81.8 percent clip. Arsenault, who led throughout, also received a trophy and will have his number retired at future ASLF events.

“I was just trying to hit as many as I could in a row,” he said. “I knew I was going to get tired because it was for two hours. So, I made sure to stay disciplined and not break my form.”

So with more outside shots comes more rebounds; and that is exactly where 6’6” Adam Quinlan comes into play. The Rebels’ senior captain, who was a Bay State League All-Star in 2013, will be the difference maker this season. With Young sidelined by injury, Quinlan will be called upon to dominate the boards and record double doubles all season long. If the Rebels want to have any success this season, Quinlan will have to repeat and better his All-Star campaign. Uhlar, Gallivan, and senior Will Bolster will fight it out in preseason for the starting power forward position.

This is definitely one of the most talented and determined groups that St. Martin has ever had. If the Rebels can mentally overcome the loss of Young—like the Boys Soccer team did—they could win a Herget Division title and even make a run in the state tournament. This could be the best team since 2004, and we all know what happened then.

## Wrestling team holds high expectations



Senior Captains Justin Rouhana, Noah Kung, Kyle Robbins, and Trevor Wassel.

By Justin Rouhana  
Class of 2014

According to Head Coach Devin Pacelli and senior Captains Noah Kung, Trevor Wassel, Kyle Robbins, and Justin Rouhana, the Walpole Wrestling team is going to be the strongest they have been in years. The team had a dual meet record of 14-9 last season and “will definitely do just as well if not better,” said Kung.

Varsity, which is made up by mostly seniors with a minimum 3 seasons of wrestling under their belts, has plenty of experience on its roster this season. “Other than the expected Kung and Robbins, I think people should keep an eye on a couple guys such as [senior heavyweight] Armen Andonian and [ju-

nior former 106 pounder] Joe Delaney,” said Pacelli.

The main weakness this year is the general health of the team in regards to falling to injury, and strength and conditioning according to Pacelli. Last season, the Wrestling team was without Captain Eric Jansen for most of the year.

However, Pacelli believes that “if [they] can get into good physical condition, [they] will be able to mitigate this issue.”

The main strength of the team will be experience, something they have been lacking for the past couple seasons. “While it oftentimes seems the same as any other match during the year, there is definitely another quality to it that goes a long way as the seasons go by,” stated Pacelli.

The leadership on the team from not only the co-captains, but the senior class as a whole, will help. Pacelli said, “It is most especially helpful that seniors, for the most part, are all mentally tough and physical wrestlers—the only two components that all champions of any level share.”

Pacelli’s outlook for this season is a hopeful one. Pacelli said that the team as a whole made “real strides last year and should be more successful this year.”

## Gymnastics looks to build on last season

By Christina Coville  
Class of 2015

As fall sports come to a close, Walpole High looks forward to continuing their success in sports by gearing up for the winter season. Gymnastics hopes to build off last year’s improvement, in which they won one match: something they were not able to do in the previous season.

Junior Captains Sarah Armstrong and Christina Coville, who both had very successful seasons last year, bring a lot of experience to the squad—something Gymnastics will certainly need with so many new faces.

Fortunately, Gymnastics has five more girls on the team, which means that they can put up their maximum amount of girls on each event. However, sophomores stars Hannah Phelan and Sammy Chauvin — a new member of the team — are starting the season injured. Also, with the loss of senior Olivia O’Hara to Winter Track, arguably last year’s best all around competitor, the Rebels will have to put a full team effort into every match if they want to come out with a victory.

Last year, Gymnastics was not putting up the maximum amount of girls



Junior Captains Christina Coville and Sarah Armstrong.

on each event because of the lack in numbers but also because some girls did not have the required skills for certain events. But this season it does not look like we will be having that issue.

Armstrong said, “There is a lot more variety in the team this year. We will finally be able to have gymnasts focus on specific events. And now we have skill on every event, which will make for better meet scores.”

