

THE REBELLION

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Walpole High School

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Walpole residents vote for Facilities Override on November 4



Photos/Max Simons

Firefighter Steven Tyner gives a tour of the Walpole Fire Station.



Chief of Police Richard Stillman provides a tour of the Police Station.

By Julia Sandquist
Class of 2016

The Town of Walpole has approved two overrides in the last decade: the Walpole Public Library in 2008 and the Proposition 2.5 Override (for the General Operations Budget). However, in 2006 and 2010, the Town of Walpole

did not approve a comprehensive plan for a combined police and fire station (in addition to voting down the library previously in 2007). In the four years since the latest proposal's defeat, Walpole selectmen have revised the proposal in two significant ways by changing the project location to South Street and by adding a Senior

Center. On November 4, the Town of Walpole will vote on the new proposal.

The proposal, which would raise \$21.1 million, raises taxes on Walpole residents by an average of \$150 at its peak year in 2018. The tax gradually increases to that peak year of 2018 before gradually decreasing until 2025. The override covers two thirds of the cost of a new police station, fire station and renovations of the Town Hall. The remaining factors of the project will be funded by approximately 10 million dollars, saved from the new library construction, prison mitigation funds, and a federal senior center grant.

If the override passes, the following is the tentative schedule for construction: first, the South Street site will be cleaned of contaminants in 2015; while the cleaning takes place, the contractors will finalize the design for the new buildings. From 2016 to 2018, contractors will build the new Walpole Police Station and Senior Center, and the Department of Public Works facilities. After those buildings are completed, contractors will build the Fire Station later in 2018 and finish by 2020.

In terms of the contamination, the proposal aims to resolve a town eyesore as well as the health and safety issues for the 9,000 residents that live within one mile radius of the South Street site. Specifically, many residents of South Street and Clark Avenue – the neighborhoods surrounding the contaminated site – are in favor of the plan because it will improve the quality of their neighborhood. In terms of finances, this cleanup is at zero cost to residents because it will be paid by a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.

As for the current facilities, the Walpole Police Station was built in 1881, and the original East and South Fire Stations were constructed in 1923. In 1954 though, the Town of Walpole built a

new Police and Call Fire Station. Since then, Walpole closed the 1923 Fire Stations and consolidated all Fire Department activities at the Stone Street Station. However, similar to the Police Station, the 1954 station is outdated and fails to meet state building regulations.

"The current fire building does not support the new technology that we want to use," Walpole Fire Captain Paul Carter said, "and we keep adding on to a system that is already maxed out. We definitely need a new fire station to ensure that we are able to perform our job to the best of our ability."

In addition, many believe that the addition of the Senior Center makes this proposal the most appealing one yet because it appeals to a large demographic within the community.

Walpole Selectman Mark Galivan said, "I believe that it is important to support...citizens who have supported the town the entire time they lived in Walpole."

Others citizens, however, are not ready to approve the proposed override. Sam Obar, a Walpole Town Meeting Representative and blogger on town politics, believes that the cost estimates of the plan are not reasonable.

"A 9.5 million police station is too much money," Mr. Obar said. "In 2010, the town proposed a police station on Robbins Road for \$7.9 million, which was voted down. If a \$7.9 million station was okay four years ago, I think \$8 million should probably be the upper limit for what we need now."

Besides the cost, he also dislikes the lack of blueprints. Without designs until 2015, he believes the Walpole voters may be indirectly approving a design that lacks practicality, efficiency, or even curb appeal.

In just a few weeks on November 4, the Town of Walpole will vote the revised proposal.

Community reacts to Yik Yak post

By Meagan Sundstrom
Class of 2015

Principal Stephen Imbusch emailed all Walpole High students and faculty on September 7, 2014 about potentially threatening posts made on Yik Yak – a phone application that allows users to post ideas anonymously. The Yik Yak post stated, "I'm going to come out on Wednesday in a big way hope you're ready WHS." A user also posted a second threat toward the Walpole Police Department within a day. In response, the school arranged for increased police presence on Wednesday, September 10; however, classes proceeded normally and no dangerous activities occurred.

Known for threatening posts, the Yik Yak application serves as a platform for anonymous comments posted from users within a geographical radius of 1.5 miles. Because of the anonymity, users feel free to post negative comments without

facing repercussions. This anonymity and the rapid technological development present a number of problems for Mr. Imbusch and the community.

How can the community prevent users from posting negative comments on public forums? How can the students become more aware of using technology responsibly if the parents and administrators are unaware of that technology? How far should school policies extend to online actions by students?

For instance, although students may not be in the school building, they can still receive school consequences for their actions online.

"One of the biggest issues we deal with is bullying, because the bullying laws that we have to abide by are very clear about something happening on social media, or even something that's not on social media but is happening outside of the school, that ef-

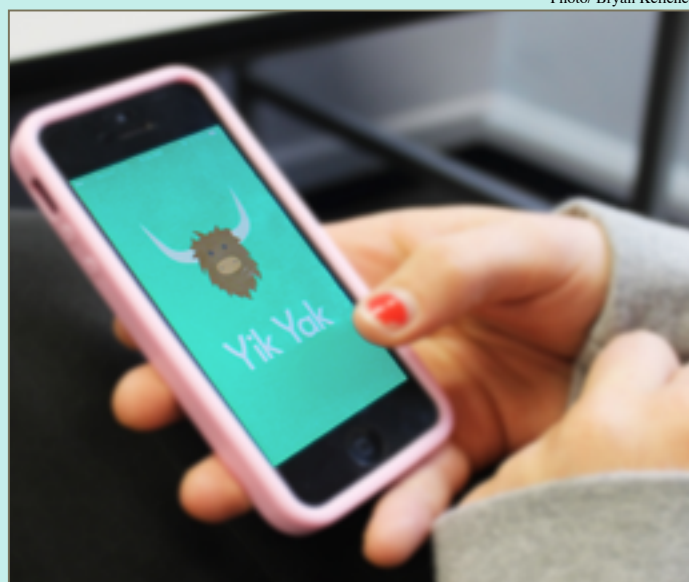
fects what is going on inside the school," Mr. Imbusch said.

In a September survey of 83 students from each grade at Walpole High, 65% of students believe that the principal should not get involved in social media, and another 26% said they were not sure.

"It's for our personal use and they should not keep track of our lives outside of school," said senior Corey Lynch. Although most students regard administration's involvement as unnecessary, some understand the benefits of the school's ability to reduce threats made online.

