

THE REBELLION

February 2014

Walpole High School

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Walpole, MA 02081

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Alumna founds movement against sexual assault

By Annie Gallivan
Class of 2015

Often high school students spend their whole lives awaiting the day that they get to leave home and head off to the place they have been working so hard to get to: college. They dream of all the new people, the parties, and the freedom that comes along with growing up. However, for some college students, the picture-perfect dream they have in their head is not so perfect. In fact, before graduating, one in four college females will be victims of sexual assault or rape.

Unfortunately that was the case for Jackie Reilly, a current sophomore at Syracuse University and Walpole High School 2012 graduate. On her first weekend back at school for her sophomore year, Reilly and her sorority sisters went out for the night and when she returned back to her house the next morning, she had to face an entirely new, harsh reality: she was raped.

Initially, like the majority of sexual assault victims, Reilly stayed silent and only spoke of the assault to close family and friends. When she confided in her sorority sister Caroline Heres, the two realized that they went through very similar situations. They decided that they did not want to be silent. Reilly and Heres created a campaign that they call the Girl Code Movement.

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WHS raises \$15,000 with A Shot For Life

Photo/ Bryan Kelleher



Freshmen supported the Tommy Quinn Brain Tumor Foundation by purchasing T-shirts at the Varsity game.

By Abbey Smith
Class of 2014

Every athlete, whether at the high school, collegiate, or professional level, dreams of playing in a packed stadium or gym. Fans cheering, whistles blowing, and coaches yelling to be heard over the crowd—many athletes will say there is no greater atmosphere to play in. However, the impact of sports often goes beyond just affecting the athletes on the court. Many teams around the state hold fundraisers and nights in honor of battling various diseases, and this year the Walpole Boys Basketball team decided to dedicate one of their

home games to benefitting patients battling brain tumors.

On Tuesday, February 4, the Rebels had their biggest crowd of the year on a night dedicated to raising money for the Tommy Quinn Brain Tumor Foundation. Last fall, Walpole High freshman Tommy Quinn passed away after battling a brain tumor since elementary school. For arguably their biggest game of the regular season, the team partnered with the A Shot for Life Foundation to raise money for the Tommy Quinn Foundation and to remember their classmate.

Head Coach David St. Martin originally got the idea when he saw another school host a fund-

raiser during one of their games that was sponsored by ASFL.

He said, “The freshman class wanted to do something special and I know the founder of ASFL, which raises money for brain tumor research, so when I told him about Tommy’s foundation, he said we could have the proceeds go to it.”

The Rebels held a 50/50 raffle, sold 200 t-shirts donning the expression “TQ Strong,” had a donation jar, and gave all proceeds from the night’s snack bar to the fundraiser in order to benefit the foundation. Jimmy’s Pizza in Walpole donated the pizza to be sold at the snack bar, and many parents of the Boys Basketball play-

ers baked goods to be sold. By the end of the night, the team had raised a total of \$5,000 from shirts and the raffle. Salus Capital matched the team’s earnings with a \$5,000 donation. In addition, Danny Ainge, President of the Boston Celtics, attended the game and donated \$5,000 on behalf of the Boston Shamrock Foundation to bring the total earnings of the fundraiser to \$15,000.

Freshman James Randall said, “I never expected that we would raise that much money and I loved the intensity of everyone supporting my best friend

Tommy — the night was a huge success because of him.”

In a packed gymnasium, the Rebels took on Wellesley, a team they had been tied with for first place in the Bay State Herget, and lost 69-56.

Despite the loss, St. Martin said, “I am so proud of our students and community. We are a very tight community and it showed the other night. I have waited seven years for an atmosphere like that.”

In the future, St. Martin and the Boys Basketball team hope to continue the tradition by holding a fundraiser each year in order to help in the fight against brain tumors and to carry on Tommy’s memory.

Students display talent at annual AP Art Exhibit

By Hannah McLaughlin
Class of 2014

A litter of piglets levitates high above a town center. Less than five feet away, a small dog lounges on a bed, its nose buried in a book. On the other side of the room, a dazzling night sky is projected from the wide-eyed gaze of a young woman.

No, this is not the long lost deleted scene from some fanciful movie like Alice in Wonderland; rather, it is just a small sample of the creative capabilities of nine Walpole High School seniors. For the past few weeks, these students have labored over their artwork in order to display a finished collection in the annual Advanced Placement Student Art Show.

On Monday, January 27, the second floor science lobby was abuzz with activity as friends, relatives, and art enthusiasts alike gathered to gaze at the students’ finished pieces. Soft music and refreshments—including neon cupcakes, rainbow punch, and tie-dye cakes as colorful as the art on display—established a welcoming and comfort-

able atmosphere for visitors. As they bit into baked goods, spectators milled about the lobby and discussed their favorite works with the artists themselves.

The artists—seniors Nikki D’Andrea, Montana Gulbrand, Estee Lewis, Hannah Miller, Maggie Moriarty, Jess Owens, Kate Preston, Jacqui Stratton, and Ashley Waldron—were instructed to choose a concentration, or underlying theme, that would tie together each individual piece of the collection. After making their decision, the students worked tirelessly in their respective AP Drawing and Painting and AP Studio Art 2D and 3D Design classes in order to finish their masterpieces on time for the hour-long showing.

The artwork on display showcased a full range of techniques and styles, for the students experimented with paint, charcoal, colored pencils, and even household items like saucepans and matches. As a 3D Design student, Moriarty chose to create sculptures and stage photographs of random objects placed strategically to convey her whimsical theme of “Things as They Shouldn’t Be.” Of her concept, Mori-

arty said, “The idea of comedy is important in my concentration. I wanted to create this sense of seeing something for the first time, leaving the viewer to form their own opinion immediately.”

Among her many intriguing pieces was Van Gogh’s “Starry Night” painted on a childhood doll and a humorous photo of her dog reading literature. “We are so used to conforming to what we know is ‘right’ that it’s shocking to see things we see everyday look so out of place,” Moriarty said. “Essentially, my concentration is meant to assure you that it’s perfectly fine to be different from what the idea of ‘normal’ is.”

Another notable display was that of Ashley Waldron, who also decided to incorporate comedy into her collection. Deciding on a theme that she titled “Taking Things Literally,” Waldron focused on making everyday idioms into visual representations of their literal meanings. Tackling popular phrases such as “Hitting the Books,” “When Pigs Fly,” and “The Grass is Always Greener,” Ashley amused onlookers with her witty scenes. Crowd favorites included Waldron’s color pencil por-

trayal of “The Elephant in the Room” as well as the painted self-portrait entitled “Waking Up on the Wrong Side of The Bed.” Using several shading techniques and varying brush strokes, Waldron wowed spectators with incredibly realistic and detailed pieces.

While explaining the idea of her exhibit, Waldron said, “One aspect I threw into my concentration is the surrealistic device. In each piece I put something somewhere that would never happen in real life.”

Gulbrand—who takes Mr. Richard Kim’s AP 3D Design class—expressed her excitement about the show when she said, “The AP Art Show was a success because it was very enjoyable to watch my friends improve as artists and see how much the student body supports the hard work everyone does.” Gulbrand, whose sculptures caught the eye of many a passerby, embraced her theme of abandonment and created various pieces to convey her concentration. In one piece, Gulbrand revealed the consequences of leaving a saucepan on the stove for too long while

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EDITORIALS

Should America embrace a minimum wage increase?

By Matt Brownsword
Class of 2014

In the sometimes fun, halfway controversial, borderline tiring, and always entertaining State of the Union address, President Barack Obama unveiled his new plan to increase the federal worker minimum wage to 10 dollars and 10 cents an hour while begging companies around the country to follow that precedent. Massachusetts — always leaning liberal — has already proposed and passed an improved minimum wage law that increases the minimum wage by three dollars (from 8 to 11) over the next three years. Democrats, like Senator Mark C. Montigny of New Bedford, are pointing to the current minimum wage as a problem: “Tens of thousands of people are working full time and living below the poverty level,” Montigny said. “It is inexcusable.”

Even though some of his colleagues might argue that even 11 dollars an hour is below the poverty line, the increase from 8 dollars an hour — a 120 dollar a week increase, assuming a 40 hour workweek — is exponentially better.

However, the opposition — led by Jon B. Hurst — has cited the economic reasons for having problems with the proposed bill: the higher the minimum wage, the lower the demand for workers and the higher supply of workers offering themselves for lower-level type jobs, which causes an increase in unemployment. Economics 101.

This problem is as fundamental as it gets in American politics: Democrats fight for the blue-collar worker in his search for a job that provides a livable wage, while Republicans fight to defend the

rights of the big business and the people who run it. And the choice is clear: it's time that we raise the paltry, existing minimum wage and throw out the supply and demand graphs. Pay the workers.

Let's look at McDonald's, with 1.7 million employees worldwide. Obviously not all of the 8 dollar an hour workers are actually trying to live off that 8 dollars — the 16 year old kid working behind the counter presumably still depends on his or her parents to provide a decent living — but many do. And for those people that are living off of 8 dollar an hour wages, isn't it nearly impossible to scrape by with that income? In an effort to prove just the exact opposite — that it is possible to live with 7.72 dollar wages — McDonald's found that you can pay all of the 'normal' bills, save a little, and still end up with 800 dollars of spending money left over. Great, right?

But — if you can tell from what I believe to be glaring sarcasm — this study was just about the laughingstock of statisticians everywhere. In the Atlantic's "McDonald's Can't Figure out how its workers survive on minimum wage," Jordan Weissmann picked apart the problems with the study. Firstly, it assumed that McDonald's workers had a second job that is only 140 dollars less per month (so basically, McDonald's assumes their lower paying employees work two full-time jobs). And, of course, this fictional employee would not need to pay their heating bill — or was it included in their 600 dollar a month rent, when the average American pays just over 1,000 dollars in rent every month? And healthcare? McDonald's assigned 20 dollar a month healthcare to this employee — even though McDonald's offers 12.58 dollars a week for their health-

care — and that's only if this guy has been with the company for over a year, because otherwise it's 14 dollars a week. And I'm not denying that there are not programs to help these people out — Medicaid and food stamps are two great examples — but Republicans want to severely cut those as well. Talk about killing two people with one political party.

But wouldn't prices rise? Wouldn't other employees have to take pay cuts? First, not really. Continually, small increases to the minimum wage have not had a great shift on prices: that's why Massachusetts is planning on augmenting the minimum wage gradually over three years. And secondly, there's something to be said about a CEO making over 20 million dollars a year while his employees can hardly live day to day.

This business model is not independent to McDonalds either: other members of the fast food industry, as well as other American companies, are maintaining massive profits while still paying their workers an above average salary.

For example, President Obama cited Costco in his State of the Union, which has made a name for itself by paying its workers above the minimum wage to decrease employee turnover and boost employee morale. Obama pleaded to companies to follow this business model, which still retains massive profits and keeps the workers' wage quite high (at least compared to the minimum wage). The prices of a Big Mac may rise, but employees can make a 11 hour minimum wage with a little restructuring and a slight increase in productivity. Consider it charity, helping the poor by giving some of your own money away, except without the tax deduction. But that's a different story.

Cameras do not improve safety but ensure security

By Nicholas Fuller
Class of 2014

Until the signs are posted outside of all the school doors — signs like “All activities will be monitored by video cameras” and “Security cameras in use” — the 19 cameras at Walpole High School and the ones at other Walpole Public Schools cannot record.

Authorized by the Walpole School Committee, these cameras are intended to enhance both “school safety and security” of the Walpole Public Schools, according to Walpole's School Security Camera Protocol. At any point, a principal or Superintendent Lincoln

Lynch may log in to a website from their personal computer to review that footage for “documentation in an ongoing investigation” — but not for “the purpose of initiating investigations.”

However, while this protocol answers many community questions regarding privacy of student images and protocol for reviewing material, two questions remain: Do these cameras make these schools safer, and do these cameras improve security?

Although these cameras received approval in the wake of the Newtown tragedy — which resulted in the deaths of 20 young children and seven teachers — these cameras actu-

ally will not prevent such an attack.

Administrators obviously care about the safety of students here in Walpole; however, school shootings happen very — let me stress — very quickly. To prevent an attack, a person with a keen set of eyes must pore over the monitors at all times of the day searching for bags concealing weapons or potential shooters. However, no school employs this keen observer. Only authorized personnel have access to the recordings, personnel that can only access the material if there is an “ongoing investigation.” With a shooter then, these cameras do not act as a preventative measure. For example, Columbine High School, a target of one of the worst school shootings in US history, had security cameras. While the footage helped law enforcement in the lengthy-post investigation process, did they help locate Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold during the horrific incident? Did the cameras slow the two seniors down and save 12 students and one teacher from dying that day? Everyone knows the grim answer to these questions, and the addition of 18, 19, 20, or 100 cameras does not change this terrible reality.