All this considered, Gymnastics is very hopeful about their upcoming season. They plan to overcome the challenges of losing key, successful gymnasts as well as losing other players to injuries. In addition, the team plans to improve since they now have a larger team than in prior years, and this larger team will be useful in becoming successful this upcoming season.





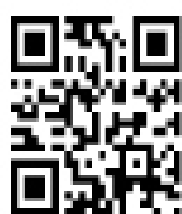
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# SPORTS

Photo/ Gina Conti



*The XC senior boys pose for a photo after their last race*

## Walpole XC competes at D. III Championships; Morris advances to All-States

By Gina Conti  
Class of 2014

Walpole Girls and Boys Cross Country competed at the Division III Eastern Massachusetts Championships on November 9, 2013. The top four teams earned a berth in the All State meet. Hence, when the boys team found out that they finished 5th overall — with the tightest pack time of 22 seconds of the 25 teams — and the Girls finished sixth — but were seeded 4th — the disappointment was evident. However, despite the close losses for both teams, the performances from individuals showed a continued progress from the start of the season, with junior Allie Morris capping the day off with an All State individual berth. Senior Mikey Van Der Linden led Walpole Boys XC by placing 24th, followed closely by senior teammate Pat Connell who finished 26th. Both boys were the only runners for Walpole to run under 17:00 minutes. Junior Brendan Wohler and senior captain Anthony Divirgilio finished right behind each other with 36th in 17:08 and 39th in 17:09.

Divirgilio said, "The varsity boys performed well as a team and we were able to have a tight pack of runners 1-5. Unfortunately we missed All States by 2 points, but we should be proud to have got that close." Strong performances came from Juniors Billy Heiberger and Mike Orsi with times of 17:16 and 17:20. Although the boys did not advance to the All-State Championship, they definitely exceeded expectations from the beginning of September. Head Coach Tim Giblin said, "We knew it was going to be close, sometimes things just don't work out. The boys really worked hard." As for the Girls, Morris ran a time of 19:09 in the 5,000 meter race at the Division III Championships. She was over 40 second off of her best time this season, but her 13th place finish granted her the individual ticket to the All State Championships the following week. Gardner Municipal Golf Course was the home of the State Championship on November 16. Morris ran a personal record with a time of 18:11 on the 2.9 mile course and placed 31 against the best distance runners in Massachusetts. No Girls Country runner from Walpole has placed as high as Morris in the State Meet since Ellen Dwyer in 1997. When Morris first joined the team back in August, the coaches did not realize that they would be handling the best cross country runner since the

Photo/ Bryan Kelleher



*Junior Allie Morris competes at All-States.*

1990s. Throughout the season, she became the teams breakout star and left her mark out on the course. Earlier throughout the 2013 season she broke Walpole High's 2.57 mile school record multiple times, came 2 seconds within the course record, and led the girls team to repeat as Bay State Herget Champions. Morris finally found her niche out on the cross country course and will continue her success through Indoor and Outdoor Track. Morris said, "I was extremely happy with my season, going to All States was an awesome experience. I am tired but I cannot wait for Indoor Track to start." For the rest of the Rebel girls, senior Jackie Applin and sophomore Alyssa Murphy finished 25 and 26 with times of 19:42 and 19:43, respectively. Senior captain Kristen Coyne was Walpole final runner under the 20:00 minute mark with 19:59. Coyne said, "We stepped it up and really showed what Walpole is capable of." Although the girls ran relatively close times together, they failed to qualify for the State Meet as a team. "They did a really great job, but it's disappointing that they did not qualify as a team," said Coach Jamie Farrell. The post season ended in a success for the Rebels Cross Country. The girls achieved many of their season goals, and so did the boys. The girls closed out their season with an 8-3 dual meet record along with capturing The Bay State Herget title for the second year

## Rebel Review

**Football (7-4):** The Rebels rolled off a nice three game winning streak — highlighted by a blowout of rival Weymouth — after being embarrassingly eliminated from the playoffs by North Attleborough.