Sophomore Daniel Mullen said, "If they get involved, it can keep people safe from bullying and school shootings, but I don't like how it's an invasion of privacy."

Although the use of Yik Yak has received heightened attention, a surprising amount of students do not have the app.



Photo/ Bryan Kelleher

After a user opens up Yik Yak, he or she encounters the application's innocuous icon: a yak.

Only 36% of the surveyed students have the app on their phones, as many regard the concept of the network as "stupid" and unnecessary. The other 64% of the student body seems to agree with Mr. Imbusch's advice: "If you wouldn't say it to someone's face, don't say it on social media."

Considering the anonymity and speed of these new technologies, the community — students, parents and administrators — will need to continue to reevaluate their roles in combating online threats as socialization progressively moves beyond the halls of the high school itself.

EDITORIALS

Adjusted school times negatively affect students

By Lauren Wigren
Class of 2016

Everyone has heard it before. The New York Times has heard it before. The Atlantic Monthly Magazine has heard it before. The BBC, Huffington Post, and CNN have all heard it before. Teenagers need sleep. Norwood High School starts at 7:40, and Sharon High School doesn't start until 8:05. Why then, is it acceptable for Walpole High School to receive the earliest school-start time in the district? The answer in its shortest form: money. This year, the Walpole Public School district was able to save \$120,000 (enough to hire at least three new teachers) by adjusting school start-times, an adjustment that eliminated the need for two buses. Essentially, in order to schedule efficient bus routes, the middle schoolers and high schoolers had to be separated. Instead of making the quick five-minute trip to the middle schools after dropping off the high school students, the buses first need to return to the stops and pick up the middle schoolers. All of this has to be done by 7:45 — the new middle school start time— so that the buses can pick up the elementary school students, who need to be in school by 8:25 (Boyden and Fisher) and 8:55 (Old Post Road and Elm Street) respectively, in order to be home in the afternoon by the time it gets dark during the winter. In order for all of this to be possible, the Walpole High School start time needed to be shifted back at least five minutes. Thus, the school day at Walpole High School now commences at 7:15. Buses arrive to pick up high schoolers a few minutes earlier than in previous years, eliminating some extra time that students may have been using to sleep, get ready for school, or eat breakfast. This undoubtedly has put the Walpole Public School district in a difficult situation. While it is admirable that the district saves money, having high school students

START TIME	READING	MATH
Walpole 7:15	533	522
Canton 7:20	511	537
Westwood 7:25	569	591
Norwood 7:40	483	504
Newton S. 7:40	604	633
Newton N. 7:50	573	601
Needham 8:05	584	595
Sharon 8:05	589	610

Although the 2013 SAT scores are shown, one can see that later start times tend to correlate with high SAT scores. report to schoolearlier is detrimental to their well-being. The Center for Advancing Health (CFAH) reports that only about 8% of high school students receive the recommended amount of sleep each night. Further research has shown that sleep deprivation can be a problematic health deficiency that can lead to headaches, depression, and poor performance in school, the latter of which, could have a negative impact on the perceived quality of our school district. “It is scientifically proven that a teenager’s biological clock is set so that they naturally go to bed later and wake up later,” said junior Elizabeth Saunders, “and making the start times earlier this year completely goes against those studies.” If the majority of students at Walpole High School are struggling academically, it will show. Our test-scores will be lower than those of the surrounding towns, and the number of students accepted to top colleges and universities will drop. This could very well put the reputation of our town and

school district in jeopardy. Many of the towns regarded highly for their education systems start later. Newton North, for example, starts at 7:50. The money that was saved by the district is a commendable accomplishment and should be left intact. The schools would benefit more, however, if Walpole High School were to receive the later start time over Bird and Johnson Middle School. Some sport practices and club meetings may have to be pushed back at least a half an hour, but it could very well be worth it. “One of the main reasons that schools are opposed to starting later is because that would mean all after-school activities would need to change their times. However, if all after-school activities adjusted their time to fit the later schedule, then it would be fine,” said Saunders. Middle school students generally go to bed earlier than high school students. Besides not having to attend outside classes such as SAT prep and Drivers Education, they also commit less time to sports and clubs, and their homework assignments are usually less time-consuming than high school assignments. Middle school students do need sleep; however, unlike high school students, they already get plenty of it. If they were to start school earlier, chances are, they would still be well-rested. Students would perform better academically if school started later, and their health would improve. Middle school students would have the extra half an hour in the afternoon, potentially allowing them to complete assignments or participate in activities, and still go to bed early enough to be well-rested in the morning. Furthermore, elementary school schedules would remain in place. The Walpole Public Schools will not only have more money, but healthier, better-performing students. It’s about time that teenagers got the amount of sleep recommended by CNN, The New York Times, and the Huffington Post.

Airstrikes alone will not defeat ISIS

By Mike Curran
Class of 2016

The thirteenth anniversary of September 11 was just recently observed last month, but instead of focusing all of our attention on those lost in the attacks, America feared another major threat from the new terror group: the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (or ISIS). In fact, Al-Qaeda — our previous archetypal terrorist organization — denounced ISIS this past February because they were too extreme of an organization. Keep in mind that the group calling ISIS “too extreme,” is the same group that flew two commercial airliners into the Twin Towers and killed 3,000 innocent Americans. Moral of the story: ISIS should not be taken lightly. While President Barack Obama referred to ISIS as a “JV Team” in an interview with the New Yorker in late January, they have grown into something else entirely over the last nine months. Most recently, they have beheaded three Westerners (2 American, 1 British) and publicized the act on social media. Videos of the beheadings were posted online, and pictures of the crimes were posted all over the Internet. ISIS members have also crucified many



ISIS tweeted the promotional picture above from their account.