On the other hand, these cameras do improve the appearance of safety. With security cameras in all schools, the Walpole Public Schools appear as safe as more affluent schools that have security cameras. They still do not ensure safety, nor could they change this truth: that there is no such thing, nor will there ever be, of utter, flawless security. Life is too unpredictable. No one has a magic 8 ball.

Hence, while the security cameras do make parents and the community feel safer, these will definitely improve the security of school and student property. Once or twice a year, administration at the high school deals with instances of graffiti in the bathrooms

and on the property, or they deal with theft from students' lockers. In regards to both of these problems, these security cameras will improve the security of school and student property as a deterrent to theft and vandalism.

Last year however, in the days leading up to graduation, unknown individuals spray-painted hateful comments on the Turco Field, bleachers, and walls — comments which were covered up by the Department of Public Works in time for graduation, but comments which can still be discerned by a perceptive eye. After such an embarrassing display of vandalism before the most significant ceremony at Walpole High School, one logically assumes that administrators would want to improve the security of the field.

However, when installing the 19 cameras at Walpole High School, the school did not install one at Turco Field or the John E. Lee Press Box — two of the largest community-funded projects in town. Currently, they have one camera at the tennis courts, but it lacks the range to ensure the security of one of the community's most sacred spaces.

So, recycled arguments about protecting kids and teachers and preventing attacks do create an appearance of safety, but the modern, American truth is that no one can prevent the unpreventable. Unless Walpole wants to pay numerous security officers to watch the monitor footage, these cameras will do little as a preventative measure. However, these cameras will improve security of school and student property. While students may put up signs in protest of their presence, these security cameras will likely only increase in number. Now — instead of protesting something that cannot be changed, students should educate themselves on these changes to security, and the community should advocate for greater security of its most prominent assets.



Olympics force gay rights to center stage

By Matt Brownsword & Julia Sandquist



The Olympics is a global event that challenges the best athletes from all over the world in an array of athletic competitions — however, it is also a global challenge to our morality, to our sense of what is right and wrong in the world, to our understanding of how to govern groups of people. In 1936, the black American Jesse Owens famously won four gold medals at the Berlin Olympics under the white-supremacist glare of Adolf Hitler. In 2012, after the International Olympic Committee threatened to ban Saudi Arabia from participation in the London Olympics if they refused to bring female athletes, they sent women (Two of them!) to the Olympics for the first time ever — 112 years after the first female athlete competed at the Olympics. This year, while women's rights and racism are still a global issue, another humanitarian issue has taken center stage for the world's inspection: gay rights.

Sochi — and really Russia as a whole — is conspicuously against homosexuality: a new law was just passed that states that any Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender issues are not allowed to be discussed in front of minors. These laws prohibit the “propaganda of nontraditional sexual practices” among minors. Through these laws, the Russian government intends to ban gay rights parades and prohibit discussion of gay issues on television and in newspapers out of fear that minors might be exposed to homosexuality.

In an attempt to reassure governments that do not prohibit expressions of homosexuality — which have been speaking out against these laws with concerns for gays’ safety — Russian President Vladimir Putin said, “One can feel calm and at ease,” but “just leave kids alone, please.” Although Putin meant to alleviate the anxieties of governments with homosexual athletes and spectators, his suggestion of homosexuals’ corruptive influence only infuriated people even more.

Despite the calls to boycott the games, the United States is still participating, and to show its support for every athlete, gay or straight, President Obama has announced that his delegation of athletes to the Olympic Games will include an openly gay athlete, Billie Jean King. In addition, the United States, French, and German presidents are not expected to attend the 2014 Games — a clear jab at Putin.

So far, our government has made the right decision, for it has chosen to support gay travelers and athletes in Sochi alike. Boycotting the games will not solve any problems, and it would actually create more by increasing the tension and distrust between the United States and Russia. In addition, our athletes have prepared their whole lives for these games, so why let ignorant prejudice crush their

dreams and goals? Why throw away all the hard work and dedication it takes to prepare for one of the most celebrated sporting events in the world? We can choose to stand up to prejudice by merely running away from the issue, or we can show the whole world that the United States is proud of its acceptance of gay people by attending the Olympic Games.

Now, does this mean the USA should mandate rainbow patches on all jerseys of the American athletes? Probably not. However, the United States should be pushing this agenda as much as FIFA pushes its anti-racism agenda before the UEFA Champions League games; as much as the South African rugby team pioneered Nelson Mandela's agenda of a South Africa sans apartheid. Every (or any) post game interview does not need to include some gay rights proposal, but there should be some attention drawn to the issues at hand.

For the future though, the International Olympic Committee should be more careful about the destinations it chooses for the Olympic Games, and ensure that everyone, gay or straight, is guaranteed equal rights at these venues. Not only should the destination be safe for all participants and spectators, but it also should set a good example for the weaker and more fragile countries attending the Olympic Games—countries just beginning to experiment with democracy.

Currently, the United States and the world are mixed on how to view homosexuality. While Americans have become increasingly tolerant, with seventeen states legalizing same-sex marriage (9 in the last two years), there are still 33 states that ban it. In addition, other countries — specifically Nigeria and Uganda — have passed laws banning any public displays of homosexual affection (never-mind marriage). In Nigeria, if an individual makes a public show of a same-sex relationship or if he or she registers, operates, or participates in a gay club or organization, that individual may be punished with a prison term of 10 years.

Moreover, by choosing Russia as the host, the International Olympic Committee indirectly validates the close-minded prejudices of lesser nations. In the future, they should give these countries a reason to reevaluate their morals by having the olympic host country be a well-developed, humane nation where everyone is accepted and treated equally. If a host nation is meant to serve as a role model for the rest of the world, is Russia — with its recent approval of anti-gay laws — truly the best place to be granted the privilege of hosting the Olympic Games? The answer to that question might finally be revealed during the 2014 Olympic Games, when the whole world will tune in to not only watch the athletes in Sochi, but the country of Russia as well.

The rise of snapchat and its etiquettes

By Peter Hoegler
Class of 2014

Today’s young people have seemingly accomplished one aspect of living that adults have been chasing for years: Living life in the moment.

Snapchat — even more so than Twitter — represents the greatest threat yet to Facebook. While Twitter has seemingly trumped Facebook in popularity, it is the ephemeral nature of Snapchat that attracts its users. Today’s teens have finally learned the lesson their older siblings failed to grasp: What you post on social media — the good, the bad, the inappropriate — stays there forever. And so they’ve been signing up for Snapchat — with its *Mission: Impossible* style detonation technology — in droves, all in hopes of avoiding the dreaded cyber footprint. Forbes estimates that 50 million people currently use Snapchat. Median age: 18. Facebook, meanwhile, has admittedly seen a decline among teenagers. Its average user is closer to 40.

Snapchat already has a set developing conventions. What these conventions reveal about Snapchat itself and its new users is another question. Here are five tips, so that you don’t embarrass yourself on Snapchat:

1. Snapchat your crush first, then text. Over a year ago, when Snapchat did not exist, kids were “forced” to communicate with each other via text, which is a much more formal way of conversation. Now, it’s easier to Snapchat your crush with a picture of you and your friends saying “Hey” rather than awkwardly texting them “Hey, what’s up?”
2. Don’t go too hard on selfies. Taking a picture on Snapchat is not a photo shoot — you don’t have to put too much effort into them. If you spend over two minutes trying to look good for your snap, you are doing it wrong. Good selfies are funny, raw, genuine and awkward. For the most part, everyone is trying to look weird for a laugh when others open their snap.
3. Be careful opening Snapchat videos in public. You have no idea what they are. If you receive a video Snapchat, go to a private area and open it. The people around you do not want to hear your friend poorly singing “Story of My Life” in their room — it’s not courteous.
4. Make sure the flash is off when you are taking photos in public. A few months ago, I observed a friend in Chipotle who thought it would be funny to take a Snapchat of the Xaverian Lacrosse team wolfing down dinner. Unfortunately, the flash was on and all of the players were irritated. Long story short, we ended up eating our burritos in my car.
5. Finally, beware of the dangers and pitfalls of screenshot. Snapchat communications can last ten seconds and be saved via screenshot, and then an upload, and then a message, and before you know it, it’s viral. That being said, while we are learning to “live in the moment,” consider what moment you want to live for eternity.

Snapchat is growing and impacting the moment to moment savoring of our days. What do we make of this? Are we a generation incapable of face-to-face conversation? Or are we delving into new venues for contact, new ways of sharing who we are with others and the world? Are we teaching the older generation that to stage your life, sit for the pose, plan the encounter, are all ways of missing the moment? Maybe, maybe not. What we do teach: to just seize, snap, and send.

CORRECTION

After our staff released the December paper, readers brought to our attention that the article “Gymnastics look to build on last season” had an incorrect record for the previous year, as well as opinionated statements that were not true. We here at The Rebellion apologize for the mistakes as well as anyone who may have been offended by the mistakes that were made and promise that such a mistake will never happen again. A new preview was written — go to whstherebellion.com/?p=52138 to see the new article — and we reiterate that this kind of inaccuracy will not occur again.

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

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is pleased to present

The Walpole High School Students and Class of the Month

NOVEMBER

Sophomore

Valorie Leo

Geometry

Valorie struggled with geometry initially, but she continued to work hard, and she has managed to turn things around. After a poor performance on both our first chapter test and the retake, she earned an impressive grade of 98% on the Chapter 2 test, which was the highest grade in my two classes. Most of her quiz scores for chapter 3 have been in the A range. Valorie completes every homework assignment and she participates well in class. She takes advantage of helpful strategies such as highlighting key concepts in the directions and tracing out the angles to locate parallel lines. All of Valorie’s hard work has been paying off. Her average has jumped significantly.

Mrs. Milne and Mrs. Manela

Senior

Tim Kurker

German IV

In his four years of German, Tim has never missed a homework assignment. It is hard to believe, but true. This is just one aspect of Tim’s dedication to his learning of German. In class, he is always on task, even when his early morning hockey practices keep his eyes from happily staying open. I can count on Tim to try his best all the time. He never lets an opportunity to participate and answer questions go by the wayside. Tim’s dedication even led him to participate in the German exchange last year. Since then, his enthusiasm for learning has increased, as if that were possible. I love to see him in the morning with his beautiful, engaging and infectious smile. He makes my day.

Ms. Pierce

ACTIVITY AWARD

Kianna Kaizer

Speech Team

Kianna just placed fifth out of 34 competitors in the category of Novice Reading at her first tournament! First of all, it is a huge accomplishment to make it to a final round, but to make it to finals at your first tournament is quite impressive! I’m very impressed with Kianna’s results and her enthusiasm for the activity. She competed at the last tournament and placed 11/30. Even though she did not break into the final round, Kianna still maintained a positive attitude and appreciated the feedback she got from the judges. She will be competing this weekend at one of the largest tournaments of the year – The Holly Festival at Natick High School. I am really excited that Kianna is committed to the Speech Team. She is very quiet and reserved, but I feel that this activity will help her come out of her shell and increase her self-confidence. The skills she will learn during her experience with the Speech Team will last a lifetime. She’s been very dedicated and punctual – meeting with me about one to two times a week to work on her piece. Her hard work and dedication definitely show in her results at competitions. I think many other students are inspired to follow in her footsteps. Kianna’s reaction to finding out that she made it to the final round was so wonderful to see; she was absolutely beaming. Working with Kianna this year is just another reason that supports why I started this team three years ago.

Ms. Loflin

CLASS OF THE MONTH

Freshman English

Ms. Loflin Period 2

I am really impressed with my period 2 class; this is the one class that I can count on being prepared with the reading and homework. Not only are they very conscientious and diligent, but they are so into *To Kill A Mockingbird*! It is quite obvious that everyone is reading because not only do they understand the plot, but they have great, thought provoking questions and insight on the novel. I feel like I am becoming a better teacher with them because they can really dig deep into the themes and symbols. It is such a joy to have class discussions with them. I also really enjoy this class because they are such a nice group of young people. Everyone gets along well and works with each other in a collaborative manner. I rarely make class nominations and if I do, I usually wait until the end of the year. But, I really feel that this class deserves the recognition now.