**Boys Soccer (13-8-2):** Boys Soccer's impressive run ended suddenly with their state championship loss to one-loss Masconomet, 4-2. This was the furthest a Boys Soccer team had gone in school history.

**Girls Soccer (9-7-6):** Another improbable run for Walpole Soccer ended when Bishop Feehan broke sophomore Kaitlin Brown's 376-minute scoreless streak and ended Rebsoc's season.

**Field Hockey (22-0-1):** The Porkers brought home their first state championship since 2006 with a win over Long Meadow, 1-0. Senior Captain Caroline Feeley scored the lone goal in the win.

**Volleyball (13-7):** Nationally ranked — and eventual state champion — Barnstable beat Walpole in three sets to end Volleyball's season after their first round win against league foe Weymouth.

**Golf:** The Golf season wrapped up an incredible season with a 4th place finish at states, their best team finish in their history. Senior Rob Boush finished his illustrious Walpole Golf career with a 79.

**Girls Cross Country:** The girls finished their season with a Herget Title but failed to qualify for All-States despite a 13th place finish from Bay State All-Star junior Allie Morris.

**Boys Cross Country:** Pat Connell and Mikey Van der Linden lead the boys cross country to a 5th place finish at the EMASS Championships, 2 points short of an All-State qualification.

in a row and sending an athlete to the State Championship. The boys ended their season with a 7-4 record and with strong performances every meet. Beating a strong Weymouth team in the Bay State Carey League was one of their greatest accomplishments. Coyne said, "Next year's team is in great hands. We've had many juniors and underclassmen emerge as excellent leaders and I have no doubt that they will be successful in the future."

## Freshman Runner makes her mark on the Cross Country team

Photo/ Forester Family



*Freshman Stephanie Forester runs in a varsity cross country meet.*

By Anna Van Der Linden  
Class of 2016

Let's face it — being a freshman in high school can be a challenge. Despite all the excitement of starting high school, it's hard to figure out where you fit in the school. Many ninth graders decide to join a sports team in order to make new friends and someday fulfill the dream of becoming a varsity athlete and a strong contributor to the team. For freshman Stephanie Forester, a varsity cross country runner, this dream quickly became reality, thanks to her talent and hard work. Forester started running in Newburyport in an annual Thanksgiving race, and then began running on her own during the summer. "Last year I knew I wanted to join the cross country team after the middle school track and cross country club," she said. She went to captains' practices to work out with the team and started her season as a strong junior varsity runner, winning or placing in most meets, already an admirable accomplishment for a freshman. But Forester did not stop there. Because she was consistently getting top places in the JV races, Coach Jamie Farrell made the decision to move her up to varsity. In her very first varsity race, Forester stayed with the second pack of runners that included junior Emma Campbell and sophomore Molly Rockwood. Yet she continued to prove herself in her next race, when she broke away from the pack to run by herself — a very difficult thing to do

— and finishes as the fifth strongest Walpole runner, behind junior Allie Morris, sophomore Alyssa Murphy, and seniors Jackie Applin and Kristen Coyne. She also makes a positive impression on the team, according to her captains Mackenzie Wilson and Coyne. "Steph is a shining example of someone who starts out as an average JV runner and works her way up to excellence," said Coyne. "She's definitely helped us all step up and fill some gaps we had in the varsity team, a crucial turning point in our season." Said Wilson, "Her success proves to those around her how much hard work can pay off." Forester recently won first place in the freshman 2,500 meter race at the Bay State League Meet, a very competitive invitational that features the top runners. "I just keep in mind that it's just another race and it'll be over before I know it," she said, "I also want to try to push myself to improve at each race, try to keep up with the faster varsity girls on the team and have a good strong end to the season." Girls' Cross Country has recently reclaimed their Herget Division title, and although they did not advance to the All-State Meet, Forester placed 5th for the Walpole team at the Div. III Meet. "My goal for the team is to work hard and make it to All States," said Forester. Although they did not make it to All-States, Forester's teammate Morris individually qualified — the first female Rebel to qualify since 2010. Though most freshman struggle to find their place in the school or on a new team, Steph Forester has more than earned her position with the varsity runners.