Iraqi soldiers and citizens who failed to be loyal to the Caliphate. Although they have not committed a large-scale attack against Americans, they released a video claiming that attacks against America will be “coming soon.” Obama may be somewhat right, for ISIS has not committed an attack on US soil or an attack against a US Embassy. Really, this group has only killed three journalists and many Middle Eastern foreigners. Considering the small number of American lives lost, this group may seem insignificant to the federal government. However, they have

the potential to be far worse than Al Qaeda. Unlike Al Qaeda, an organization that operated privately in small groups and was financed by a few terrorist kingpins, ISIS has used oil-money and social media to publicly strike fear in its opposition and to attract foreign radicals with passports — a combination that the world has not previously seen. With this steady income and public presence, ISIS is growing both within its borders and beyond. President Obama proposed in his speech on September 10 that America would handle ISIS with a series of airstrikes, primarily in Syria, to eliminate

the group’s leaders and as many combatants as possible. He also proposed providing weapons to the moderate rebel forces in Syria to help them combat ISIS and Assad’s military forces. Recently, these airstrikes hit ISIS targets as well as another terrorist group called the Khorasan Group. These airstrikes can be an effective part of fighting a group like ISIS, but they cannot be the only thing. American soldiers need to be deployed to Iraq and Syria to fight this very serious and growing threat. This Islamic Caliphate — one bent on killing or converting all non-Muslims — must be dealt with

swiftly and aggressively to prevent more innocent American lives from being lost. Sending weapons to Syrian “moderates” is also no way to handle the situation. The recent Syrian Civil War proves that Syrians can not be trusted to appropriately use any weapons that America gives them. Considering the quagmire of Syria with three separate military forces all fighting for autonomy, most logical people would not send weapons to the faction least likely to win. These weapons ultimately will find their ways to ISIS or other terrorist organizations. Failure to appropriately act in this situation can cause very serious problems for America and its allies. Without a military presence in Iraq and Syria, ISIS can go about its daily activities without any worry of being killed or captured by US forces. Allowing ISIS to move freely between Iraq and Syria to gain more territory. Taking action against ISIS in its fairly early stages means an easier victory over the group with less troop casualties and a safer America. The United States must intervene before more Americans suffer the same fate as James Foley and Steven Sotloff, the two American journalists who were beheaded by ISIS.

Vote “yes” on Question Five



Photo/ Max Simons

By Ben Brownsword
Class of 2016

When Walpole’s facilities were last upgraded in 1954, the town had a population of 9,109 and the Walpole Police and Fire Departments received 191 emergency calls that year. Currently, the town has a population of 24,272 and the fire department is estimating that it will respond to 5,500 calls by the end of the year. Meanwhile, the police department responds to over 21,000 calls per year.

On November 4, the choice on Question Five — the proposal for a new Public Safety Building and Senior Center — is pretty simple. Either pay a little for a new facility that will keep our community safe for the foreseeable future, or continue wasting taxpayer money on decrepit facilities that will continue to be inefficient and costly.

So, the most important question to many: how much will this proposal cost taxpayers?

Although many fiscally conservative citizens worry about the cost of this proposal, maintaining the current facilities will actually cost taxpayers more money than the construction of new ones.

The taxes will increase until 2018, then decrease until their end in 2025. In 2018, the average family will have a tax increase of about \$160. In 2018, the per-day cost for an average family is less than 44 cents. To put that in perspective, it costs less than one third or a small Dunkin Donuts coffee each day to keep Walpole citizens safe.

Currently, the Walpole Fire and Police Stations are woefully incapable of keeping the community safe. The police and fire departments face tight spaces, decrepit buildings, and outdated technology every day. At the Police Station, the cell blocks are inadequate and routinely fail state inspection, which costs extra insurance money every year. The police station is unsecured and the booking officer does not have any protection between themselves and a hostile prisoner. Attacks have happened before in the facility.

At the Walpole Fire Station on Stone Street, thousands of dollars worth of medical equipment sit under a tent attached to the back of the station. This valuable equipment is almost completely exposed and will have to be replaced faster because of the constant and unneeded exposure to weather.

The fire station space also has constraints that restrict the firefighters’ efficiency and response-time. The custom truck (Yes — Walpole paid to customize a truck specifically to fit in the narrow garage) exhaust system blocks off part of the garage. The blocked areas of the garage can slow firefighters by minutes at a time. Also, many firefighters work 48 hour shifts at a time, so they are forced to sleep in the buildings while they wait for calls to respond to. While up 16 firefighters can be working at a time, the living quarters only has eight beds, which causes incredibly cramped and uncomfortable spaces in the living quarters.

The third element of the override is a new Senior Center. As of 2014, seniors make up about twenty percent of the town’s population, and that number will only grow in the next few years. Currently, the senior center is the former cafeteria of the Stone Street school, now the town hall. The lack of space means that they cannot use the space for other populations, like youth groups, sports teams and various town committees. Most senior centers have exercise rooms, a dedicated medical office and a separate cafeteria for seniors to relax. The Walpole Senior Center has only one room and one bathroom for seniors and staff. The bathroom also doubles as a medical office when a doctor often visits.

According to the MA Office of Elder Affairs, there has never been an instance where a new facility has been built and the amount of visitors have decreased. On average, visitors go up 250 percent in the first eighteen months, and sometimes go up 500 percent in the first six months.

The choice on Question Five this year is pretty simple. Either pay a little for new facilities that will keep our town safe from crime and fire, or continue wasting taxpayer money on bad facilities that will continue to be inefficient and costly. The choice is yours.

Emergency service equipment remains under a tent outside the South Street Fire Station.



Photo/ Max Simons

The police station’s network sits in a cramped office with wood paneling for walls.

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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ENTERTAINMENT

New television mediums popularize binge-watching

By Lucy Lynch
Class of 2015

Photo/ Bryan Kelleher

“Binge.” Without knowing the definition, just the sound of that cringeworthy word gives one insight into its negative connotations. For years, society has looked with disgust to those classified as binge eaters and binge drinkers. However, in recent years, the world has seen a rise in a new form of indulgence – binge-watching – the act of viewing multiple television episodes in one sitting. And unlike those formerly mentioned, this form of bingeing might be socially acceptable – or at least popular – due to the vast amount of people who have found themselves engrossed in this new style of television.

This is how it begins. Aware of having some free time, one decides to watch that show on Netflix everyone has been talking about. Intrigued, he or she plans to watch just the pilot, and from there, he or she descends on a downward spiral that leads to watching four episodes per day, a season a week, a series a month. Thus, already good television shows find a rapid increase in popularity through applications like Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Hulu Plus. Among some of the most popular at Walpole High School – AMC’s *Breaking Bad*, AMC’s *The Walking Dead*, and ABC’s *Grey’s Anatomy*. And why is it that these shows have become so popular? Why is binge-watching so popular? One positive aspect of on-demand internet streaming like Netflix and Amazon Prime is its access to premiere shows. Between premiere cable stations like HBO and Showtime, subscribers have access to shows not necessarily available with standard cable. This trend has also changed the composition of television. Where people formerly anticipated suspenseful cliffhangers in a season finale, binge-watching forces many television producers – specifically those of the Netflix originals like *House of Cards* and *Orange is the New Black* – to consistently make enthralling episodes in order to draw viewers into watching several at a time.