Ms. Loflin

DECEMBER

Senior

Brooke Matherson

AP Calculus

During the month of December, Brooke was the only student out of two sections of calculus to receive perfect scores on both of our quizzes. Not only did Brooke understand the major concepts, but she was attentive to the finer details including rounding and labels, which cost many of her classmates valuable points. Brooke always has her homework completed. Her written work is neat and well-organized. She clearly checks her work before passing in assessments. Brooke works well both individually and as part of a group. Her flawless achievement, excellent participation, and cheerful attitude make her deserving of Student of the Month.

Mrs. Kathleen Milne

Junior

Emily McLellen

Algebra II

Out of my three sections of Algebra II, Emily’s Term II grade is one of the highest. Only one of her assessments during the entire term has been below 90% (she got 88% on one quiz). She shows terrific attention to detail. Emily is extremely conscientious with her classwork as well. She asks questions when she has them and always gets her work done efficiently and thoroughly. Emily arrives to class everyday prepared to learn. It is a pleasure to have her in class.

Ms. Lerner

Sophomore

Emily Rogerson

English

Emily is one of my strongest students, and this is a direct result of her diligence and positive attitude. Her last essay, on Sherman Alexie’s *Smoke Signals*, was one of the best essays I have ever read; and this is one in a string of high-quality papers. The fact that she is capable of such work at such a young age bodes very well for her, and she should be recognized for her writing skills. On top of this, Emily is an active participant in class and is an extremely good listener, as evidenced by the snippets of group work conversations I overhear as I walk around the room. For these reasons, Emily deserves Student of the Month!

Ms. Skwar

Freshman

Luke Berardinelli

Biology

Luke is an excellent student. He is at the top of his class, grade wise, which is not an easy feat. He is also a very positive contributor to class. I can always count on Luke to raise his hand and answer questions – even the toughest questions – and he is almost always correct! Luke is a diligent and conscientious student, and he always has his work done. In the rare event he misses class, he completes missed work and is caught up immediately. Luke is a very bright, compassionate young man.

Ms. Reichheld

ACTIVITY AWARD

Jeanne Conroy

Math Team

Jeanne is one of the new members of the Math Team this year. She has participated in both of our meets so far and was one of the team’s high scorers in our December competition. Jeanne earned a perfect score in the Geometry category and demonstrated her mastery of recent Pre-calculus concepts in the trigonometry round. Jeanne is a welcome addition to the team. I proudly nominate her for the December Extracurricular activity award.

Mrs. Milne

CLASS OF THE MONTH

College Writing

Ms. McMenimen Period 1

This group of students has been an absolute joy to teach. Every day they come to class excited, positive, and ready to learn. They ask great questions during class discussion. They just completed eight page thematic essays on two novels of their choosing. These essays were one of the strongest sets of essays I have graded. It is more than evident that all of these students have improved as writers, and they are more than ready to go on to college. I wish I could teach them all year.

Ms. McMenimen



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NEWS

Students deliver memorable performance at annual Winter Concert

Photo/ Mackenzie Wilson



The Chorus performs “Danny Boy” at the Winter Concert.

By Mackenzie Wilson
Class of 2014

Much like a championship sports game, a music concert all comes down to practice. Practicing music, tuning instruments, and rehearsing with all separate components— from the Orchestra to the Chorus — each part is vital to ensure a successful performance. With direction from Music Department Director Michael Falker, the students work towards their potential in order to turn a fair concert into a great one. Under the direction of Music Department Head Michael Falker, who is in his final year before retirement, the students performed in the Winter Concert on Wednesday, December 18, 2013.

Dressed in the standard black and white attire, the students entered the auditorium. Except for chairs on the stage for the instrument groups and rosters for the vocal groups, the auditorium was empty. There were no decorations, leaving the auditorium in its normal state when the crowd of family members and friends filed into the room. Unlike previous years, Falker did not reserve seats for his musicians to watch the other groups perform; hence, the audience crowded into the front rows in the auditorium, and the musicians who were not play-

ing filled in the back rows. There were very few empty seats left in the auditorium when the concert began at 7:30pm.

Opening with the Band, the students started their concert with their usual mix of classical and slightly more modern pieces of music. According to Mr. Falker, the favorite overall for Band was the third piece: “Mount Everest” by the composer Rossano Galante. The piece was robust, with fanfares from horns and underlying melodies played by flutes and clarinets. Though it was a difficult piece, the musicians transitioned smoothly and kept with the pace of the uptempo piece. The band members performed it with passion, drifting off at the slowest parts, only to pick up the tempo as the sound increased.

Falker saw the performance of “Mount Everest” for the band as a success for the group. To him, it illustrated the point that passion and hard work must be the foundation for any performance. “It’s the level of enthusiasm — which is expected— however, it’s combined with the commitment that you don’t see,” said Falker. “The enthusiasm without the work, [means] you’re not going to achieve the level of excellence we strive for.”

Next came the only two music groups Mr. Falker does not direct: Jazz Choir



The Jazz Band performs “Crystal Cove”.

and Jazz Band. Led by middle school chorusteacher Mrs. Lynda Maccini-Pavloff, the Jazz Choir performed a variety of classic Christmas Carols a cappella style, including “Silent Night,” “Hark the Herald,” and “The First Noel.” The throwback to classic Christmas Carols delighted the audience as they heard the songs. Each song earned a round of applause from the audience as it reminded them of the nearing holiday season.

“Performing Christmas Carols is always my favorite part about the winter concert,” said senior Jazz Choir member Genevieve Canavan. “There’s a feeling of holiday spirit in the air when we sing them for the audience, and the songs seem to put people in a good mood.”

Following Jazz Choir was Jazz Band, performing their usual mix of blues and jazz numbers like “Greasin’ the Skillet” and “Crystal Cove.” A lesser known number, “Greasin’ the Skillet” was an impromptu piece involving plenty of solos and jazzy interludes in its music. The trumpets blared out a happy melody while the bass cello accompanied them. Adding in a more modern sound with the drums and guitars, the piece received more applause from the audience than any other Jazz Band numbers.

Finally, nearing the close of the evening, came the Chorus. As usual, the

students showcased their vocal abilities through a range of pieces, starting off more classical with “In Winter” and ending with an a cappella rendition of “Mary Had a Baby.” The spiritual number was light and airy with each voice playing off of each other’s. Following chorus and closing the concert was Orchestra, playing the popular tune “Little Russian” by Tchaikovsky. The piece boasts a complex sound, consisting of a ferocious percussion line and delicate violin melodies accompanied by brassy, boisterous trumpets.

The Winter Concert is the first of three performances the seniors and Mr. Falker have left at Walpole High School; the other two— the Spring Concert and Pops Night— take place in spring. At the close of the 2013-2014 school year, Mr. Falker will retire as music department head and teacher of Walpole High. As one of his last few performances, it was important that the Winter Concert stayed at his expected standard of excellence.

Orchestra member, senior Meghan Wheeler, was proud of the music department’s performance. “I really felt our that our concert showed off our abilities as a department,” said Wheeler, “This is one of the last concerts for the seniors, as well as Mr. Falker, and I think we showed what we can really do.”

Reilly speaks out against sexual assault through Girl Code Movement

Photo/wcvb.com



Reilly speaks with Channel 5 News broadcaster Heather Unruh about the Girl Code Movement.

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Soon, they put together pages on various social media websites to promote their ideas about preventing sexual assaults on college campuses. Their mission statement for the campaign is “to unite college women across the country to become active operatives to stop a rape from happening.”

Reilly said, “At that point it was just an idea to promote how big of an issue [rape] was. At that point, sharing our stories was not really a part of it.”

Before the campaign launch, Reilly and her family told a few more close friends. One of these family friends was newscaster Heather Unruh. When Unruh heard Jackie’s story she decided to help Reilly break the silence by doing a news piece about sexual assaults on college campuses. “She asked Caroline and I if we would like to be in it. At first, we had no intention of going public with our stories. It is extremely personal and the thought of sharing something that personal is scary; however, we felt that if we did not

newscaster Heather Unruh asked Reilly questions regarding what happened to her and why she decided to speak up about it. Unruh also interviewed other college students who reported their sexual assaults and who felt as if they were being blamed for their assault.

With encouragement from family and friends, the girls initially started the movement at Syracuse, hoping to get their voices heard across campus. “At Syracuse, we are putting together a presentation for the Panhellenic community to bring all of the sororities together. Girl Code stemmed from the fact that I was left at a party. What happened to me was 100% preventable if someone had just taken me home.”

After Reilly and Heres founded the Girl Code movement, a third Syracuse student named Julie Gelb approached them and shared her interest. Like both co-founders, Gelb was a victim of sexual assault. Reilly and Heres welcomed her to the team and Gelb now runs the publicity aspect of their campaign. Although their campaign started at Syracuse, the three

take this opportunity, we were contributing to the silence: the very thing that makes us so angry about this issue,” Reilly said. “Going public with our stories was a way of taking back what happened to us from the people who did what they did.”

On December 12, 2013, Channel 5 News aired an episode of Chronicle called “Breaking the Silence: Campus Rape Epidemic”, featuring Jackie Reilly. In the segment,

intend to spread their message to other colleges and universities as well. “Once we have started at Syracuse, we plan on putting together a start-up package and giving it to other colleges. We want to spread Girl Code to other college campuses because this is not just an issue at Syracuse. This is an issue at every college campus.”

Reilly also feels that it is important for high school students to be aware of the issue before leaving for college, and is currently talking with the Guidance department at Walpole about the possibility of speaking at the high school in order to benefit the current high school students.

“Having Jackie back would show how real this problem is and that it could happen to anyone,” said Student Council Advisor Kerry McMenimen. “Bad things can happen to good people.”

Although Reilly did end up publicly sharing her story, it was not an easy process. However, the positive reactions from people in her life eased this process. Reilly said, “I have heard from over 100 people — people from Syracuse, people from Walpole that I used to go to high school with, family, friends, and even complete strangers. I was expecting Girl Code to be an awareness campaign. I did not expect so many people to speak up about their experience, but that’s awesome. I am really amazed and happy that it is doing that.”

Reilly’s reaction is sparking a movement around the Syracuse campus to heighten awareness of sexual assaults and bring this issue to the forefront of discussions. Over the next few months, Reilly hopes to begin giving presentations at other high schools and colleges. Reilly said, “Our presentation will involve talking about our experiences, passing out our promotional material, and spreading awareness.” With the Girl Code movement, Reilly as well as Heres hope to make progress towards ending the rape epidemic in schools across the country.

AP Art exhibit shows off students' talent

Photos/ Hannah McLaughlin



AP Art students Kate Preston, Montana Gulbrand, Ashley Waldron, Nikki D'Andrea, Jess Owens, Hannah Miller, Estee Lewis, Jacqui Stratton, and Maggie Moriarty showcase talent at the AP Art Exhibition

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simultaneously creating colorful collages of the melted candy left in the pans. Her elaborate sculptures made of matches also captured the attentions and imaginations of all who stopped to look at them.

After Graduation, Gulbrand plans to pursue art as a career. She aspires to become either an art director in major motion pictures or a full-time practicing contemporary artist.

The AP Student Art show was certainly a success, for the spectators were given the rare opportunity to congratulate Walpole's young artists on their imaginative projects and appreciate the hours of effort spent to produce such impressive pieces. After the viewing, junior Marc Sheehan said, "This year was my first time going to the AP Art Show, and I really regret not going in years before. I would urge everyone to go because no

one really gets to appreciate this kind of art like the others displayed at WHS."

Acknowledging the size of the intimate gathering, Sheehan said, "This isn't the Winter Musical or the Film Festival, which both draw huge crowds. The AP Art kids have as much talent as those in drama or film and it's unfortunate that more people don't come to these shows because you sometimes just can't believe the work was done by a fellow classmate. It's all quite professional... and there's food!"

AP Studio Art Drawing teacher Ms. Willa-Ann McKee expressed similar sentiments about the students' efforts when she said, "The opening reception for the AP Studio Art Exhibit was a proud moment for everyone involved—artists, teachers, families, and friends—and was well attended. So much goes into meeting the demands of the AP Art course that many people

don't realize. It's so much work and really exhausting." Regarding the rigorous demands presented to the AP Art students, McKee said, "The creative process is so unpredictable and full of ups and downs, and the pace of production needs to be really fast for AP. But it is such a rewarding process as well that is fueled by passion, talent, and dedication. The artists have been working for months on their pieces and received the recognition they deserved."