# Three Rebel swimmers win state championships

Photo/Mary Hinton



*Hannah Phelan, Doug Stewart, and Katie Smith pose with their state championship medals.*

By Helen Hinton  
Class of 2015

Playing in a State Championship game is the goal and a dream of every single high school sports team, and the dream of becoming a State Champion seems unattainable and almost impossible. However, the Walpole High School swim team was able to achieve the unimaginable, by not one, not two, but three State Champions — junior Katie Smith won her 100 freestyle race, Sophomore Hannah Phelan won the girls diving, and Senior Captain Doug Stewart won the boys

diving State Championship.

Ever since Smith first joined the Walpole Summer Swim Team at age seven, she was a star. From her first days in the pool, it became evident to everyone she was extremely naturally gifted at the sport. At age eight, she began her winning career, winning multiple races in the A regional swim meet. Over the years she dominated the rec. swim team league scene — improving on her times each and every year.

Once she entered High School, Smith soon became one of the most valuable swimmers on the team. As only a freshman, Smith won many of her races and was one of the only freshman on the team to qualify for the Sectional and State meets. In her sophomore year Smith qualified for States in every race that she competed in throughout the regular season. At states she placed fourth in the 50 freestyle and 9th in the 100 freestyle.

After her success from sophomore year, Smith decided to take her swimming career even further, by joining a USA Swim Team, The Weymouth Waves. This team helped her improve even more, as this season Smith continued

her winning streak and qualified for States in everything for the second year running. At Conferences, Smith swam the 50 freestyle and the 100 breaststroke, coming in 3rd place for each. At sectionals, she again swam the 50 freestyle and the 100 freestyle, placing 4th and 3rd. However, at States, Smith won her first title in one of the most exciting races of the day — placing first in the hundred freestyle race, beating her personal records and the school record.

“The victory was very surprising,” said Smith. “But I was just happy to beat my best time.” Smith is Walpole Swimming and Diving’s first State Cham-

pion and received various accolades — Bay State League All-star, All American, and a Boston Globe All Scholastic team member — for her hard work. In the future Smith hopes to defend her title next season, and she hopes to one day to swim in college.

Joining Katie Smith as a Scholastic team member and State Champion is sophomore Hannah Phelan, who won the Division II girl’s diving competition. Phelan started diving just three years ago, when she heard one of her teammates from gymnastics talking about it. She has been doing gymnastics for almost her entire life, and this gymnastics background really helped her development as a diver. When Phelan joined the Rebels freshman year she quickly became one of the best divers in the league. She beat the school record and qualified for the Sectional and State diving meets, and placed second at the state meet last year.

However, this year was not without its obstacles for Phelan: practicing at Randolph was hard on the whole team, but especially the divers. The diving board was very old so the divers could not get much bounce out of it, which made practicing very difficult, and very painful at some points. All season Phelan had very bad shin splints and compartment syndrome that were so painful that many days she had to sit out of practice, due to the pain. In fact, the day after she won States she had to go right into surgery because of these injuries.

Phelan said, “I knew if I was going to win I had to push through them and get healthy as fast as I could.” Once Phelan won she said “it was a great accomplishment. It was a rough season for me with many obstacles and it was amazing to have all my hard work pay off.” In the future she hopes to continue diving in college, somewhere. Katie Smith and Hannah Phelan were not the only two State Champions of the day, as senior Captain Doug Stewart won the Boys Division II State Championship. Stewart joined the swim team in his sophomore year.

However, as he continued diving there were many challenges. But this did not stop him, as Stewart earned the schools boys diving record and was elected captain of his team his year, and qualified for states for the first time this year. He won the Conference and Sectional diving competitions. And at States Stewart dived completed unopposed, however, he still scored very well.