With the rising popularity of binge-watching, one must wonder, how does this affect how audiences view television? The obsession with internet streaming has undermined the traditional ways to view television; more importantly, it has affected a certain demographic audience throughout the world. Most commonly teenagers and young adults have become the most avid Netflix users. One recent report suggests that 47% of those 13-54 years of age have used Netflix and of those people, 39% are regular, monthly users.

Often, how these users enjoy binge-watching varies. On social media, Netflix often bears the brunt of isolationist jokes; many on Twitter associate binge-watching with loneliness, solitude, and another form of bingeing – binge-eating. For others, however, binge-watching is embraced as a new form of television that brings people together. Everyone tends to rave about their new Netflix obsession and thus, as more people are introduced, the more frequent binge-watching viewing parties become among friends. In terms of the family dynamic, Netflix tends to bring some groups together and completely detach others. While some families unite around one common, beloved show, the enormous vault of shows on Netflix usually leaves families at odds over what’s playing next.

Thus comes the variety of packages offered by Netflix. In choosing with your monthly rate – either Three Devices or Four Devices – you control how many dif-



Applications like Netflix allow television watchers to view multiple episodes at a time.

ferent shows can be played simultaneously on one account. While this can appease many family members disagreeing on which show to watch, it often disengages families even more now that multiple people under one roof can all watch different shows on their phone, laptop, or television at the same time. Netflix now recognizes the commonality that most of their subscribers share their account with others which arises a new consequence – lending and hacking. In allowing others to frequent an account one solely pays for or worse, falling victim to a Netflix account hacking, can negate some of the positive aspects of binge-watching.

In contrast to the negative ramifications of binge-watching, this television phenomenon has become largely popular because of a sole, positive aspect: convenience. Unlike primetime cable, viewers aren’t subject to viewing one episode at a time in one day each week. The convenience of binge-watching allows people to enjoy TV – and lots of it – all while viewing on their own schedule. *Orange is the New Black* was found in *The Rebellion*’s recent survey to having been watched by many Walpole students this year, specifically during the summertime. For busy high school students with crammed schedules and busy nights, weekends, school vacations, and summer break offer a the ideal time to indulge in binge-watching.

Moreover, whether you’re a fan of traditional television or a devoted Netflix user, you cannot deny the craze and influence of binge-watching in recent years. The concept of binge-watching has transformed television – who watches it, how it’s watched, and when it’s watched. For the individual, binge-watching gives the personal benefit of entertainment and convenience, and for society, it has created a new culture of television. In the future, many will look to on-demand streaming as the chosen form for watching television and when they do, they won’t be able to watch just one episode.

Celebrities advocate for cultural reexamination of Feminism



Actress Emma Watson speaks to the United Nations.

By Jamie Ferguson
Class of 2015

One of the most memorable pop culture moments of 2014 was Beyoncé’s mashup performance at the Video Music Awards Ceremony, where she projected on a huge screen that a feminist is “a person who believes in the social, economic and political equality of the sexes.” Beyoncé is regarded as a powerful role model for her ability to promote the values of empowerment and independence, which has caused a huge discussion about the role of celebrities in the feminist movement. Recently, a number of female celebrities – celebrities such as Emma Watson, Taylor Swift, and Shailene Woodley – have been weighing in on whether they identify themselves as feminists or not and how feminists should act in the modern world.

Specifically, is feminism as a movement necessary anymore, or is it just a way to appeal to women? To sell records? To fill seats at a movie theater?

Despite the popular notion that feminism is no longer necessary, sexism affects women every day in both personal and private spheres of life. Although the term “misogynist” is typically used to describe rapists and abusers, the word is far more inclusive. A misogynist is someone who hates or has prejudice against women, a definition that applies to a wide range of people from influential figures such as poli-

ticians to everyday people like high school students.

At Walpole High, 93% of the 83 surveyed students correctly identified that feminism is the belief that “women deserve the same rights and respect in society as men.” Of those students, only 54% of those students said that they supported feminism. When asked why she supports feminism, freshman Ellen Irmiter said, “As a female, I am aware that we are not given equal treatment to men and I strongly feel that we deserve better.”

However, many of students’ answers suggest ignorance regarding the movement despite efforts by people such as Beyoncé. For example, one anonymous student stated that he or she disagrees with feminism because “women belong in the kitchen,” while another said that “[feminists’] arguments are invalid.”

Actress Emma Watson gave a speech at a United Nations meeting about “HeForShe,” a campaign she founded in order to encourage men to join the feminist movement. She also pointed out a side of the feminist movement that many forget: men are also affected by sexism. For example, many men are afraid of acknowledging depression or eating disorders in fear of society labelling them as “girly” or “weak.”

“We want to try to galvanize as many men and boys as possible to be advocates for change,” Watson said of the campaign. What she spoke about was not particularly groundbreaking or demanding; instead, she asked simply for respect and equality for all women.

Watson stated, “[I think] it is right that as a woman I am paid the same as my male counterparts [...] that I should be able to make decisions about my own body [...] that women be involved on my behalf in the policies and decision-making of my country [...] that socially I am afforded the same respect as men.” By explaining the goals of the feminist movement simply and concisely, Watson helped to remove some of the stigma against the movement and make it more approachable.

Additionally, Taylor Swift has undergone nothing short of a feminist transformation recently. In the past, Swift herself struggled with the idea because “[she] doesn’t really think about things as guys versus girls.” However, in a recent interview with “Tout Le Monde

En Parle,” Swift said that had she wished she had heard a speech like Watson’s when she was a young girl.

“I would have understood [feminism] and then earlier on in my life I would have proudly claimed that I was a feminist,” Swift said. “I just think that a lot of girls don’t know the definition and the fact that Emma got up and explained it, I think it’s an incredible thing and I am happy to live in a world where that happened.”

Her statement encompasses much of the modern debate over feminism: many people do not identify with feminism simply because they do not understand what the word means. Swift proudly affirmed her new feminist label and stated that feminism is not about hating men at all; instead, it is about equality.

