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## Walpole High achieves Level 1 status

*Improved student progress gains recognition from state*



Photo/ Maeve O'Connor

By Emily Martin  
Editor-in-Chief

Over the summer of 2016, Walpole High School gained the status of a Level 1 school from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (MDESE).

The MDESE rates every public school in Massachusetts on a scale of level one to five each school year based on a progress and performance index, which takes in account MCAS participation, MCAS scores, and student growth

percentile rates over a number of years; additionally, the MDESE looks at graduation rates, dropout rates, and the narrowing of the proficiency gap. Over the past year, many Grade 10 students scored an advanced or proficient score on all three MCAS tests—English, Mathematics, and Science/Technology—ultimately pushing Walpole High into the Level 1 Category. Another important factor in granting Level 1 status regards the progress within the group of students who have high needs or dis-

abilities. Walpole High met its target rates for both groups of students, and also met the target rates for all students as well, with a 79% growth rate.

The MDESE reevaluates every school each year and gives them a status rating. For a number of years, Walpole High was categorized as a Level 2 school. And although Walpole High and Old Post Road fall in the Level 1 category, the remaining schools in the Walpole District are still currently Level 2 schools, which means that Walpole falls into a Level 2 district.

In addition to reaching a Level 1 status, Walpole High also ranked among the top 50 in Boston's public schools, according to Boston Magazine. These ratings are based on a number of factors, including enrollment, MCAS scores, SAT and ACT scores, AP scores, graduation rate, number of students attending college, number of college counselors, diversity, and student to teacher ratio.

Reaching the Level 1 status has been a long time goal for administration. Walpole High School principal Stephen Imbusch said, "Every year we will look at this number. [Achieving the Level 1 status] is always a goal for us."

## Administration announces new policies

*Teachers enforce new cheating policy for the 2016-2017 school year*

By Emily Ball  
Staff Writer

Assistant Principal Lee Tobey spoke in front of all four grades on the first day of school on August 31. Along with the typical "welcome-back" address, she announced the changes to several policies for the upcoming school year; however, the most prominent revisions lie in the cheating policy.

This year, teachers have the ability to control both the behavioral and academic consequences in their classrooms as necessary, which includes giving zeroes.

However, just last year administration treated cheating as just a behavioral issue, so this year they chose to update the policy.

"There is a lot of flexibility now for teachers with what they can do instead of giving a zero. There is a report that can be written on the student's behalf on how cheating would affect their future, and

there are detentions that can be given — even Saturday detentions — so there are a lot of more options now," said science teacher Lara Walleston.

Despite their application of the policy, faculty and administration are not the only impetuses for change.

"It was really a reaction to what [students] wanted. The

Rebellion came out with a huge article last year, and we read it and took it to heart," said Tobey.

The Rebellion poll results showed that 70% of students have cheated or currently cheat. In addition, only 34 out of 66 students caught cheating said they were punished. These numbers, along with complaints from students, led to the alteration of the policy. These statistics not only influenced ad-



Graphics/ Danielle Borelli

ministration to change the policy, but individual teachers are also enforcing their own regulations as well.

"First thing I changed involves cell phone use. I'm having my students submit their cellphones to me only before a test or a quiz, [or] any kind of assessment," said math teacher Ashley Cannon.

As a result of the changes to the cheating policy, teachers have a new flexibility when it comes to consequences that they will put to the test this year.

"It's always a work in progress," said Tobey. "We are going to try it to see what works and doesn't work and we will adjust accordingly."

## Not just clowning around



By Devin McKinney  
News Editor

Students at Merrimack College in North Andover, MA went into lockdown on Monday, Oct. 3 due to a report on social media regarding an armed clown on campus; however, according to an article in the Boston Globe, the police did not find any suspects. The lockdown at Merrimack College is the farthest a university has gone as a result of a clown sighting, yet other universities in nearby states also have been the subject of mass hysteria.

Max Simons, a Walpole High School alumnus and freshman at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA, experienced the effects of the social media rumor regarding a clown sighting on campus despite the fact that threat was never confirmed.

"I [thought] it was a little silly, but genuinely scary. When everyone is as scared as [the students] were, it makes you really feel like you are in danger, [even though] there was no actual threat," said Simons.

Furthermore, Tori Lynch, freshman at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT and Walpole High School alumna, explained that although the university did not go into lockdown, the widespread fear is causing the school to take action.