November 17 was a proud day for the Rebels even though the team may not have scored as well as a whole. It was the first time in Walpole Swim Team history that the school was able to produce a State Champion, never mind three.

## Moriarty leads Rebels to rout over Weymouth

Photo/Tim Hoffman



*Senior Captain Connor Moriarty scampers away from Weymouth defenders.*

By Mike Fortin  
Class of 2014

After an embarrassing 35-7 loss to North Attleborough in the first round of the Division 3 State Tournament, the Rebels were a measly 4-4 and in danger of having the worst record in school history. However, because of the new MIAA playoff format, Walpole still had two more consolation games and their annual Thanksgiving game against Weymouth. After two blowout wins against formidable op-

ponents in Medfield and Hingham, the Rebels saved their best performance for last—dominating Weymouth 48-14 to finish with a record of 7-4.

The Rebels used their loss to North as motivation for the rest of the season, playing their final three games with something that was missing in their loss against North: Rebel Pride.

On a cold Thanksgiving morning, senior Captain Connor Moriarty, who missed half the season with an ankle injury, put on a Ryan Izzo-like performance, rushing for

300 yards on only a mere 10 carries.

“It felt good to be back. After missing five games I was nervous if I would be a little rusty but the offensive line blocked well which made it very easy for me,” said Moriarty. Moriarty suffered a high ankle sprain in week 4 against Wellesley which led to a gaping hole on both sides of the ball. However, Moriarty showed no signs of rust as he capped off the Rebels opening drive by breaking numerous tackles with a 15 yard touchdown run.

The defense played their best game of the season, shutting down Weymouth’s potent offense and causing turnovers to control field position for the majority of the game. The Rebels forced four turnovers throughout the game with Moriarty having an interception on Weymouth’s opening drive.

Senior Myles Cofield — who had five interceptions going into the game —had his best game of the season. Cofield locked down Weymouth’s top receiver the whole game and recorded two interceptions to put his total to seven on the year.

“It was just me playing with confidence because there is no better feeling then catching interceptions off one of the most dangerous quarterbacks in our league,” said Cofield. Despite having a great game and season, Cofield was snubbed from a Bay State All Star selection after losing in a vote off. However, the Rebels did have four All Stars,

including sophomore Steve Cuqua, juniors Jack Lavanchy and Matt Ordway, and senior Captain Noah Kung.

Senior Captain Will Bolster tacked on another touchdown for Walpole in the first quarter as he followed phenomenal blocking to run for a 26 yard score to put the Rebels up 14-0. Cuqua, who filled in for Moriarty at running back, continued his breakout season, rushing for just under 100 yards including touchdown runs of 11 and 25 yards. Moriarty finished the scoring in the first half on a 10 yard touchdown run to put the score at 28-0 going into half time.

After starting the half with a Cuqua touchdown run, Walpole put in their back-up seniors to play one last time. Weymouth, however kept their starters in as they managed to score twice to make the score 41-14. Moriarty still was not done, saving his best run of his career for last as he scampered for 99 yards while breaking multiple tackles to make the final score 48-14.

Despite not achieving their ultimate goal of winning the Division 3 Super Bowl, the Rebels proved their resiliency after a rough middle of the season. After winning out for the rest of the season, the Rebels showed what they were made of to make their final record 7-4. As Head Coach Barry Greener consistently said playoff elimination, “There is no quitting with the Rebels.” The Rebels proved that true with this impressive three game winning streak.