Although the celebrity feminist movement has an equally fierce opposition in people who disassociate with the label, many of their justifications are drawn from misinformation regarding what the movement entails. Perhaps most notably, actress Shailene Woodley told Time Magazine that she is not a feminist because she “[loves] men,” igniting a huge debate on whether or not she was misinformed or simply choosing not to label herself with the term. Perhaps the reaction regarding Woodley’s statement was so strong because she endorses feminism without ever actually using the word through her powerful roles in movies.

In addition to Woodley, a number of powerful female celebrities also refuse to identify as feminists, and the answers why they do not are almost universal: they do not hate men, and they believe the word has a negative connotation. Carrie Underwood says she is not a feminist but is simply a “strong female” while Lana Del Rey is “not interested” in the movement. Even former Supreme Court justice Sandra Day O’Connor refuses to call herself a feminist; she “[cares] very much about women and their progress” but prefers to call herself “a fair judge and a hard worker” rather than a feminist.

While a number of celebrities refuse to identify themselves as feminists because of negative connotations, the prominence of the celebrities who are choosing to identify with feminism are empowering their fans with a revitalized passion for gender equality.

SPORTS

Porker Goalie Jenna Alessandro keeps Porkers on top

Photo/Alexandra Otero



Senior Goalie Jenna Alessandro takes a stroke in the Porker's game against Norwood.

By Lucy Lynch
Class of 2015

Prompted only by the blaring noise of the referee's whistle and a slightly unfamiliar hand signal, the Walpole Porkers' eyes immediately light up. The repeated, happy murmurs of "stroke" arise from the Porkers, and before long, the players glance down field to see someone – running clumsily while wearing all her pads – to the other team's defensive end. The occasion: a rare penalty stroke. These unexpected penalty shots can be integral in deciding the outcome of field hockey games, and this year they've decided many close games – thanks to Walpole's atypical offensive hero, the senior Goalie Jenna Alessandro.

While these penalty shots are rare, the Porkers have relied on them for offense in competitive postseason games. Last year, in the South Sectional Finals game, Walpole recovered to beat the Duxbury Dragons who led late in the game partially due to captain Brooke Matherson's two high-netted strokes, one of which was scored in the first minute of overtime to propel the Porkers to victory. This season, Alessandro has replaced Matherson as the Porkers' primary stroker, and she has already factored into two of the closest games of the season: their 3-0 victory over Dedham on September 19 and their 1-1 tie against Norwood on September 23. Jenna Alessandro made the varsity field hockey team as a sophomore, and was at the time a field player. Last

year, severe stress fractures from Alessandro's sophomore year of lacrosse hindered her field hockey season and as a result, she was not able to play. Because her shin fractures did fail to cease by this August, Alessandro was ready to try a new position: goalie. When Alessandro's talent for lifting high shots was discovered early in pre-season, Porkers head coach Marianne Murphy was quick to whip out her official field hockey rules book to verify the legality of having a goalie take penalty shots. From then on, she began practicing along with the other members of Walpole's "stroke team," her penalty shots at the end of each practice. Early in the season, other Porkers had taken the stroke, but because they were 0-2, Head Coach Marianne Murphy made the unlikely switch. During the first half of their game against Dedham, Alessandro made her debut as a scorer. A Dedham defender – who was standing behind the goalie – kicked the ball, preventing a probable goal, causing Walpole to get a stroke. After removing her pads and running to the other end, Alessandro set up for the shot. Standing closely behind, linking arms were the other ten Walpole players. The crowd silenced, the whistle sounded, Alessandro gracefully lifted the ball straight over the goalie's head, scoring to contribute to their 3-0 win against Dedham. After receiving congratulations from the team at midfield, Jenna trots back to her own net where she is urged by the impatient referees to quickly redress to play goalkeeper. In the Porkers next game, they faced Norwood, their strongest opponent in the fight for Bay State League title;

again, Alessandro was faced with the challenge of taking a stroke. The Porkers started weak; after multiple breakdowns, Norwood was finally able to penetrate Walpole's defensive end and tip in a goal within the first ten minutes of the game. After Norwood's goal, Walpole came back stronger and played aggressively to force a penalty behind the goalie – prompting a stroke. Walpole again called on Alessandro to take it and Jenna's successful penalty shot helped the Porkers retaliate and end in a draw, 1-1. Her goal preserved the Porkers record and held off a strong Norwood team. "Jenna's strokes have really helped us and given us momentum," senior Captain Molly Lanahan said. "After she scored her penalty shot in the Norwood game, we controlled the rest of the game." Most recently, Alessandro again had the opportunity to score on a stroke in Walpole's game versus Franklin. This time, however, the height of the Franklin goalie stopped Jenna's high-center shot and was able to tip it, with her glove, over the top of the net. Eventually, despite the missed shot, Walpole won the game, 1-0 with ten minutes remaining due to sophomore Melanie Weber's shot off an offensive corner. Regardless, having a player be 2-for-3 in taking strokes, only halfway through regular season, is impressive – and for a goalie, it's remarkable. Heading into the second half of the regular season, the Porkers remain alert and hopeful for the opportunity to potentially receive more offensive penalty strokes and if they are to receive one, they'll be looking down the field to their goalie to score yet another goal.

Versatility makes Lavanchy a threat in all phases of game

By Michael Curran
Class of 2016

During the course of any of the four football games this season, senior Captain Jack Lavanchy cuts, slices, sprints, punches, kicks, catches, intercepts, tackles, and leads. As the number one wide receiver, the outside linebacker or strong safety, and the team's kicker, Lavanchy is a Swiss Army Knife for the Rebels.

On September 12, Lavanchy set the tone for a big senior season. The Rebels beat Foxboro 31-8, 25 of those points were scored by Lavanchy himself. In that game, Lavanchy had five receptions for 120 yards and three touchdowns, kicked four extra points and a field goal – and that was just on offense. Defensively, Lavanchy intercepted a pass and made a number of tackles. Since his breakout game, Lavanchy continues to post impressive stats on both sides of the ball and is one of the main reasons the Rebels are undefeated at 4-0.

Through four games, Lavanchy has six touchdowns, two interceptions, and two field goals. His impressive mid-season stats show how Lavanchy has become an incredibly important part of the Rebels success thus far.

Lavanchy became such a versatile player mainly because of his ability as a place kicker. Replacing Colton Mitchell (the Rebels kicker since 2011), Lavanchy has connected on both of his field goal opportunities this season. In the team's opening game against Foxboro, he hit a 26 yard field goal. Against Dedham, Lavanchy hit another one from 37 yards out.