"Campus public safety and the president of the university both sent emails saying that nothing was in lockdown and said that because of the threats at other schools, there will be increased security on campus, and that has made people feel better [about the situation]," said Lynch.

The trend of killer clown threats throughout communities has been spreading throughout the local area—even reaching Walpole on Oct. 3. An Instagram post was made claiming that there was a clown sighting in Washington Green, a neighborhood near Bird Park; however, Senior Stephanie Forester, resident of area, is skeptical of the alleged clowns in Walpole.

"I personally think that the threat on Washington Green is mostly students trying to scare everyone. As a whole, the clown situation is a little frightening, but it is starting to get out of hand in places like Merrimack and other colleges," said Forester.



# Retreats will unify the student body Senior retreats will bring fun into the stressful environment

By Micheala Donato  
Staff Writer

Many high schools send their seniors on weeklong or day trips in order to rally school spirit and unity. At Walpole High, there is a lack of school unity. The negative culture at the school needs to be reformed, and retreats will help to do so. Past senior advisors Mrs. Culliton and Mr. Hahn had tried to establish senior retreats, but struggled to find success.

“To balance time out of class, cost and attendance [is the biggest challenge],” Mrs. Culliton explained. Previous trips included ventures to Dave & Busters, the North End and Gloucester. On the whole, however, the number of attendees was lacking; at some events, as few as 13 students showed up. In order to boost attendance, retreats must take place during school hours. If the retreats are on half days, everyone wins: students get to miss some school, but teachers do not lose a full class period.

The details of the retreat are very pliable: it could be a weeklong camping event or a day trip ziplining or a skiing overnight. The possibilities are wide open, and there could be multiple different trips for students to vote on and choose between. The openness of the retreats also makes them easy to integrate into the busy school year and work into students’ packed schedules.

Retreats also provide an outlet for strengthening school unity. At Wal-

pole High, many conflicts have threatened to divide the school: the Rebel name debate, class representative elections, cheating policy, a sexting scandal. Clearly, there are some problems. Shouldn’t the school want to help develop a culture that emphasizes positivity? Don’t students deserve the chance to bond and heal from the hell they go through during the school year?

The Class of 2017 has undertaken for themselves the task of reunification. With the Brigade and tailgates and a general rally for school spirit, retreats will only cement these efforts to bring the students together. Senior year is the perfect time for a retreat because the retreats could serve as a last hurrah for students before they graduate. And now, especially since we have lost a major outlet for student unity, retreats couldn’t be a better option. If we can’t have dances, can’t we have supervised retreats with

the specific objective of bringing students together in an environment that eliminates stress and is just plain fun?

High school is not fun anymore. Fun is not part of the equation: students, deprived of sleep, wake up—still too early; they attend five ridiculously and unnecessarily long 70-minute classes; they get at least an hour—in certain classes, more like three hours—of homework in each class; they spend more hours playing sports and going to club meetings and working and volunteering; and then they go to sleep drained of all hope because they know they will have to relive the same day again tomorrow. Is one day of fun really too much to ask? Realistically, price can be a concern. But it doesn’t have to be. Past senior advisor Mrs. Culliton explained that oftentimes, there

is money left over from the \$140 class dues that all students pay over the course of their high school career. This money, since it is the students’ money, can go toward bringing the price of the retreat down or can help fund the trip for students unable to pay. Though certain trips could potentially be more expensive than others, grade-wide fundraising would easily mitigate costs. And this lessened cost, well, isn’t it worth it to give our seniors one final, unifying experience? We are weighing the value of a trip that, at most, before fundraising, would cost, maybe, a couple hundred bucks. So, aren’t our seniors’ last memories with their peers—the peers they laughed with, cried with, and grew up with—worth at least that much?



Graphics/ Abby Hile

# Voters must separate themselves from political rhetoric Participants in the 2016 election should learn how to distinguish issues from insults

By Andrea Traietti  
Editor-in-Chief

As voters near the end of the election season, they are faced with a choice that on the surface seems rather simple: Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump. However, the political rhetoric of the 2016 campaign has escalated to such a point that voters cannot distinguish between the issues the candidates are seeking to address and the insults they are slinging at each other. The voters, therefore, must take on the task of politically educating themselves so that they can vote responsibly. Finding a politician’s real stance on issues has become next to impossible, as it is a real challenge to find any real substance to the two candidates’ ideas buried beneath a mountain of insults, jokes, cliché slogans, offensive remarks, and obnoxious hashtags on Twitter and Instagram. Overall, it seems that Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton have focused on each others’ campaigns more than they have



focused on their own. This new age political rhetoric combined with this rise of social media as a means of gathering political support has altogether created a new campaign style. The result of this campaign style? A voting population that understands neither the viewpoints of the candidates, nor the pressing importance of the 2016 election.