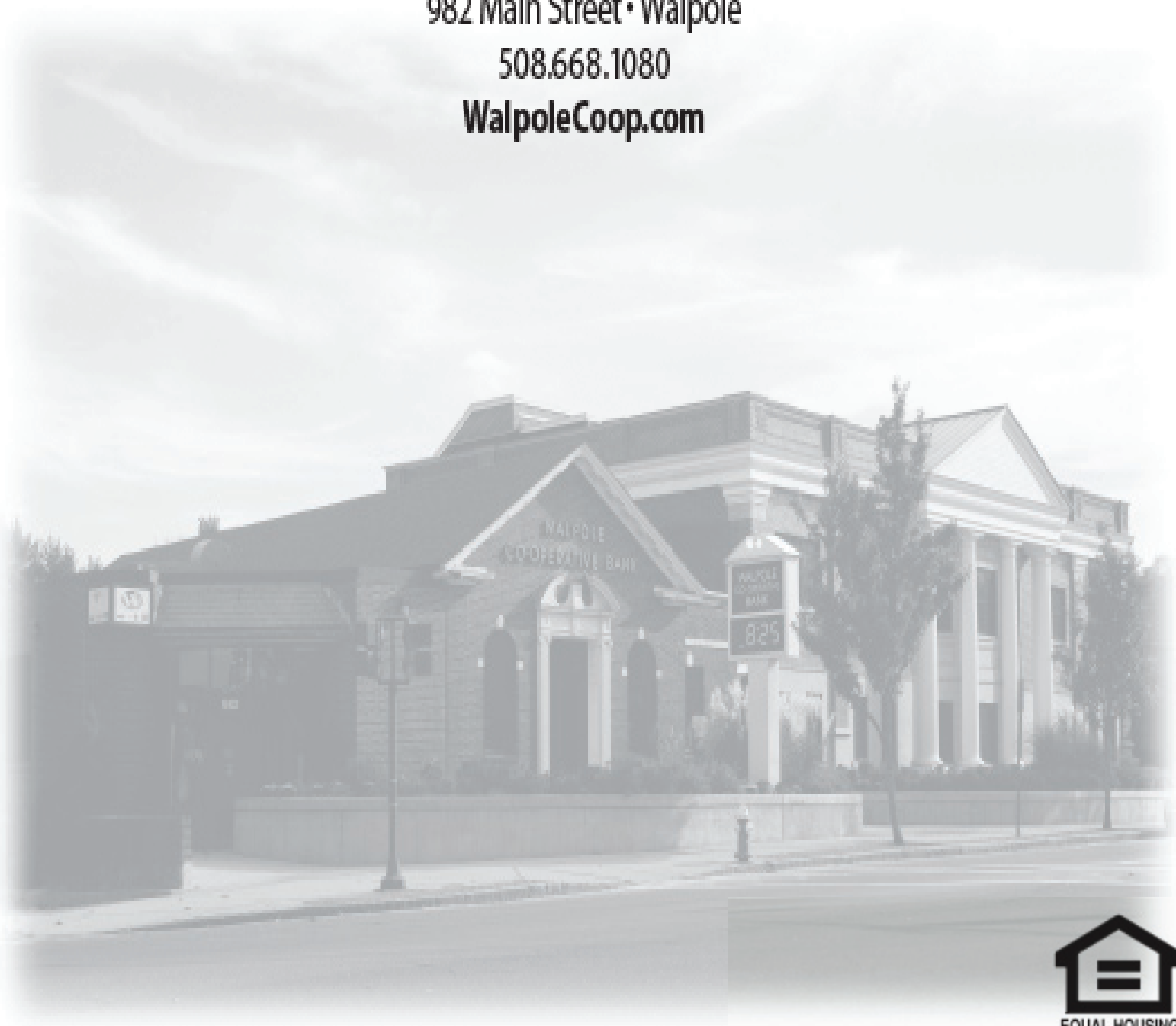


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# Boys Soccer makes improbable state championship run



Senior Captain Bobby Ivatts celebrates after goal against Oliver Ames.

By Peter Hoegler  
Class of 2014

It was just about 5:00 in the afternoon on October 17 when the final whistle blew and the somber Rebels walked off the field, throwing their water bottles and ferociously ripping the tape off their shin-pads. The Boys Soccer team (5-7-2) lost to their rival Wellesley 4-3 on that fall afternoon, meaning that their postseason hopes were fading away in a hurry. That's when their improbable run started.