Lavanchy is not only a nightmare as a kicker but also a kick returner. A special teams stud, Lavanchy also returns punts for the Rebels alongside his fellow Captain Andrew Papirio. His most notable return came against Dedham when he returned the punt 30 yards for a touchdown to put the Rebels up 14-3 in the early minutes of the first quarter. Although



Photo/ Max Simons

Lavanchy prepares to kick an extra point.

Papirio has returned more kick returns for touchdowns this season, Lavanchy's talent forces the opposition to choose between two talented returners.

"Jack is a tough kid and an even tougher competitor," Papirio said. "He just gets it done on the field." Papirio is another Rebel wide receiver and is often paired up against Lavanchy in drills at practice.

Lavanchy's success so far this season is a reflection of the hard work he put in during the off-season. In a crowded weight room this off-season, Lavanchy could always be found lifting with his team. Ac-

cording to Head Coach Barry Greener, the weight room attendance this year was one of the teams best ever because of the leadership of Lavanchy and his fellow captains, Matt Ordway and Papirio.

Lavanchy hopes to continue playing football next year in college, though he has no definite plans as of yet. A versatile leader on and off the field, Lavanchy represents one of the most dynamic football players. When asked about the Rebel's winning streak this season, Lavanchy said, "Hopefully it continues to be a good season, but we need to take it one game at a time."

Boys and Girls XC narrow in on Herget Championships

Photos/ Kaitlin Brown



Junior Tess Lancaster has a photo finish with Wellesley's fifth runner.

By Colleen O'Connor
Class of 2015

Both Walpole Boys and Girls Cross Country had the same goal on October 7 when Wellesley and Dedham came to Walpole High School to run — to win the Herget Division.

Walpole Boys Cross Country (7-3) pulled off the upset against Wellesley by a narrow score of 23-36 and destroyed a weak Dedham team by a score of 15-50. Despite the lack of a top runner to keep pace with Wellesley's Thomas D'Anieri, Walpole's top two runners — seniors Joe Keough and Brendan Wohler — kept pace with Wellesley's number two and beat him in the end to secure second and third. The key for the boys' win, however, came in the pack of seniors Mike Orsi, Billy Heiberger, and Nick "Swede" Bjornson. "This [pack] won us the meet because our top five placed before [Wellesley's] third runner," Heiberger said.

The emergence of this pack — which also has featured sophomore Luke Berardinelli and senior Nick Hayden — has helped the Rebels to win a majority of their meets. These five Rebels came in within twenty seconds of each other to finish before all of Wellesley's top five and Dedham's top runner.

On the other side, Walpole Girls Cross Country narrowly lost to a very strong Wellesley team of 26-29 but beat Dedham 15-50. Despite senior Captain Allie Morris finishing first and sophomore Stephanie Forester taking second, Wellesley's took third through sixth with a tight pack. Even though junior Alyssa Murphy and junior Tess Lancaster broke up the end of the pack by taking 7th and 9th, Wellesley secured the win with their fifth runner who came in 8th after a photo-finish with Lancaster. "Although we lost, there were strong performances from a few individuals, especially Forester," said Morris.



Walpole's pack of seniors Michael Orsi, Nick Bjornson, and Captain Billy Heiberger outkicks Wellesley's third runner to secure the victory.

With a huge personal record, Forester ran a 16:30 while junior Molly Rockwood rounded out the top five for Walpole by the 2.57 mile course in 17:23. Freshman Danielle Borelli and sophomore Mikaela McSharry rounded out the top seven for the girls, running together and packing up for most of the race. These smaller packs have worked well for the Rebels during dual meets; however, to make an impact at the Divisional level, the Rebels need tighter packs with faster times.

Even with the girls loss and the boys victory, the Herget is still up in the air for both teams. In order for the girls to be sole Herget champs, they must beat Framingham on October 15 and Wellesley must lose to Needham. The boys' title run is slightly less complicated. Because Natick lost to both Brookline and Framingham on October 8, the boys secured at least a share of the title. However, if they lose to Framingham, they may co-Herget with Natick.

Lydon anchors back row of 8-4 Walpole Volleyball

By Olivia O'Brien
Class of 2015

After dropping three of their first four matches to Newton North, Brookline, and Natick, the 9-4 Rebels have won eight in a row before losing to Braintree on 10/9 and need one win to qualify for tournament. While the Rebels' front row players -- senior Captains Summer King and Morgan McLenan -- generally receive the most headlines and recognition for their aggressive play on offense, one individual has been a standout in the back row: senior Libero Natalie Lydon.

For anyone who has never been to a volleyball game, the team's libero is the only player who a coach can substitute out of the team's regular rotation. To identify this position, the coach has the libero wear a colored shirt different from her teammates. Typically, this player is valuable to the back row of the formation because of her defensive skills and serving abilities.

Senior Libero Natalie Lydon leads the defensive play with a total of 173 digs over their first 13 games. "It starts with defense - once Natalie makes a dig saving us from losing a point, we automatically are given another chance to score," said King.

Lydon's defensive stats and serving have aided her in becoming the team's



Captains Summer King, Morgan McLenan and Jess Jones pose with Libero Natalie Lydon (dressed in white) before their game against Westwood on October 6.

designated libero this 2014-15 season. Along with 173 total digs so far this season, Lydon leads the team with 87.2% serving accuracy and 27 aces.

In her debut as Walpole's libero this fall, she tallied 10 digs in the Rebel's second win against Wellesley on September 16, but her 100% serving contributed most to the match. She totaled 9 aces, 5 of them occurring during her run of 14 consecutive serves to end the 3 set match. "I like my position because I constantly get to be

on the court making plays and helping my team succeed", Lydon said.

In addition to the matches that the Rebels swept in just 3 sets, Lydon has proven to play under the pressure of high intensity games. After Walpole's first match of the season against Newton North on September 2, Head Coach Lisa Cyr awarded Lydon with player of the match because Lydon totaled 33 serve-receptions and 16 digs.

"[Natalie] aggressively pursued every ball and did not back down against New-

ton North's strong attack," said Cyr.

Similarly, in the fast paced atmosphere of a match going to 5 sets against Natick on September 12, Lydon tallied a total of 25 digs in the team's first loss.