Regardless of whether this recognition and praise came in person at the showing or written in the students' guest notebooks as congratulatory comments, the AP artists appreciated the positive feedback and impressive turnout. Waldron said, "I believe the AP Art Show is a great venue for us to show off our work. Most people don't realize the amount of hours and energy that we put into each piece and it feels great to have someone



Senior Montana Gulbrand's piece, *Boiling Point*, consists of multiple candies melted and displayed on paper at the AP Art Show.

look at it and appreciate it." Yet while compliments and commendation are always accepted, artists like Waldron find the greatest joy in creating and discussing their art with others. As for the opportunity to share her love of art with the community, Waldron said, "As long as people take the time to stop for a few minutes and look around, I'm happy."

Highly debated security cameras installed in WHS

By Meagan Sundstrom
Class of 2015

After multiple Walpole High School students appeared on the local Fox 25 news and administration held various series of debates and meetings at the end of the last school year, the Walpole School Committee approved the installment of new school security cameras in Walpole Public Schools late last June. The committee also released the School Security Camera Protocol—stating the purpose and extent of security camera placement. The cameras were placed in the hallways of Walpole High School over the weekend of December 14, 2013 and are ready to record; however, staff will not have access to the recordings until they go through training, which was set to take place in the last two weeks of January.

The 19 cameras were installed strategically through the hallways of the school, with three in the main lobby, two in the cafeteria, and one in the library. No cameras are located in private locations such as restrooms and locker rooms.

According to Assistant Principal William Hahn, Walpole Public Schools is one of the few school districts that have yet to install cameras, as many other schools such as Norwood, Wellesley, and Natick already have them in place. Mr. Hahn said, "It is actually uncommon for new schools not to have cameras. It's become the new norm... More high schools like ours that are not newly constructed are looking into security cameras."

In the Security Camera Protocol, authorized personnel possess the only access to the footage, and no one will monitor the live recordings except in the case of a suspected incident. Administrators view the recordings through a log-in and password to a designated website, and each time they log-in, they must specify the reason. Unless administrators need the footage for an ongoing investigation, the video recordings—none of which capture sound—will be automatically deleted after 30 days.



Photo/ Bryan Kelleher

A security camera is mounted on the wall in one of Walpole High School's hallways.

Additionally, the School Committee released a second section to "Policy ECA: Buildings and Grounds Security" to authorize and discuss the use of the cameras. The policy dictates that the cameras can only be located where there is no reasonable expectation of privacy and that any student or faculty member identified in the footage performing actions in violation of the district rules will undergo disciplinary action.

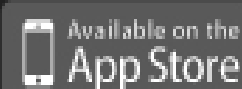
Despite the fact that four cameras had already been placed around the school in past years, administration still faces student opposition. According to Hahn, the students have multiple layers of reactions: there are some who think the cameras are a waste of money, some who think they break civil liberties, and some who think they will make the school safer.

The founding member of the Students-Opposing-Surveillance, senior Jon Kelland, said, "I believe it's an unnecessary expenditure by the school, and I wish that

money went to more practical uses. There are more productive ways this money could have been spent."

Although opposers may be perceived as a negative aspect, Hahn believes that these resisting ideas are actually a positive influence. He said, "I think an opposing voice is very healthy. It makes sure we have certain policies in place and makes sure we are installing and utilizing the cameras well and appropriately."

The overall purpose of the camera installment is to enhance school security and to create a safer learning environment for students and faculty. Whether or not students and faculty concur with the installment of the new cameras, they will remain in place due to the School Committee's approval. According to the policies and the original proposal of installing the system, school administrators hope the cameras are able to prevent any destructive actions within Walpole Public Schools in the future.



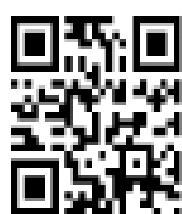
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ENTERTAINMENT

Social Media continues to modernize music awards

By Lucy Lynch and Katie Smith
Class of 2015

Right now, few people remember who won the Best Video Award at MTV's Video Music Awards in 2013. Even fewer can recall the artist who won that same award at the VMAs in 2009. And let's be honest — no one remembers who won Best Cinematography at the Golden Globes in 2013. However, everyone knows who twerked in 2013, who drunkenly interrupted Taylor Swift's acceptance speech in 2009, and how Tina Fey and Amy Poehler redefined the 2013 and 2014 Golden Globes. These instances of infamy and occasional empowerment are the moments of entertainment that truly define award shows. In a world where instantaneous social media reactions fuel tomorrow's headlines, the Grammy Awards themselves are secondary to the moments—both empowering and embarrassing—that result from the spontaneous mixture of celebrities and music at an award show.

Fifty years ago, the Grammy Awards were one of the most prestigious events in Hollywood. In the past, this "biggest night in music" celebrated the best works of music of its time and the talented minds who created them. Legends such as the Beatles and Elvis Costello received massive praise for their undeniable talents and in the decades that followed, the event gradually garnered massive media attention. Since then, however, the focus on talented artists and tasteful music has changed. Today, receiving a Grammy is

not perceived as the incredible achievement that it was in the past. Nowadays, the Grammy's—like the majority of other Hollywood award shows—are plagued by the prominence of social media. Consequently, society has transformed the Grammy into an award for outlandish antics rather than raw talent. This year, the show featured entertaining and controversial performances from talented artists of all different genres that resulted in impressive spikes in sales for some and Twitter-criticisms for others.

Opening the show was power couple Jay-Z and Beyoncé—two seasoned veterans of the Grammy awards who are no strangers to the social media spotlight. The sultry performance of Beyoncé's new hit "Drunk in Love" was reminiscent of the song's music video, which has over 60 million views on YouTube. While the singing and rapping of Beyoncé and Jay-Z was on par as usual, this performance was not about the couple's musical talent. Rather, "Drunk in Love" at the Grammys served as a publicity spectacle showcasing the marriage of music royalty, and was well-received by social media users.

Similarly, Seventeen-year-old Lorde was a hot topic on Twitter, as expectations



Imagine Dragons' smoke-filled set featured a performance by rapper Kendrick Lamar.

different reason—few people praised her successful acquisition of two Grammys while most critiqued her eccentric style, quivering dance moves, and black-painted knuckles. Despite having her talent overlooked, the bizarre spectacle Lorde caused seemed to be a great marketing strategy—her U.S. album sales for *Pure Heroine* shot up 85% after her performance.

And then there was Taylor Swift. Talented, famous, and a previous Grammy winner herself, Taylor performed well; yet once again, it was neither the vocal talent or impressive piano skills that attracted the attention. Instead, her awkward dancing was the impetus for the internet's attack on Taylor. In addition to the backlash of Swift's "headbanging" as she performed her hit song "All Too Well," footage of Swift's cringeworthy dancing ultimately overshadowed her talents and immense success with *Red*.

Kendrick Lamar and Imagine Drag-

were set high when she announced that her Grammy debut would feature a stripped down version of her number one hit "Royals." Though the song won her two Grammy Awards for Best Pop Solo Performance and Song of the Year, Lorde ruled the Twittersphere for a

ons' mashup was undoubtedly the most talked-about performance of the night. The "Radioactive" and "m.A.A.d city" mashup generated an astounding 171,593 tweets per minute, and the performance revitalized the three hour show with flashing strobe lights and deafening drums. Despite leaving the Grammys empty-handed, as he was snubbed by Macklemore, Lamar's flawless performance proved he is a rapper to be reckoned with.

Lastly, Daft Punk caused quite the scene onstage. The Electronic duo—one of the biggest winners of the night—performed alongside Pharrell, Stevie Wonder, and Nile Rodgers. The duo's popularity on social media did not stem from their winnings; rather, Daft Punk received attention on Twitter because they remained silent under their signature helmets throughout the night, leaving Pharrell to accept their awards..

After a night of awards and performances, social media platforms were buzzing. However, they did not focus on Macklemore's widespread winnings, or Daft Punk's silent success. Instead, the media focused on critiquing and praising performances. Although winners often receive an increase in sales for their winning songs, those performed have been equally profitable. Kendrick Lamar and Imagine Dragons' Grammy performance has already been re-released on iTunes, as well as performed on Saturday Night Live. Although not all performers were awarded for their musical talents, the majority generated more buzz than the biggest winners.

Bieber's misdemeanors: A result of lovestruck Beliebers



Justin Bieber's hair, music and image have changed over the span of his career, culminating in his arrest.

By Karalyn Kickham
Class of 2014

Flash back to the summer of 2009, when preteen and teen girls everywhere first heard about a cute boy on YouTube with the look and the voice that would soon make them fall in love with the newest teen pop sensation. Justin Bieber's music video for his first single "One Time" had just been released, and Bieber was thrown under the spotlight almost overnight. The hair flip, the wink, the zip-up purple hoodies—this innocent fifteen year old really knew how to win over most girls his age, and his meteoric rise in popularity was only just beginning.

Almost unrecognizable in appearance, voice, and actions, Justin Bieber as the world knows him today has clearly grown out of his cute stage—not only concerning the style of his music, but also by how he is perceived by the public eye.

With the media watching and critiquing Bieber's every move this past year, a different, not-so-flattering side of the heartthrob was brought to the public's attention. Questionable actions throughout the year—including one recent run-in with the law—lead to Bieber's arrest this January. Bieber was arrested on January 23, 2014 for DUI, drag racing, resisting arrest, and driving with an expired license.

After months of Bieber chaos leading up to his January arrest, the question arose: Who is to blame? Although most reasonably argue that Bieber is responsible for his own actions—his fall from grace is no one's fault but his own—there have been claims that Bieber's fans are to blame; although this idea seems far-fetched, it provokes much thought. Millions of fans post on social media daily about their undying love for Justin Bieber and put the bad boy star on a pedestal. Granted that

part of the behavioral change in Bieber came with age, most teenagers do not act out to the extent that Bieber has since he has gained world-wide fame. Even with a criminal record, millions of "Beliebers" on the Internet still swoon over and praise the heartthrob, swearing to never stop loving him. With over 49.4 million followers on Twitter and almost 14 million on Instagram professing their love and admiration for Justin daily, it is understandable that the power could get to his head, but could an overly supportive fan base on social media really influence a celebrity's actions?

Although Bieber's actions causing his arrest are sad, they are not necessarily unexpected. In the past year, Bieber's reputation has gone down the drain due to physical and verbal altercations, illegal activity, and blatant disrespect. Some on social media have called Justin's outbursts one-time occurrences caused by the stress associated with fame, while others predicted that Bieber's negative behavior would continue. Some of the more shocking controversial situations Bieber has gotten himself involved in in the past year were leaving an inappropriate comment in the Anne Frank House guest book, and urinating into a bucket while yelling "F*** Bill Clinton" as he passed a picture of Clinton on the wall. Although Bieber later apologized for the video, this disrespect was the last straw for many. On Christmas Eve—the night before the release of his new movie "Believe"—brought Bieber's most shocking stunt of the year; Bieber sent out a tweet that said, "My beloved beliebers I'm officially retiring." The worst Christmas gift ever to some and a Christmas miracle to others, the tweet shocked almost everyone, as not many could imagine why Bieber would retire at the age of 19. The tweet turned out to be a joke, but it certainly caused more than enough drama. The drama would ensue, however, as the new year brought a new Bieber, completing his transformation to the bad boy image. Justin egged his neighbors' house on January 14, causing thousands of dollars in damage. On January 23, Bieber was pulled over by a cop in Miami Beach and arrested for drag racing, DUI, driving with an expired license, and resisting arrest. As if this did not cause enough turmoil in the world of social media, Bieber's mugshot—in which he is smiling at the camera—brought a storm of criticisms and complaints on his character to the surface.

Because nothing says "I've learned my lesson" like taking a mugshot with a smile.

It is difficult to comprehend why so many can condone such outrageous and just downright wrong behavior from someone who is supposed to be a role model for his millions of fans. After all Bieber has brought upon himself recently, it is astounding that he still has so many loyal followers. Although a large portion of Beliebers have lost respect for their old hero and have outgrown their days of life size posters, homemade concert t-shirts, and photoshopped images with their face next to Bieber's, an alarming amount of praise has been expressed towards Bieber on social media, especially Twitter. Countless fans have defended Bieber on Twitter, saying that at only 19 years old, Bieber is expected to make mistakes and he should be given another chance. Chance after chance, Bieber has found himself in more trouble, but the support has not stopped; the same defensive tweets are sent out day after day. By quickly dismissing the celebrity's poor decision making, fans are expressing that no matter what Bieber does, they will always love him. And there lies a possible source of Bieber's supposed invincibility: loyal fans will continue to buy Justin's music, go to his concerts, and stick up for him on social media despite the drunk driving, the physical assaults, and whatever else is to come in the future.