"I always knew everything was going to be all right," said senior Captain Bob Ivatts. "All we needed was some momentum and confidence." Every little thing was going to be all right. Sounds like that Bob Marley song that Red Sox fans grew so accustomed to hearing every time Shance Victorino walked up to the plate. Yet Ivatts was right; everything was going to be just fine. Boys Soccer won four straight to end the regular season to qualify for the Division 2 Tournament.

"Having played 16 games in the Bay State League (which is mostly all Division 1 teams), we knew we could find success in the D2 tournament," said senior Captain Co-

lin Murray. "We just had to get in." It all started in the Whaling City. Last season, Boys Soccer stole a victory from No.3 New Bedford in the second round of the Division 1 Tourney with a late goal from senior AJ Chauvin. This year, the Rebels defeated No.4 Greater New Bedford Voc-tech 1-0 after a late goal from Ivatts.

Next up for the Rebels: rival Nauset. "Words cannot explain how excited I was to play Nauset in the tournament," said senior Mark Niden, who certainly caused some tension between the two teams at the Keene State soccer camp. "We were so ready to play."

The defense gave another solid outing, this time going 100 scoreless minutes, and the Rebels got an unlikely boost in penalty kicks in a 1-0 win over No. 5 Nauset.

Ivatts scored on the first kick of the shootout and the Warriors missed over the crossbar to give Walpole the early edge. Chauvin converted his opportunity, and then senior Captain Peter Hoegler came up with a save for a 2-0 lead. Mo Young, who missed the entire season following knee surgery, went to the spot and buried his attempt for a commanding 3-0 lead.



Coach Lee Delaney holds up South Sectional Trophy with four senior Captains.

"I was extremely happy that I could contribute," said Young. "It was tough looking on from the sidelines all the season so making the clinching tournament PK was awesome."

The Boys' incredible run continued into the South Sectional Semi-Finals at Taunton High, where both soccer teams had their tournament tilts. Rebsoc's heartbreaking OT loss meant that all the weight was on the boys to win; and they did, eliminating No. 9 Pembroke, 2-0.

Chauvin gave the Rebels the lead in the 23rd minute, getting onto a long ball played through the midfield by Bobby Ivatts. Then, senior Robbie Ellis added a second in the 64th for insurance off a pass from senior Bob Rabaioli, appearing to catch the Pembroke keeper either off guard or off balance while sneaking it inside the near post from the left side of the box.

The win meant that for the first time in 34 years under head coach Lee Delaney, the Walpole High Boys Soccer team would be playing for a sectional title.

"We've been to a bunch of semis, but never to a sectional final," said Delaney. "We've always been competitive, because we're in the Bay State League we have to do it on the road most of

the time. It's a bugger to do it on the road. Last year, wins at Durfee, New Bedford, it wasn't enough.

On Veterans Day, the Rebels made history: winning their first South Sectional Championship in school history. Chris Gallivan and Bobby Ivatts scored first-half goals to give the No.13 Rebels yet another shut-out upset against a top ranked team. "We didn't let up a goal throughout the sectional tournament, so I kind of felt that was the game-winner," said Gallivan.

Four games. 340 minutes. No goals. "Our biggest problem all season was giving up goals," said Murray. "It is just incredible that

we didn't give up any in four games."

Walpole proved yet again that defense wins championships; unfortunately it wasn't enough against a very proficient Masconomet team in the state final. The Chieftains pounced on every Rebel mistake and finished their opportunities in a 4-2 victory on Thursday November 14 at the Manning Bowl in Lynn.

"I'm so proud of the team. It was great," said Ivatts. "It was a great ride, a thrill. It's tough to have it end like this. You'd rather go out on top, but it's not a bad way to lose."