It’s easy to get sucked into the slander of this election. Take, for ex-

ample, the various hashtags used by Trump supporters and by Trump himself: #crookedhillary, #hillaryforprison2k16, and even calling Hillary’s medical records into question with #hillaryshealth. Trump’s entire Twitter page could be categorized more as an anti-Hillary page more than a pro-Trump page.

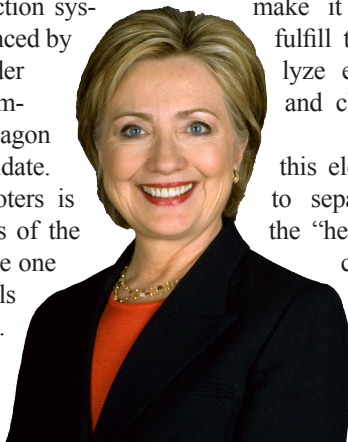
Clinton’s supporters aren’t blameless either, contributing to her anti-Trump campaign with Tweets such as #dumptrump, #basketofdeplorables, and #trumptaxes.

The first presidential debate on September 26 proved that both candidates lack focus on their individual views on issues, and are more concerned with insults. Hillary brought up Trump’s wealthy father within the first 15 minutes of the debate, pressing him to release his taxes. Trump, on the other hand, couldn’t resist multiple jabs at Clinton’s deleted emails. When moderator Lester Holt opened the debate asking each candidate what made him or her the best option for the presidency, both Clinton and Trump discussed what made the other candidate a poor choice, and they gave little to no information about themselves. The predominantly antagonistic debate revealed that the 2016 election on the

whole is not going to be about politics. This campaigning style has had a major effect on the voting population: a large number of voters has sided strongly with one candidate over the other without justification and with little to no understanding of the real issues of the current political climate.

In no way is the whole voting population corrupt or uneducated or apathetic. However, the extreme party divide, the

campaign styles of the two candidates and the rise of social media as a means of expressing political views has created a real change in the election system. Some voters, influenced by online mockery and slander from one candidate, simply hop on the bandwagon and support said candidate. The responsibility of voters is to analyze the ideologies of the candidates and choose the one who best represents ideals that the voters support. It is not the responsibility of voters to get wrapped up in political slander and to blindly follow the ideas of others.



On the other hand, many voters are committed to the idea that neither candi-

date should be elected. This idea is just as harmful as blindly following one candidate. Though this election’s candidates make it difficult, voters must fulfill their civic duty to analyze each candidate’s views and choose one to vote for. Overall, voters in this election should take care to separate themselves from the “he said, she said,” political rhetoric of the candidates in order to make an educated and informed decision at the polls this November. Americans cannot control the way candidates choose to run their campaigns, but they can and should strive to make informed voting decisions on election day.

## THE REBELLION STAFF

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.  
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**Send a Letter to the Editor. Letters Should be 200 Words or fewer, and can be emailed to [walpolerebellion@gmail.com](mailto:walpolerebellion@gmail.com)**

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# WALPOLE HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION SHOULD RECOGNIZE

## EDITORIAL

By The Editorial Board

Principal Stephen Imbusch recently made the decision to cancel all school sponsored dances at Walpole High School, excluding the Freshman Semi-formal and Prom. The decision gained national attention from *The Wall Street Journal* as well as localized recognition from *The Walpole Times*, *The Boston Globe*, Fox 25 and CBS Boston. Imbusch made a formal announcement about the cancellation of the dances to the parents of Walpole High School students through an e-note, a weekly informational letter, published on Sept. 16. However, Imbusch never communicated to the students themselves that the dances were cancelled.

There is no doubt that Walpole High School is facing a huge chemical health problem. Principal Imbusch is not wrong in his analysis of the unsafe environments at school events; after Imbusch's statements to parents, it's clear that the safety of students at these events has been a questionable subject for at least the past two years. Therefore, Imbusch's decision is valid, considering the fact that the cancellation of the events will realistically minimize the danger for both students under the influence and those in a school environment with others who are intoxicated. Though Imbusch made the decision with the protection of students in mind, his choice was too radical. There are alternative ways to create a safer environment at school and reduce chemical health infractions without cancelling the dances. We can foster a safer environment without punishing the majority of students for actions they didn't take.