Justin Bieber has talent, and it would be a shame for him to throw all of that away at the young age of 19, but the undying support of most of his fans—who glorify Bieber's illegal actions with endless love on social media—has to be limited. So many Beliebers praising such behavior is disconcerting; rewarding Bieber with love and support after he has just been arrested is not the way to make him change his ways. Just days after Bieber's arrest, fans were already back to commenting marriage proposals in the comments of Bieber's Instagram pictures and tweeting about their dreams to meet him. If Justin knows that his fans will love him no matter what, then the consequences for poor behavior may seem trivial to him. Although Bieber's actions are ultimately his own fault, the 60 mentions per second that Justin receives on Twitter may boost his ego just enough to make the star feel invincible. Bieber needs to take a step back, stay out of the spotlight, get some help, and fly under the radar for a while. And if Bieber continues to find himself in trouble with the law, maybe people should use the power of social media to do some good, and convince Justin that maybe the retirement idea wasn't such a bad idea, after all.

Spike Jonze awes audience with offbeat film “Her”



Joaquin Phoenix stars in *Her*, a movie about a man who falls in love with his operating system.

By Hannah McLaughlin
Class of 2014

In every memorable love story, two star-crossed lovers are brought together by some inexplicable outside force, and their lives are altered forevermore. Be it by fate, chance, or sheer good fortune, the two unlikely lovers meet and are instantly enamored with one another. All aspects of life as they know it appear to be perfect; that is, until controlling parents pilfer a year’s worth of love letters, indestructible luxury cruise liners sink, or famous feuding families forbid the budding relationship (see any chick flick featuring Ryan Gosling or Leonardo DiCaprio for reference). Despite the various obstacles that inevitably emerge in order to test the couple’s resilience, the pair prevails and love ultimately triumphs. In every classic romance, the couple in question has to be emotionally invested. They should be passionate. There exists an unbreakable bond— a magnetic attraction. Simply stated, their relationship must be real. Or does it?

Director Spike Jonze’s *Her* tells the story of Theodore and Samantha, a couple who appears to enjoy the average, everyday romance of a typical American couple— assuming, of course, that a man’s emotional infatuation and ensuing sexual relationship with his personal computer is in any way considered “normal” by today’s standards.

In Jonze’s most recent cinematic masterpiece, Theodore Twombly (Joaquin Phoenix) is an awkward introvert whose social ineptness prevents him from finding love the second time around. In denial of his impending divorce from longtime lover Catherine (Rooney Mara), Theodore sulks around a futuristic Los Angeles, numb to his lively city surroundings and void of the happiness he once felt daily. If the absence of his other half wasn’t enough of a heartache, Theodore’s job as head writer for a company who specializes in the creation of “handwritten” love notes puts him in a som-

ber mood, for these sappy sentiments are yet another reminder of Theodore’s increasing loneliness. Fed up with his unrequited love and after an impulse buy, Theodore installs his own personal Operating System, or “OS,” for short. This computer—intended to provide people with an intelligent acquaintance with the capabilities of a computer and the heart of a human—is programmed to fit the buyer’s personality perfectly. After answering a short series of questions and syncing his OS earbud to the hard drive, Theodore anxiously awaits the arrival of his computer companion. As if by fate, “Samantha” (voiced by Scarlett Johansson) is assigned as Theodore’s personal virtual assistant.

In awe of his OS’ realistic attributes— such as genuine compassion, a refreshing sense of humor, and the ability to read and respond to human emotions—Theodore finds himself slowly falling for Samantha’s sweet persona. He starts to seek refuge from his real-life woes—such as stressful days at work, drama regarding the divorce, and his ever-increasing loneliness— by losing himself in conversation with the OS. Discussing life’s greatest mysteries, love’s impact on the soul, and debating whether having a physical body determines an individual as a “real” person, the two develop as individuals as their unconventional relationship drives them to discover more of the world than they had ever imagined.

Known for his bizarre, fantasy-laden films, Jonze continues his unconventional cinematic streak with a twisted tale of boy-meets-girl— or rather, boy-meets-artificially-intelligent-computer-program-and-falls-in-love-with-it-as-if-the-inanimate-object-was-actually-a-flesh-and-blood-human-being. Both a profound love story and a criticism of man’s ever-increasing dependence on technology, *Her* emerges as one of the most beautiful and simultaneously unnerving motion pictures of the twenty-first century. Despite experiencing the heartwarming evolution of a seemingly perfect relationship, viewers are reminded of the unfortunate effects of technology on an individual. Throughout the film, though Theodore is almost always in the presence of his beloved Samantha, the pathetic protagonist grows increasingly distant from the world around him and willingly detaches himself from reality. Ironically, it seems as though the very debilitating loneliness that Theodore’s attempts to avoid through the purchase of Samantha is augmented as a consequence of not having important elements of a real relationship to fulfill his needs. While he may be comforted emotionally by the kind words of his computer, the initial sparks he felt with Samantha seem to extinguish themselves once Theodore acknowledges his inability to see or feel this virtual lover. His initial embarrassment of dating an OS, coupled with the amorphous intangibility of his girlfriend, forces Theodore to retreat further into himself in times of need and suffering.

The film, despite its bizarre plot and off-beat ambi-

ence, is nothing short of fantastic. The cinematography is exceptional, as odd camera angles and peaceful scenes of untainted nature in a world predominantly permeated by technology create an overwhelming atmosphere of intoxicating serenity. Even the saddest scenes are spectacular, for Jonze’s juxtaposition of opposing emotions—namely the mess of frustration and joy throughout his short-lived marriage—is utterly ingenious. Soft piano riffs accompany melancholy flashbacks of Theodore’s past pain and suffering are poignant and heartbreaking, but beautiful nonetheless. The free-spirited feel of the indie-style film succeeds in reminding viewers not to take themselves too seriously while simultaneously encouraging them all the to break free of the tethers that bind one to the past and prevent individuals from progressing. Filled with a unique sense of a complex simplicity, *Her* is a concoction of social criticisms, contradictions, and conundrums.

Yet while the film may have seemed on the surface perfect, the Spike Jonze Flick certainly contained some unnecessary and uncomfortable elements. Most attempts to add comedy fell flat, for the tongue-in-cheek humor translated terribly onto a character as intentionally dull and two-dimensional as Theodore. Additionally, the intimate scenes between the human and his computer did little to develop and imitate a two-person relationship like Jonze intended. Therefore, the production would have benefitted overall if Jonze omitted the awkward intercourse over the phone or the surrogate hired by Samantha to represent a physical being for Theodore to have and to hold as a stand in for Samantha’s nonexistent body.

Despite its peculiar premise, the cast of *Her* delivers in regards to their impeccable acting. Phoenix flawlessly captures Theodore’s quirkiness with his display of a rather pathetic timidity. Assuming the role of Twombly’s closest friend and motivator Amy, Amy Adams plays an impressive part as the eternal optimist needed as a foil to compensate for Theodore’s seemingly perennial pessimism. Johansson, though never physically present during shooting, wins the hearts of viewers by transforming an potentially disastrous character into a loveable entity. Contributing charm and grace to an extremely difficult part, Johansson successfully shatters any preconceived notions of a potentially forgettable performance.

Perhaps it is the unconventionality of the plot that makes the film so brilliant. Or maybe the movie’s cinematography and accompanying instrumentals induce an atmosphere of profound beauty, which makes it so ingenious. Or the greatest element could be the unquestionable chemistry between a man and his computer— an unlikely love story that foreshadows a dismal future marked by an increasing infatuation with technology. Regardless of the reason, *Her* is an Oscar-worthy film capable of captivating even the least tech-savvy individuals.

Variety of romance films to hit theaters this Valentine’s Day

By Mary McAvoy
Class of 2014

Though it may be desirable to fantasize about Nicholas Sparks-worthy love and lust on Valentine’s Day, the closest many people get to a perfect romance is through the television screen. Because Ally and Noah *Notebook* relationships are rare in reality, one can always rely on Hollywood to produce a plethora of sappy cinema couples to satiate their desire for drama and passion. The film industry capitalizes on loneliness, for it draws many to theaters for sickly sweet, over-emotional performances every February. This year is no different, as the lineup of films coming to theaters February 14 are sure to tug at viewers’ heartstrings. Not only are there heartfelt, love-infused films coming to theaters this Valentine’s Day, but there are also movies that are expected to make viewers laugh rather than cry.

This year’s headlining “chick-flick,” properly titled *Endless Love*, chronicles a long-winded tale that everyone has heard before: underprivileged boy David Elliot (Alex Pettyfer) meets high-

society girl Jade Butterfield (Gabriella Wilde), a lasting bond is formed, and one hackneyed, overly-sappy line later, the girl’s disapproving father attempts to break them apart. Technically, this exact story has been done several times before, as the original 1981 version of *Endless Love* was adapted from Scott Spencer’s popular 1979 novel—not to mention the countless productions with conspicuously similar themes (i.e. *The Notebook*, *A Walk to Remember*, etc). Surely, the film will not win any awards based on originality; however, despite its trite concept, *Endless Love* is guaranteed to draw large audiences (predominantly composed of teenage girls) to theaters everywhere.

While *Endless Love* will easily satisfy many viewers’ longings for romance, a few unconventional love stories will be hitting the theaters February 14 as well. *Winter’s Tale*—an adaptation of Mark Helprin’s 1983 novel of the same name—follows the romance of burglar Peter Lake (Colin Farrell) and Beverly Penn (Jessica Brown Findlay), a beautiful woman suffering from a fatal illness. The dramatic film has a supernatural element; after Beverly

dies, Peter is transported from the 1910 New York setting to a late 20th century version of the city where his memory wiped clean. Over time, he begins to recollect his past as he realizes that Beverly has been protecting and watching over him all along. Though the fantasy-laden trailer is confusing and difficult to follow, the film’s star-studded cast—including Russell Crowe and Will Smith—in addition to the movie’s unique premise seems promising.

For many movie lovers, Valentine’s Day would not be complete without a classy rom-com. A modernized version of a classic 1986 romantic comedy, *About Last Night*—starring Kevin Hart, Michael Ealy, Regina Hall, and Joy Bryant—is a humorous take on dating and relationships from a young adult perspective. The plot focuses on two pairs of roommates—Bernie (Hart) and Danny (Ealy), and Joan (Hall) and Debbie (Bryant)—who form two couples within the group. The friends give each other dating advice throughout the film, and the disparities between the opposite sexes provide a humorous look at stereotypical male versus female perspectives. *About Last Night*

is a fun, realistic take on relationships as opposed to the cliched, overdramatized “love at first sight” stories often associated with the holiday.

Of course, there are always options for those who want to reject the Valentine’s Day sappiness completely. The new comedy *Date and Switch* is devoid of romance, despite its initially misleading premise. Best friends Michael (Nicholas Braun) and Matty (Hunter Cope) embark on a quest to lose their virginity before senior prom, but they find their plans briefly interrupted when Matty reveals that he is gay. Though initially surprised, Michael accepts his friend’s sexuality, assuring him that he will not go on his “gay journey” alone. For those looking to enjoy a less romantic and more “bromantic” movie this Valentine’s Day, *Date and Switch* is a perfect choice.

Valentine’s Day weekend is bound to be noteworthy in the box office, regardless of the hype-- or lack thereof-- surrounding the films. Going to the movies on a date or with a friend is always a viable option; fortunately, the variety of films to choose from this year caters to multiple tastes.

WINTER BALL

Third annual Winter Ball draws largest crowd yet

By Bailey Tudor
Class of 2014

For all high school students, January marks the end of a relaxing winter break and the advent of a brand new semester. As the students settle back into their monotonous schedules, the once-festive atmosphere is replaced with lethargic feelings brought upon by cold winter weather. To combat this drowsy interim between the holiday season and second semester, the Walpole High School Student Council provided the student body with a festive reprieve in the form of a semi-formal dance. On January 19, StuCo transformed the cafeteria into a Winter Wonderland, complete with streams of white Christmas lights, sparkling silver branches, and festive hanging snowflakes. About 250 Walpole High students donned dresses and dress shirts of blue, black, silver, and gold in preparation for the winter-themed dance. The students, gathered in a mass on the dance floor, swayed to Pop music played by DJ Blaque. The DJ, who has attended the annual Pink Dance in October, pleased partygoers by playing three and a half hours of today's top hits.