Lydon began her volleyball career as a freshman primarily in the setting position. However, she began practicing the libero position her sophomore year while playing on a club volleyball team. Since then, she has worked both in and off season to master her challenging position.

This past summer, both Lydon and Walpole's setter Jessie Jones had the opportunity to play a tournament in France with their club volleyball team, the Southern Alliance. The two Walpole players not only played with their team, but also with many international players.

"Going to Italy to play volleyball was a great experience because I got to play against top competition," Lydon said. "I learned a lot playing against so many diverse players."

Now halfway through the regular season with a 9-4 record, tournament time is right around the corner. In order to earn a playoff berth, the team will need to maintain the quality of both their offensive and defensive performance. Jones said, "I'm confident that Natalie's defense and serving will lead us far come post season."

Reorganization of bus system saves money

Photo: Max Simons



Buses line up outside of Walpole High School before the end of the school day.

By Julie Moser
Class of 2015

When looking at the budget, Walpole Public School administrators were looking to orchestrate a plan to save money for the school system. When assessing the problem, Superintendent Lincoln Lynch found that the solution lied within the school bus transportation system and so, he developed the plan that would allow middle school students to ride separately from high school students both to and from school. Separating the middle schools from the high school eliminated two buses from rotation- saving \$120,000 (\$60,000 per bus). To allow time for the busses to pick up and drop off all students at the correct times, the High School now begins five minutes earlier, and the middle schools now start ten minutes later. Rather than cutting materials, services or teachers, Lynch and other School Committee members agreed that reducing the number of buses, and altering the start and end times of the school day would benefit the most people.

Mr. Gable takes over music department



New music teacher conducts the Walpole High School Band.

By Julie Moser
Class of 2015

With Mike Falker's retirement at the end of last year, school administrators were forced to find another teacher capable of taking on the responsibilities of the Music Department director. As of the 2014-2015 school year, Kenneth Gable has taken over as the new music teacher for Walpole High School. Utilizing his people skills, Gable hopes to help his students fall in love with music- similar to how he did in high school. With knowledge in a vast scope of the music world, Gable also plans on taking the music program to the next level by incorporating technological aspects. As of this year, Gable teaches every music class at Walpole High School and is excited to share his musical abilities with his students for years to come.

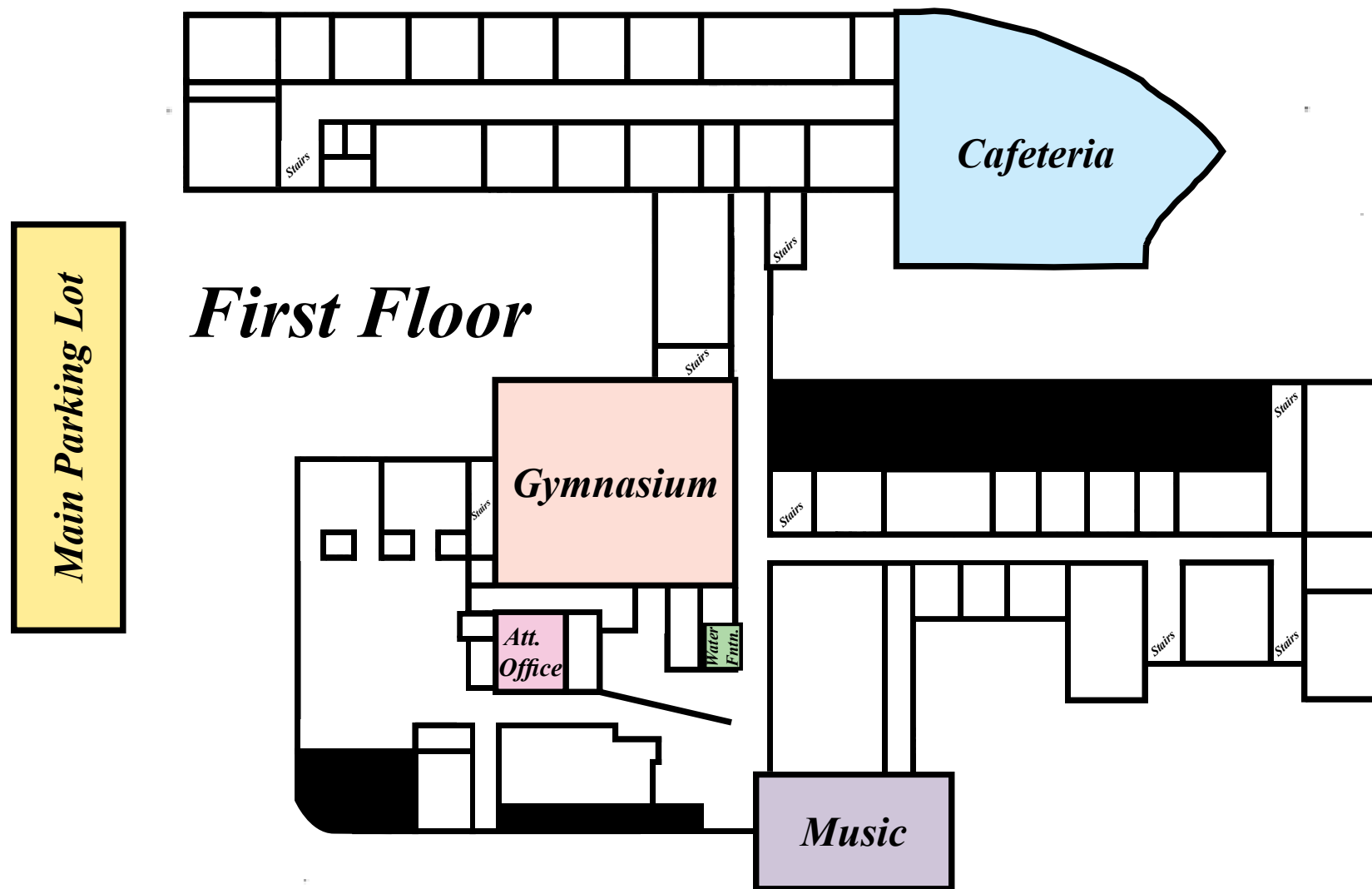
Administrators and faculty reevaluate the purpose and schedule for Midyear Exams

By Anna Van Der Linden
Class of 2016

Without a doubt, one of the major aspects of high school is testing. From end of term tests to MCAS to vocabulary quizzes, to SATs, students are used to the testing cycle: procrastinating, late night cramming, butterflies the morning of, and finally, relief when their exam is over. For years, Walpole High School students have been rewarded with a shortened day after a specific set of major tests: mid-year exams. Normally during mid-years, school starts at 7:15 and ends at either 9:15 or 11:15 after the students take one or two tests, depending on their schedule. For some, getting out of school early makes up for the stress of studying, and for others, it is a chance to start prepping for the next test. Either way, the free time is a well appreciated break...or at least it used to be.