In all retrospect, the Rebels made the most out of a season that was not supposed to go anywhere. Every time the boys gained momentum, they were hit with another form of adversity. First, Young tears his ACL in preseason, then Ivatts gets suspended, then Chauvin breaks his wrist, and then sophomore star Ian Fair tears his oblique. But with hard work and perseverance, the Rebels qualified for the tournament and won a South Sectional title — something that no other Walpole team had ever done in the history of Walpole Boys Soccer. And that's what these boys, this school, and this state will remember; not the loss in the state championship.

## Feehan ends Rebsoc's magical tournament run

By Matthew Brownsword  
Class of 2014

The Division 1 South Sectional Tournaments for girls and boys went just about according to plan: on the boys side, the top two seeds, the No.4 team, and the No. 6 team made it to the semifinals. On the girls side, again the top two seeds advanced, along with the five seed.

However, there was one outlier — the Cinderella, No. 19 seed Walpole Rebels, who knocked off 14 Plymouth South, 3 Oliver Ames, and 6 North Attleborough on their way to their first South Sectional semifinal berth in over ten years.

This incredible, unlikely run — especially in a tournament that had yielded few upsets (3 for the Rebels; half of the total) — ended November 14 at the hands of the 2nd seeded Bishop Feehan Shamrocks. After the characteristic 90 minutes of scoreless play, the Rebels' back line was finally breached when the slick surface gave Feehan the first goal allowed for the Rebels after 296 minutes of postseason play. Feehan controlled the majority of play from the end of the first half on, but junior sweeper Abby McMackin and sophomore goalie Kaitlin Brown continually cleared the ball, relieving the consistent pressure.

Senior forward Lauren Regan — the Rebels' main scorer for the season — was unable to generate anything offensively, being hampered with an injured

ankle she picked up against North Attleborough. Freshman Tayla Randall was the most dangerous Rebel attacker, constantly chasing down balls in the corner with little to no other attacking support.

Finally, after it looked certain that the girls would participate in their third PK game of the tournament, the unbreakable defense was broken, as Bishop Feehan put the loose ball into the open net after a tough bounce to Brown. Unfortunately, Rebsoc's run ended just short of the South Sectional Final, which would have been their first since 2001.

"It sucks," said senior Captain Abbey Smith. "We were so close to getting where we wanted to go."

However, Rebsoc's run was a lot more than so close to the South Sectional Final; it was an unparalleled series of upsets from the most unlikely of places. Getting into the tournament on a 1-0 win against Norwood on the last day, the Rebels embraced the last seed in the whole section and went to Plymouth South. After 100 minutes of scoreless soccer, Smith put in the last PK to give the Rebels their second straight first round tournament win.

In their next round game — against a heavily favored No. 3 Oliver Ames — the Rebels again grinded through 100 minutes of constant pressure to keep the game scoreless. This was Brown's best game, in which she made at least 5 saves on open OA chances, none more important than her tip over the bar in the

last three minutes of regulation to deny OA a certain winner. Then, in PKs, Brown saved three penalty kicks, giving junior Ashley Levya the golden opportunity to win the game on the eighth PK, which she did.

The quarterfinal game against No. 6 North Attleborough was the easiest game for the Rebels — based on the score, at least — as junior Steph Lund scored a 'SLUNDerful' left-footed strike from the top of the box to the upper corner. Regan added another goal before half time, giving the Rebels more cushion than they would ever need, as Brown kept her shutout streak going and the Rebels advanced.

A common theme in Rebsoc's playoff journey was unquestionably the play of Brown — throughout, she kept the Rebels in every game, one breakaway save after another. In the Bishop Feehan game, Brown made at least three big saves to preserve the shutout. Her performance, along with the aggressive, man-marking play of seniors Smith and Mehron Hoag and juniors McMackin, Julie Moser, and Annie Gallivan on defense, was paramount to the Rebels' success.

"[Brown] was our best player in the tournament by far," said senior Captain Karalyn Kickham. "We wouldn't have made it as far as we did without her."

The Rebels lose 10 seniors from this year's squad, but only four starters — Kickham, Regan, Hoag, and Smith — and look to go further and have even more success, with the experience from this year under their belt.