A few feet away from

the dance floor, students snacked on tables lined with refreshments. Cotton candy, popcorn, and other sugary treats fueled the students and kept them dancing throughout the night. One of the biggest hits of the evening was the Candy Bar-- a decorative table covered with sweets like Sour Patch, Laffy Taffy, Tootsie Rolls, and Hershey's chocolate.

Acknowledging the lively atmosphere, senior Kate Preston said, "The decorations were amazing and the music got everybody dancing. I'm very glad I went this year."

Apart from the popular music playlist and decadent dessert table, the most popular attraction at this year's winter ball was the photo booth. Students grabbed their friends and lined up to take pictures with various props such as hats, glasses, and winter-related signs. Always a crowd favorite, the photo booth provided students with an amusing souvenir from the dance.

Additionally, this year marked the return of the Winter Ball Ice Queen and Snow King-- a voting contest established to recognize the night's most festive and enthusiastic dancers. About 85 votes were cast, and junior Mike Mazzotta and senior Remy Love were called up to the

DJ booth to be crowned King and Queen. Love said, "I had a ton of fun at this year's Winter Ball, and winning Ice Queen made it even more exciting."

In the early stages of planning the event, Student Council struggled to find a date and time that would be most convenient for the greatest number of WHS students. Initially, the Winter Ball was chosen to be held on January 11; however, as the date drew near, numerous issues emerged. "There were a lot of conflicts with the Patriots game and a home varsity hockey game, so in order to accommodate the most students as possible the event was switched to a day in which there were no conflicts with home sports games," said senior Matt Brownsword, the treasurer of Walpole High School Student Council. Ultimately, the date was established as January 11--the Sunday before mid-years. Though this particular day posed potential issues as well-- students who planned to study for the impending exams would sacrifice precious hours of studying-- the dance was successful, as attendance was at an all time high for StuCo-sponsored dances.

Like the Pink Dance, the annual Winter Ball encourages students in all grades to get involved in more school-related activities. While profits from the Pink Dance are donated to the American Cancer Society, earnings from the Winter Ball fund other school-wide events scheduled for the second half of the school year. Due to this year's record-breaking attendance, Student Council accumulated a total of \$1,850 in Winter Ball ticket sales and produced a profit of \$230. "This year's Winter Ball was very successful," said junior Claudia Schoenthaler, a StuCo Representative. "So many people came out with a good attitude, and the entire Student Council put so much work into transforming the cafeteria."

Pleased with the outcome of the third annual Winter Ball, Student Council Advisor Ms. Kerry McMenimen said, "The event exceeded our expectations, and all the participants provided our student council with positive feedback." The Winter Ball, established with the intention of creating an exciting reprieve from the dull and gray winter monotony, has grown sufficiently over the years. In 2015, the Student Council hopes to increase the number of students in attendance and add more festivities to next year's winter wonderland.

Photos: Bryan Kelleher



Seniors Remy Love, Matt Brownsword, Maggie Moriarty, Pete Hoegler, and Jack Stedman join for a photo at their last winter ball.



Sophomores Stina Cofsky, Julia Adams, senior Ashley Waldron, and sophomore Sarah Rockwood get together for a group picture.

Speech Team flourishes at Newton South High School Meet

Photo: Emily Loflin

By Anna Van der Linden
Class of 2016

In the three years of the Speech Team's existence, no individual has ever qualified for the State Competition. Since they started with four members back in 2011, the team has tripled in size to over 12 members this year. However, they have still yet to qualify any individuals for the State Tournament. This year, however, may be different. In order to qualify for States, individuals—who have competed in a minimum of three separate competitions—must have an average finish within the top fifteen places. After a strong showing at the Holly Speech Festival at Natick High School on December 14, the Walpole High Speech Team competed at Newton-South High School on Saturday, January 8, their second major meet this year. Because of their strong places at the Newton-South, Walpole may be sending their first individual to the State Tournament.

Before a tournament, students receive information about the categories they will be competing in. Categories include Group Discussion, Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, or Impromptu. In Group Discussion, for example, students form their own points and think of an opening and concluding statement for the discussion. "It's like a socratic seminar, and it is the intro to the more advanced debating category," said Loflin. Twelve competitors make it to the semi-finals, and six continue on to the finals.

Sophomore Grace Hoegler, one of the the new members who competed at her first tournament in the event of Group Discussion, had one of the strongest performances at the meet.

"I stay calm during my debates by just speaking my mind and opinion, and once you get past the anxiety, it just comes naturally," Hoegler said. She made it to the semi-final round and received a medal for placing 8th out of 55. If she earns similar scores at the next two tournaments, she could head to the State Finals later this Spring.

While no members came home with a trophy, the overall mood remained upbeat.

New members including sophomore Tess Lancaster enjoyed the event. She said, "My favorite thing was the fact that it was a completely different experience than anything else that Walpole High has to offer. It was nice to meet people from all over Massachusetts and discuss things we were interested in."

The team has gained many new additions, mostly thanks to the efforts of the current members. "The students that are involved seem really enthusiastic, they have the right attitude, and they have actually recruited new members, which is great to see," said the advisor, Ms. Emily Loflin. In the acting side of the tournament, students can compete in categories such as Play Reading, Radio Broadcast, or Dramatic Interpretation. Walpole students who participated in the acting categories include sophomore Matt Mori-

arty, sophomore Kianna Kaizer, and junior Catriona Garry. Additional members who received a bid for the state tournament were sophomore Cornelius Goodrich, who placed 31st out of 55 in Group Discussion, junior Sam Corcoran, who placed 17th out of 55 in Group Discussion, and junior Catriona Garry, who placed 25th out of 55 in Prose Reading.

"My personal goal for the team is to hopefully make the state tournament, and I feel pretty confident that that's going to happen," said Ms. Loflin. With their new members and plenty of enthusiasm, the Speech Team hopes that 2014 is the year where they as a team — or at least certain individuals — qualify for the State Tournament.



The Speech Team celebrates a successful performance at Newton-South High School where four students received a bid for states.

Mock Trial Club returns after five year hiatus

Photo: Brianna Conley

By Brianna Conley
Class of 2015

Five years ago, the Mock Trial Club ceased to be a team due to a combination of cuts to the extracurricular budget and a lack of student interest.

That was five years ago though — back when the school budget had to be constantly cut, back when juniors Lexi Fasanello and Casey Culhane were still in middle school.

This year, however, these passionately interested juniors have spearheaded a reboot of the Mock Trial Club with the help of the 2012 override and that of two history teachers — Phillip Balkus and Christopher Jean — and a lawyer, Mrs. Julie Corcoran.

Fasanello and Culhane decided at the beginning of the year to try and restart the program in order to provide a new club to students who have an interest in law.

Fasanello said, "The process was much easier than we expected, and Casey and I truthfully did not think this many people would join or that [the group] would receive the necessary funding."

Fasanello and Culhane had to talk to Assistant Principal William Hahn and see if they could find an interested faculty member to help advise the group. Fortunately, they found two teachers, twelve students, and even a lawyer—all determined to bring back the program.

Mr. Balkus said, "Fasanello and Culhane ambitiously did all of the necessary work to set up the team. They recruited members and filled out the application."

At that time, its main purpose was to provide students with the necessary experience that being in a real trial requires.

So far the re-emergence of a once popular activity has been very successful, and the biggest difference this year than in the previous years is that one of the group advisors, Mrs. Corcoran, is a lawyer. With this expert help, Mock Trial Club members are receiving lots of practical help in constructing believable, substantiated cases.

Advised by Mr. Balkus and Mr. Jean, Mock Trial Club is comprised of a core of twelve students—many who are students in Balkus' AP US History class. Each week on Tuesdays and Thursdays, the team gets together to work on a case they received from the Massachusetts Bar Association. The Massachusetts Bar Association puts all of the competitions together and organizes the program.

This year's case is a civil law suit against an airplane company being sued for the death of a stunt pilot. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the team works on all of the elements that will go into the trial such as direct examinations, cross-examinations, opening statements, closing statements, and overall strategy.

The group's first competition was January 24, at Attleboro District Court 2PM against Foxboro High School. Walpole came out on top and beat Foxboro 83-81. Next, the team had a competition January 27, at Stoughton District Court against Dover-Sherborn High School and won again with a score of 91-90. The group argued the Plaintiff side in the first trial and the Defense side in the other two.



The students and teachers on the Mock Trial team pose for a picture.



Juniors Catriona Garry, Leah D'Sa and Sam Corcoran participate in their mock trial.

Unfortunately, on February 7 at Waltham District Court, the Mock Trial Club lost their first case to Foxboro Regional Charter School.

Although they lost, the revived club has certainly captured student interest. The 15 juniors will have another opportunity next year to move further with their next case.

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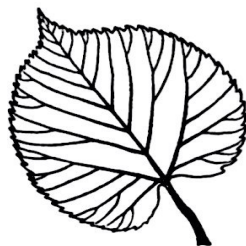
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SPORTS

Girls Basketball gets step closer to tournament berth with win over Wellesley



Junior Summer King claims the ball for the Rebels at the beginning of the game.



Rebels gather in the center of the court before the game.

By Alyssa Rosen
Class of 2016

Although Wellesley defeated Walpole by 14 points during their first meeting on January 7, the second meeting on February 4 was a different story altogether. In a major victory for a team looking to qualify for the tournament, new Head Coach Jim Gallivan led Walpole Girls Basketball above .500 for the first time this season with their victory over Wellesley. The Rebels had a rough start this season — losing four of their first six games — but Coach Gallivan looks to secure a spot for the tournament team by winning 2 of their remaining 5 games.

In addition to adapting to the philosophy of a new head coach, the Rebels have also had to adjust to numerous injuries to upperclassmen. With injuries to seniors Abbey Smith, Caroline Feeley, Elizabeth Ryan, and Bri Doherty at the beginning of the season, Gallivan has shuffled the lineups on a few occasions, giving opportunities to younger players, even freshman.

While this new lineup did not earn many victories earlier in the season, it definitely provided expe-

rience for the younger players against Wellesley. When Wellesley decreased Walpole's lead to three with four seconds left, the Raiders made a quick decision to foul freshman Sophia Giovanello—attempting to exploit the inexperience in the Rebel lineup.

Giovanello said, "I was nervous to take charge and step up to the line at the close end of the game, but I remained calm and did what I had to do."

Sophia Giovanello easily hit both free throws to edge out a 45-40 win over Wellesley.

Unlike during their first meeting, Walpole's defense was able to minimize Wellesley's Sophia Mavrommatis — who had 20 points against Walpole during the first match-up — by a combination of suffocating defense from Feeley and Giovanello.

From the start of the first quarter, the game was close, but Walpole knocked down important shots from the wings — including unlikely threes from post players Summer King and Kaitlin Brown — all while shutting down the Wellesley offense, and took the lead by the third quarter.

Coach Gallivan said, "With Summer triple-teamed down low, more opportunities opened up on the out-

sides, which we were able to take advantage of."

Gallivan put senior Caroline Feeley; juniors Summer King, Julie Moser, and Olivia O'Brien; and sophomore Kaitlin Brown on the floor to start the Walpole-Wellesley game. Scoring 23 points in the first half—with 11 from Summer King—to Wellesley's 24, Walpole did not manage to take the lead of the game until the end of the third quarter.

Offensively, junior Summer King led Walpole scorers with 16 points and senior Captain Nell Sandvos followed her with 10 points.

With 5 season games remaining, Walpole only needs to win two more games and with Milton, Dedham, and Norwood upcoming, the Rebels hope to secure a tournament berth before their February Vacation tournament.

Adjusting to the new basketball season with many setbacks as the existing team had to adapt to a new coach, along with inexperienced high school players. Senior Captain Nell Sandvos said, "We had a slow start to the season, with everything being new to us. But now that we are used to each other, it's all starting to click and we are really playing as a team as we head into the final stretch of the season."

Moore leads Boys Hockey to continued success

Photo/ Peter Hoegler



Senior Billy Moore shoots on Wellesley's goal in their 6-1 loss.