Currently, administration and faculty are reevaluating the purpose and schedule for Midyear Examinations at Walpole High School. While some faculty members have moved away from these examinations because they interrupt classroom instruction, other teachers have adamantly defended these high-stakes exams as crucial measures of student learning. As a compromise between these two groups, Principal Stephen Imbusch distributed a tentative schedule change for that week. Although

Walpole High School introduces new changes



Students welcome eco-friendly fountain



The new water fountain near the gymnasium also keeps count of the number of liters poured through the eco-friendly system.

By Rachel Spang
Class of 2015

The addition of a new water fountain between the lobby and gym entrances has encouraged environmentally-friendly water consumption among students this school year. The fountain allows students to refill their water bottles with purified, cold water instead of buying and wasting more bottled water. The popularity of the new fountain has encouraged faculty to consider adding more of these eco-friendly units throughout the school.

WHS introduces new tardy policy

"I think it is a great policy because it makes the attendance office run smoother"
- Class of 2017

"I think it's a good policy because it prompts me to be on time and not be tardy."
- Class of 2016

By Emily Massarelli
Class of 2015

For the 2014-2015 school year, Walpole High has implemented a new tardy policy, wherein students who arrive late to homeroom do not need to go to the attendance office. Rather, their homeroom teacher marks them tardy. A student who is tardy three times to homeroom receives a detention, and the three-chance tardy count then resets. Additionally, the new tardy policy enforces that the second occurrence of tardiness to the beginning of first block results in an automatic hour, which Principal Stephen Imbusch said "helps train kids to be on time." Despite varying views on the topic, only time will tell if the integration of the policy is effective for reducing the tardiness at Walpole High.

other after school activity; therefore, their studying time is cut much shorter. Some may be out until 8:00 at night, leaving them little time to study.

"Kids are going to have to prepare for their exam the next morning," Mr. Imbusch said. "That's a concern of mine, if people are giving homework and also expecting kids to study for the exam." If students will be attending their other classes during a normal week, presumably they will be having normal amounts of homework, which can be 2-5 hours a night. Mr. Imbusch did not offer a definite solution for this potential problem, but he plans to address it before the change is finalized. "Our main concern is loss of class time, and loss of instructional time," said English Department Head Lauren Culliton who teaches Advanced Placement Literature. The Midyear Examination week falls during the six weeks between Christmas vacation and February vacation. While the exams take one week to complete, factor in the two weekends and a few review days, and the midyear week becomes almost two weeks of neither instruction nor active learning. According to Mr. Imbusch, exams affect the learning process because they disrupt a six week time frame that could otherwise be used for learning new material.

"I do not not support staying with last year's schedule that we used to have. I just feel like it's too much of a block to learning," said Mr. Imbusch, "I would like to get rid of the midyears, but I'm not going to impose that on people. If they want a longer block and they make a good case for it, I'm going to make sure that they get it."

The situation will be exacerbated this year by the switch from MCAS to PARCC. PARCC is much more time consuming than MCAS as students will take the exam twice a year over multiple grade levels. Ms. Culliton said, "With the PARCC, students are going to miss twice as much class time, over three years instead of just one year." Even more frustrating is the fact that students will take the test at different times, so teachers will be left without a full class of kids for days in a row. These combined factors will lead to an enormous loss of full, productive class time for teachers — much more than is usually lost from a school year.

Less class time will severely affect the Advanced Placement classes. Walpole AP

Administrators provide students with snack time

By Emily Massarelli
Class of 2015

With such an early school starting time, it is often difficult for students to fulfill their morning appetite. Lunch is a long ways from the 7:15 homeroom start time, and many students struggle to concentrate with hunger lingering over them. However, as of this year, students now have the opportunity to squelch their hunger pains with the ten minute snack break in-between block B and block C. The broadening of areas where students are allowed to eat should reduce food-based problems with focus and energy, but also presents possible conflicts for those who have food allergies. Principal Stephen Imbusch concurs that he believes "the pros outweigh the cons," and Walpole High Students seem to agree.

"It's great because you get a nice break, and don't have to wait to eat until lunch." (Class of 2016)

"Best decision since I've been at WHS."

(Sophomore David Moser)

"It's great for refueling." (Class of 2016)

"It's good when you don't get a chance to eat breakfast in the morning." (Class of 2017)

"I would rather leave school 10 minutes earlier than have a snack," (Senior Vivian Ling)

New gymnasium floor installed over the summer



Construction on old gym floor takes place in August.

By Julie Moser
Class of 2015

Aiming to improve various aspects of Walpole High School, administrators recently approved one major change that affects numerous athletes: the renovation of the gymnasium floor. The process that began in Mid-August of this past summer included the sanding- down, refinishing and re-lining of the old floor—a floor that had not been redone for more than fifteen years. Both Athletic Director Bill Tompkins and school administrators have received positive feedback regarding the alteration to the gymnasium floor as students and athletes alike look forward to using the new floor.

"Teachers should expect a major decrease in overall test scores with the amount of work students will be given."

- Senior Summer King

"I think this policy is completely unfair to the students. Most students have afterschool sports and activities and need other time to study."

- Senior Stephanie Lund

students are already at a disadvantage because Walpole Schools start later than other school districts in the country — beginning in early September while most schools start in mid to late August. However, the AP test dates are predetermined and cannot be moved, leaving Walpole students with less time to learn the material. Teachers are already racing to teach all the necessary information to students before the exam date, and now on top of that, they will have to work around the standardized testing. "The class time is very important for teachers and I believe that once they see how little instructional time they have, more will agree with the changes," said Ms. Culliton.

Clearly, while the time gained back from the new midyear schedule could be very beneficial for some teachers, the school is not unanimous on the subject as many feel strongly for each side, and more issues with the new schedule may be revealed as the year progresses. With the student body opposed, the faculty divided, the future of Walpole's Midyear Examinations rests in the hands of the administrators.