By Mike Fortin
Class of 2014

Down 4-1 in the season opener against Newton North at Iorio Arena on December 14, Walpole Boys Hockey struggled to get anything going until the Rebels saw an unfamiliar but welcoming sight: their three goal deficit suddenly shrunk to one in a matter of minutes. After being outplayed for the majority of the game, the Rebels needed someone to give them a boost—a boost which came from the player wearing the number seven jersey, senior Billy Moore, who took over in the third period. He single handedly went coast to coast to net two goals to give the Rebels a much-needed spark. Despite the Rebels losing this close game

4-3, Walpole recognized they had a new offensive secret weapon that could change the outcome of a competition.

After returning to play high school hockey for his senior year, Moore has taken advantage of his improved skills to make him one of the most dangerous players in the Bay State League. With an 9-6-2 record for the Rebels so far, Moore has more than contributed to their success, scoring the game winner against Wellesley and assisting Pat Quinn twice in their biggest win of the season against Milton.

Through 15 games this season, Moore leads the Rebels with nine goals. His efficiency so far this season has made Moore one of the most proficient offensive players in the league. His shiftiness and smooth skating has made Moore a

problem for opposing defenses as he showed in the Newton North game. Moore, who played his junior year for the Tier 1 team Boston Advantage, made the decision this fall to come back and play for the Rebels his senior year. Moore spent his freshman and sophomore year playing for Walpole but chose to go play with Boston Advantage in hopes of improving his skill by playing against Division 1 caliber talent.

Throughout Moore's time playing for Boston Advantage, he benefited from playing against elite competition which improved his skills. While playing for Boston Advantage, Moore netted 10 goals along with nine assists.

Moore said, "Playing for Boston Advantage, I pretty much improved in all aspects. Going up against some of the best players in the state made me a smarter and faster player."

Moore is still unsure if he will play hockey in college, but acknowledges that if he pursues to do so he will be well suited after being well coached in Boston Advantage and by Walpole Head Coach Ron Dowd.

Moore added, "I think I have strengthened the team in many ways. I've added depth to the team on both the offense and defensive end. Coach Dowd has made sure that each line is strong and so we never have a drop off."

The addition of Moore has given Walpole much more depth at forward, making them one of the best offensive teams in the Bay State League. The Rebels depth at forward position has led to having their second line arguably just as good as their first line,

anchored by senior Captains Tom McNamara and Sean Donnelly. His addition has helped make sure that there was no drop off of production from the 2012 season into the 2013 season because Walpole graduated then leading goal scorers John White and Matt Bender. With so many teams trying to shut down Moore offensively, senior Pat Quinn (six goals) and junior Kevin Quinn (seven goals) — the linemates of Moore — have had breakout seasons.

"Having [Moore] back has definitely made us a lot deeper at the forward position and just a better team overall," said senior Captain Tom McNamara. "He makes all of his teammates around him better and has made the team a lot stronger. Everyone is comfortable playing with him on the ice, making it easier to play our style of hockey."

The Rebels hope that this depth at forward can bring them far into the postseason; however, the team and Moore's real goal is a lot more than just a tournament berth.

"Our goal for the season it to make it to the Garden and win the State Championship," said Moore. "I have the best teammates out there, and I know we can put together a strong tournament run."

Currently in third place in the Herget, Walpole is just shy of overtaking rival Norwood for second before seasons' end. With a new attitude of competing for a Herget Division Title every season — and the addition of secret weapon Billy Moore — Walpole might just catch Norwood (something they could not do all last year), and make a long tournament run.

Walpole Wrestling goes over .500 for first time against Norwood

Photos/ Ben Lucas



Junior Joe Delaney fights to gain position on his Mustang opponent.



Senior Kyle Robbins controls his opponent in Wednesday's match against Norwood.

By Justin Rouhana
Class of 2014

With their record even at 9-9, Walpole Wrestling traveled to Norwood High School's main gym on Wednesday night, January 30. The Rebels finally put their record past .500 for the first time all season by winning the dual meet 52-22.

The meet began at the 132 pound weight class in which the Rebels struck first when senior Garrett Barry pinned his opponent in the third period to start Walpole off on the right foot. Barry said, "I tried to set the tone early for the team, I'm not used to going first, we usually start at 106."

At 138 pounds, sophomore Matt Hancock won in a minor decision against his evenly matched Mustang opponent. Hancock, who is a first year varsity starter, made up for his inexperience with his brute strength: on Wednesday, he lifted his opponent off the mat to score a take-down several times throughout the bout. Senior Captain Noah Kung said, "It was a good win, I just think he needs to stick to the basics and use

the strength he has. He'll become a great wrestler."

After two losses in a row by pin at 145 and 152 pounds, the Rebels had an interesting match at 160 pounds. Junior Ryan Mcweeney, who was filling in for injured classmate Harry Mourad, wrestled Norwood's senior Captain Mike McDonough. McDonough won the Weymouth Tournament that Walpole attended on January 18. Mcweeney wrestled tough and even though he did lose the bout, he still did not get pinned and helped his team by only giving up 4 team points to Norwood.

Walpole won the next three bouts at 170, 182 and 195 pounds, nearly clinching the meet mathematically. Senior Captains Trevor Wassel and Kyle Robbins won their bouts at 170 and 182 pounds by points. Classmate and Co-Captain Justin Rouhana won by forfeit at 195 pounds for the Rebels.

At 220 pounds, Kung—who had previously pinned his Mustang opponent at the January 18th Weymouth tournament—won his match decisively, which sealed the win for Walpole mathematically. At heavyweight, senior Armen Andonian won his bout by pin in the third period. Andonian was ahead in points during a

back and forth bout. Of his Norwood adversary, he said, "I'm glad I didn't underestimate that kid; It could have gone either way. He was explosive, strong."

At 106 pounds, the Rebels injury-defaulted (forfeited due to injury) when freshman Mike Shea got hurt in his bout. The match was back and forth, but Shea was ahead in points when he called for injury time. After a conference with the Walpole trainer, Head Coach Devin Pacelli gave the signal for injury default to the referee, and Norwood took the automatic six team points.

At 113 and 126 pounds, the Rebels got wins from junior classmates Joe Delaney and Kyle Kilroy. These wins only padded the Rebels' stats in their already dominating win.

Although Walpole Wrestling — which had a lot of hype in the preseason — suffered from early-season injuries, the team's record improved to 10-9 after their convincing win against the Norwood Mustangs. They now hope to ride this momentum into the final stretch into the postseason. And now, these Walpole Wrestlers look to make some noise in the upcoming Division 2 State Tournament.

Walpole Girls Track narrowly loses Herget Title to Natick

Photos/ Mackenzie Wilson

By Gina Conti
Class of 2014

With a 3-1 record going into their last Herget Conference dual meet, Walpole had the opportunity to take on the undefeated Natick team (4-0) on January 23 to ensure a share of the Herget League Championship. After they lost a close meet to Wellesley (3-1) the week before on the last event of the night (the 4x200m), the team hoped to bounce back against Natick. However, similar to the exciting Wellesley loss where they were defeated 53-47, Walpole lost the 4x400m and subsequently the championship by a score of 53-47.

In her toughest race of the year, junior Allie Morris competed in the 1 mile, where she ran a personal record of 5:19.76 to get 1st place. In a close race where Natick freshman Kelsey Walak (5:19.89) hung with Morris the entire race, Morris finished ahead of her by only .13 seconds. These mile times were the fastest posted from the league that night.

Meanwhile, in the 1000m, senior Jackie Applin (3:19.07) defeated Natick's Robin McElaney (3:19.09) by .02 to take First Place in the event.

She said, "It was really nerve wracking. We both didn't know at first who won so waiting for the results to come up felt like forever. But once I saw that I won I couldn't believe it — it was a relief."

In the Long Jump, senior Captain Olivia O'Hara had her



Senior Jackie Applin takes first place in the 1000 meter race.

most significant contribution to the team. A triple jumper from the spring, she has focused on improving her long jump for the indoor season, and her focus was clutch for the Rebels against Natick. To take 1st Place, she launched the second best jump in the Bay State Conference this year — a personal record of a foot with 16'2".

O'Hara said, "I didn't believe the official when he told me I jumped 16'2". But after a talk from Coach Butera who thinks I can jump 17'0", I'm still hoping to another personal record this season."

After sophomore Hiromi Kondo contributed a 3rd Place in Long Jump and sophomore Tori Lynch got a 3rd Place finish in High Jump, the Rebels were deadlocked with Natick, 18-18.

Throughout the middle distance events, senior Captain

Gina Conti captured the 600 meters, with teammate senior Megan Jenkins running a season best of 1:46.66 to take 3rd Place overall — a time that qualified her for the Division III State Meet on February 15.

"I was so happy because my season goal was to get back to where I was last year since I was injured during cross country. So now that I am back, I'm really proud of myself and I hope to keep improving," said Jenkins.

Freshman Devin McKinney took 2nd place in the 300 meters with a personal record of 45.52. She is now only 1 second off of the Walpole High School freshman 300 meter record. Freshman Lindsay Cordopatri took 3rd Place.

Sophomore Alyssa Murphy (12:22) and senior Kristen Coyne (12:25) took 1st and 2nd



Sophomore Tori Lynch hands off to junior Maureen Herlihy in the 4x400 meter relay.

in the 2 mile with the top fastest 2 mile times of the night. At this point of the meet, with 7 of the 12 events scored, Walpole led Natick by a score of 36-27.

However, in addition to taking 1st and 2nd in High Jump, Natick finished the meet with two of their stronger individual events: Hurdles and Shot Put. Although senior Captain Anna Orfanidis' performance in Shot Put (29'6.25") and junior Claire Rinne's in 55m Hurdles (10.12) were close to season bests, Natick's 8-1 swing in both events gave them the lead 43-38.

In the last individual event before the relays, Kondo and O'Hara placed second and third in the 55 meter dash to finalize the score at 48-42 before the relays. Since each relay is worth five points, Walpole needed both to win.

Unfortunately, while Walpole's 4x400 team of Conti, Lynch, juniors Emma Hunt and Maureen Herlihy raced a season best time of 4:19, Natick's loaded team raced a 4:13.

"Although we lost to Natick, I am very happy with the competitiveness of the team," said Head Coach Conor Cashman. "Even though Natick was a stronger team on paper, the team performed exceptionally well despite the loss and seems to be peaking at the right time. These girls have been working hard and have great passion for the sport."

With the dual meets coming to a close, Walpole will compete at the Division III Championships on February 15. So far, the girls have a total of 10 individuals and three relays that have already qualified for the Division III State Championships.

Next Saturday Class – February 8th 8:45am-3:30pm
Next 1 Week Class – February 17th 8:45am-3:30pm
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Injuries derail rebuilding season for Girls Hockey

Photos/ Matt Brownsword



Sophomore Olivia MacMillan races ahead on a breakaway to score her first goal of the night.



Senior Captain Jenna Donahue skates up ice with the puck.

By Matthew Brownsword
Class of 2014

After four straight years of qualifying for the tournament and losing all but one of last year's starters — three to graduation, one to another school, and one to field hockey — Girls Hockey looked prepped for a rebuilding year, with more moral victories than important ones late in the season.

But — with injuries to two Captains and two first line forwards — even moral victories look out of reach for this year's team. Senior Captains Caitlin Barry, Kaylin Hallet, and junior Liv Knight have all suffered concussions at some point during this season, while leading goalscorer sophomore Olivia MacMillan is now sidelined with a separated shoulder and three torn ligaments in that same shoulder.

This young and undermanned — opposing teams usually have one more

whole line than the Rebels — team is riding out a 8 game winless streak after their 2-0 victory over Natick early in the season. Other than the Red and Blue, and Brookline, the Lady Rebels have lost all of their other games this year by at least two goals, and sometimes as much as five. After a 2-2 tie away to Natick that finalized the Rebels elimination from the state tournament (in which Walpole only had 11 players able to suit up), this losing streak for 2-10-1 Girls Hockey seems to have no end in sight.

"It's been a tough year," said junior Lauren Hirshom. "We don't have the strength or the depth of teams past and injuries to some of our best players have not helped us."

At times, both defense and offense have been problems for Walpole: they have only managed to score more than two goals in a game once this year — against Brookline who is winless in the Carey Division — and have let oppo-

nents put up four goals against them on four different occasions. With a goal GSA (Goals Scored Average) of 1.33 and a GAA (Goals Against Average) of 3.17, the Rebels are last in the Bay State League in both major statistical categories (Brookline and Natick have an added benefit of some weak non-conference opponents).

However, there have been some bright spots: MacMillan and Hirshom were consistencies among the Rebels' front line and responsible for most of the goals until the former's injury. Senior Jenna Donahue — who has moved from offense to defense to offense again — scored both the goals against Braintree; her and Hirshom have been the only two players from the opening game starting lineup that have played every game. Before Hallet suffered a concussion, she had her best game of the year in a 3-0 loss to Wellesley (the score does not reflect her play) in which she made

countless saves to keep the Rebels in the game until the end of the third period.

The injuries have also resulted in a lot of positional changes: before Knight went out, she moved from her accustomed left wing to left defense, which resulted in a dearth of offensive firepower. So when Barry came back, Donahue moved up to forward in order to recover some of the lost goals due to the injuries to Knight and MacMillan (and has thus far done so) and freshman Cam Johnson moved into the starting defensive role.

Due to the injuries and positional shuffling, many of the Rebels' more inexperienced players have been forced into starting roles; sophomore Kate Hamilton and senior Emily Byrnes have seen some time up top, Johnson and sophomore Brooke Carde at defense, and freshman Frankie Bonanno in goal.

"I never played defense until this year," said Knight. "But moving there provided a lot of opportunities for other players to succeed and for me to best serve the team."

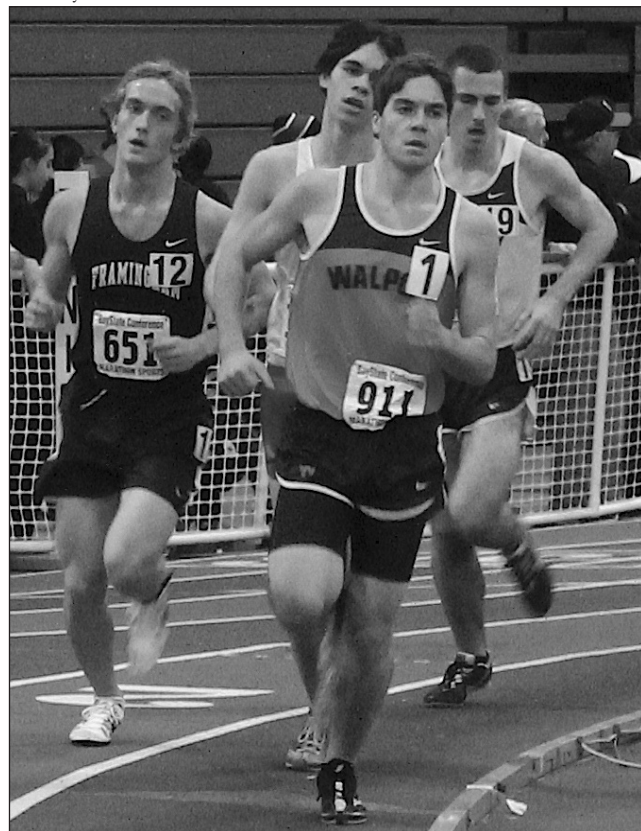
Knight was the lone starter remaining from last year's team after the graduation of F Michaela Tosone, D Annie Yonker, and G Bethany Welch; F Rachel Barry's move to a new school; and the quitting of senior Brooke Matherson (D) to focus on field hockey. MacMillan and Donahue were the only players on this year's team that saw favorable time last year.

"We don't have many — if any — players that have experienced this before," said sophomore Brooke Carde. "But there's something to be said for being so unlucky to only have two lines available for a game."

Whatever the case, there has not been a lot going right for Girls Hockey this year. However, with only four seniors on this year's team and a core of MacMillan, Knight, Hirshom, and Carde returning, next year's team at least will have what this year's lacked: experience.

Boys Track finishes third in Herget after tough loss to Natick

Photo/ Bryan Kelleher



Senior Pat Connell leads the pack in a tight race.



Senior Jon Kelland has a huge lead in the 600m.

which brought their Herget record to 2-2-1.

The loss was disappointing for Walpole because it cemented them as third in the Herget Conference. Natick swept Walpole in high jump and took 1st and 2nd in multiple events, including the 300m and the 1 Mile.

"It was another week of missed opportunities," said Head Coach Kevin Butera. "When you face good teams, it is time for people to rise to the challenge and we just did not have the people step up we needed to in order to win."

However, the meet was not a total failure for the boys. The 55m dash team came up big, sweeping the race against Natick. Most notably was sophomore Luis Yumet, who — in his first varsity race — took 4th place with a time of 7.05 seconds. Additionally, the shot putters played a key role at the

meet. Always consistent in getting points, the Natick meet was no exception. Senior Captain Robbie Lederman took 1st with his throw of 38'8.25". This throw was not a personal record for Lederman, but it clinched 5 varsity points for Walpole and was a crucial event in the meet. Sophomore Nick Campobasso also claimed varsity points for Walpole, throwing a 1 foot personal record, which was good enough for 3rd place to give Walpole another key point.

On the track, Natick is known for their speed. Several of the their athletes were 1st overall in Bay State races like the 300m and 600m. Despite this daunting competition, several athletes pushed themselves to claim points for Walpole. Junior Brendan Wohler claimed one of Walpole's few 1st place wins in the 1000m. With a new personal record of 2:43.55, Wohler claimed 5 points against Natick.

Following Wohler's excellent race was senior Captain Jon Kelland's 2nd place finish in the 600m against Natick. Kelland raced against tough competition in the form of Natick junior Mike Maichen, who won the race overall.

In the final event on the track, two of Walpole's 2 Milers came up clutch for the team. Senior Pat Connell fought a hard race, managing to take the lead and finish in front of Natick's top runner in the race with a time of 10:24. Although he did not place, junior Billy Heiberger also aided the team, according to Butera, finishing 4th and running a 12 second personal record from his previous race.

However, even with strong performances in some races, Walpole did not win. "Realistically, this meet did not showcase what the team can truly do. I thought this was a very subpar meet for us," said Butera.

By Mackenzie Wilson
Class of 2014

At the very last Herget meet of this season, Walpole Boys track knew they were looking at a tough test when they competed against Natick, the Second Place team in the Herget behind Wellesley, whom the Rebels had lost to in their previous meet. The boys ended up losing to Natick by a score to 58-42,



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Wellesley denies Rebels' chance at Herget Title on special night

By Peter Hoegler
Class of 2014

In front of a crowd that packed every inch of the Walpole High gymnasium, the Rebels lost sight of something they have been striving for all season: a Herget Division title. The Wellesley Red Raiders used strong defense and a fast-paced offense to turn a five-point halftime lead into a convincing 69-56 win. “We just couldn’t score and combat their up-tempo offense,” said senior Captain Adam Quinlan, who was a monster in the paint in the first half with 11 points and eight rebounds but only scored two points in the second. “We gave them a lot of open shots and they hit them all. We have some work to do on the defensive end.”

Wellesley led for the entire game, except for a brief moment near the end of the first quarter. Despite trailing throughout, Walpole kept the game close early. Quinlan’s calming presence down-low neutralized much of Wellesley’s up-tempo offense early on. The Rebels finished the first half on an 8-2 run to close the gap to 32-27 and brought the fan section back into it. However, in the second half, the Red Raiders continued to stifle Walpole’s momentum and opened the lead to as much as 20. Wellesley held the Rebels to 35 percent shooting (20 of 58) and much of that can attributed to the Raiders’ defense on senior point guard Ryan Fogarty, who was dominant in the first meeting in which



The Rebels come together for their pregame huddle.

the Rebels won 63-59. This time, Fogarty scored 21 points, but he was held to only 8-of-22 from the field. “Our press usually leads into our defense, but our missed shots let them set up and execute well,” said Coach Dave St. Martin after the game on Tuesday February 4. “Wellesley played very well tonight and I give them a lot of credit. For us, we try to create a lot of havoc on defense and tonight we just didn’t get after it.” Wellesley’s second half success can mostly be attributed to their depth off the bench. The Red Raiders utilized 10 players for much of the way before emptying the bench in the final minutes. The fresher legs led to the Raiders coming away with

the majority of loose balls and rebounds. Led by Ryan Noel and Malik Rochelle, Wellesley out-rebounded Walpole by 11 and seemed to command the glass at will in the second half. Rochelle was tasked with guarding Quinlan, who was shutdown in the final 16 minutes of the contest. “Wellesley’s tenacious defense was really the difference in this game,” said Quinlan. “Coming in hot with some big wins against Natick and Dedham, we really thought we could take this game. If we want to have some success in the tournament, we need to play a lot better.” Despite the loss, the Walpole



Sophomore Kenny Uhlar takes a free throw in the losing effort.

community had a joyous night: the Rebels basketball program raised \$15,000 for the Tommy Quinn Foundation. Special t-shirts were worn by fans, coaches, and players from both sides, so it was a great night to remember the freshman student. St. Martin said, “It was a class act by Wellesley; they purchased shirts and donated some money and wore them. I have so much respect for Wellesley Coach Maggion. I thought it was a great night. We haven’t had an atmosphere like this in 10 years. Just too bad the outcome wasn’t a bit different.”

Walpole Gymnastics defeats Natick to ensure winning season

Photo/ Max Simons



Rebels Gymnastics team stretches before their win against Weymouth.



Freshman Chloe O'Hara performs a split jump, on the beam, at a home meet against Weymouth.

By Catherine Formica
Class of 2016

After Carey foe Needham ended a four-meet winning streak for the Rebels — which included wins over Norwood, Brookline, Weymouth and Braintree — the 6-3 Rebels bounced back to top Natick on January 31 to guarantee a winning season. Rebel Gymnastics had won four home meets at New England Sports Academy in a row starting with Norwood and Brookline during which the girls ended with final scores of 125.85-123.7 and 129.5-105.0 before their loss to Needham. In the next meet against Weymouth, the girls won with a score of 131.0-127.6 and also achieved a season goal of scoring above a 130.0. Then, continuing the winning streak, Rebel Gymnastics defeated Braintree with a final score of 131.7-123.5. After the win against Weymouth, freshman Brigid Ford said, “It felt good to get our first score in the 130’s at home because we were in control the whole time. It was exciting to dominate on our turf.” On the balance beam, Chloe O’Hara was a bright spot among many stars on the day, scoring high with an 8.5 after performing a cartwheel-roundoff connection. In the meet against Braintree, sophomores Kaitlin Porter and Sam Chauvin stepped up to the plate on beam and scored high, both with 9’s, to assist in the win. Porter, performing a backflip with a full twist, received the highest score on the beam apparatus with a 9.3. Sam Chauvin followed closely behind scoring a 9.2 by executing a leap-backtuck connection. The four meet winning streak came to an end when Rebel Gymnastics fell to Needham with a final score of 132.7-131.35. The meet, at Needham High School, started out with numerous people falling during the warm up and first two events—vault and bars. “We all had really bad, negative energy and that brought down everyone’s focus, and honestly we really struggled in the beginning” said freshman Sarah Stanton. The

team was competing at a location that was completely unfamiliar to them and the tough start had an obvious impact on their performance. A complete vaulting lineup consists of 6 competitors yet only five were able to compete, and there were four falls between the five competitors. However, as the team began their floor warm-up, Captain Christina Coville pulled them aside and said, “Forget about vault and bars. Let’s focus on fixing our mistakes on floor and beam”. The girls then competed their floor routines, and Kaitlin Porter even scored a 9.2. The high-energy remained throughout the beam lineup with Hannah Phelan scoring an 8.6 with a front-handspring connected to a back-handspring. Despite the falls during vault and bars, the team managed to pull out a score of 131.35. Following the loss, Rebel Gymnastics competed at NESA against Natick and won scoring a season high of 133.8-126.2. On the vault, freshmen Isabelle Nee and Chloe O’Hara contributed to the winning score. Isabelle performed a half on-half off (round-off onto the vault with a half turn off) and scored high with an 8.0 and Chloe scored an 8.75 on the vault performing a front-full. Hannah Phelan had the highest score on bars with an 8.4 performing a shootover (a swinging transition from the high bar to the low bar). On the beam, Kaitlin Porter received the highest score, a 9.4, competing a tuck-full dismount. Sam Chauvin also scored high with an 8.8, contributing to the overall score. With one of the biggest preseason goals of the season accomplished with their win over Natick, the next objective is having many of the girls qualify for the Individuals Meet in which every gymnast’s top four scores are averaged and the top 25 gymnasts for each event in the state are chosen to compete. However, for now, the girls are focusing on competing against Framingham on Thursday, February 6, and the Bay State Conference Meet on Saturday, February 8 as they look to demonstrate the continued improvement of the gymnastics program under Coach Kady Sullivan.