## COMMUNICATION

On the first day of this school year, Principal Stephen Imbusch and Assistant Principals Lee Tobey and Sean Powers gathered each grade to brief students on the changes made to the vaporizer, tardy and cheating policies. Though an informa-

tive introduction to the school year, at this briefing, administration failed to inform the student body that they had eliminated all school dances except for Prom and Freshman Semi-formal. Students found out that the dances were cancelled not through their own administrators, but rather, through an article published in *The Walpole Times*. And although most people were unaware, according to a recent article published in *The Wall Street Journal*, Imbusch made the initial decision to end school dances last spring.

Moreover, parents were completely unaware of the problems at school dances because, again, administration failed to communicate. Although administration has been attempting to improve communication with the students through the recent creation of groups like The Round Table, a collaboration that allows administration to gain input from a male and female representative of each grade, the original cancellation was shocking for many students. Specifically for parents, the announcements that have followed the cancellation are even more concerning. Why did administration, if the dances really were so dangerous, not communicate with the parents beforehand? "As the night progressed, the behavior of these students deteriorated to a point that would embarrass any parent in Walpole; students falling around the dance floor being held up by their peers; students

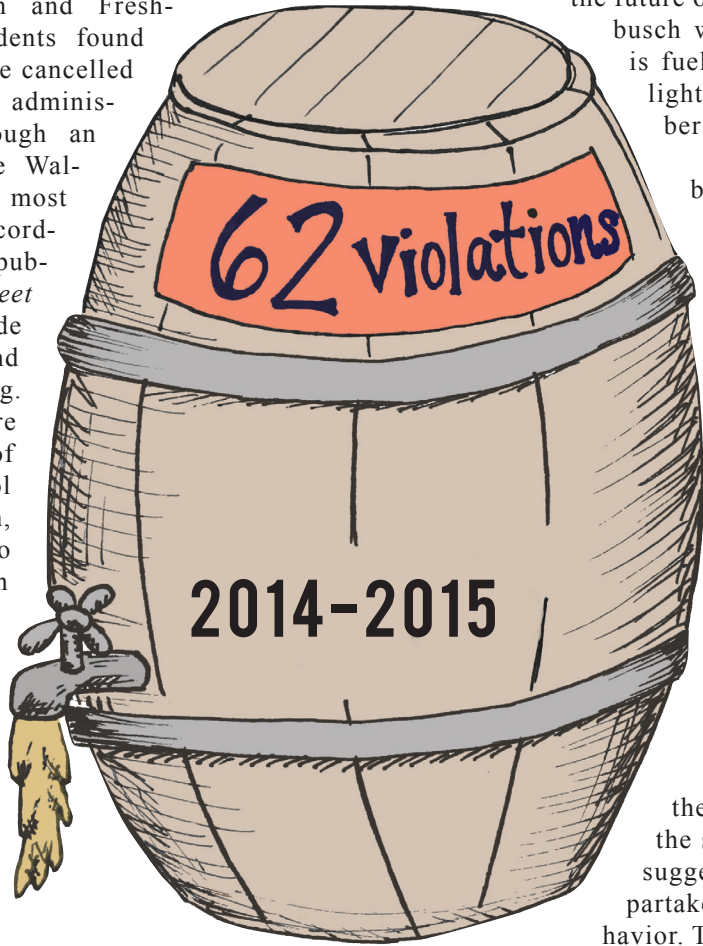
throwing up in the bathroom; students dancing in ways that shocks the teachers and the adults who are in charge of educating and shaping the future of those students," Imbusch wrote. "This behavior is fueled by the music, the lights, the 'safety in numbers,' and the alcohol."

This inappropriate behavior is clearly not a new development, so parents should have been made aware of the potential danger at school dances well before the dances were cancelled about three weeks ago.

## WALPOLE HIGH SCHOOL'S REPUTATION

Media coverage of the decision portrays the school negatively and suggests that all students partake in inappropriate behavior. The students at Walpole High School participate in sports

teams that regularly qualify for tournament, a Student Council that is recognized on the national level, a Robotics team that visited the world competition last year, a Speech and Debate team that sends students to the National tournament, and a film program that produces professional-grade projects—among various other outstanding extracurriculars. But instead of acknowledging these achievements, the media portrays Walpole High students as the



# Decision in context: an overview of major ch

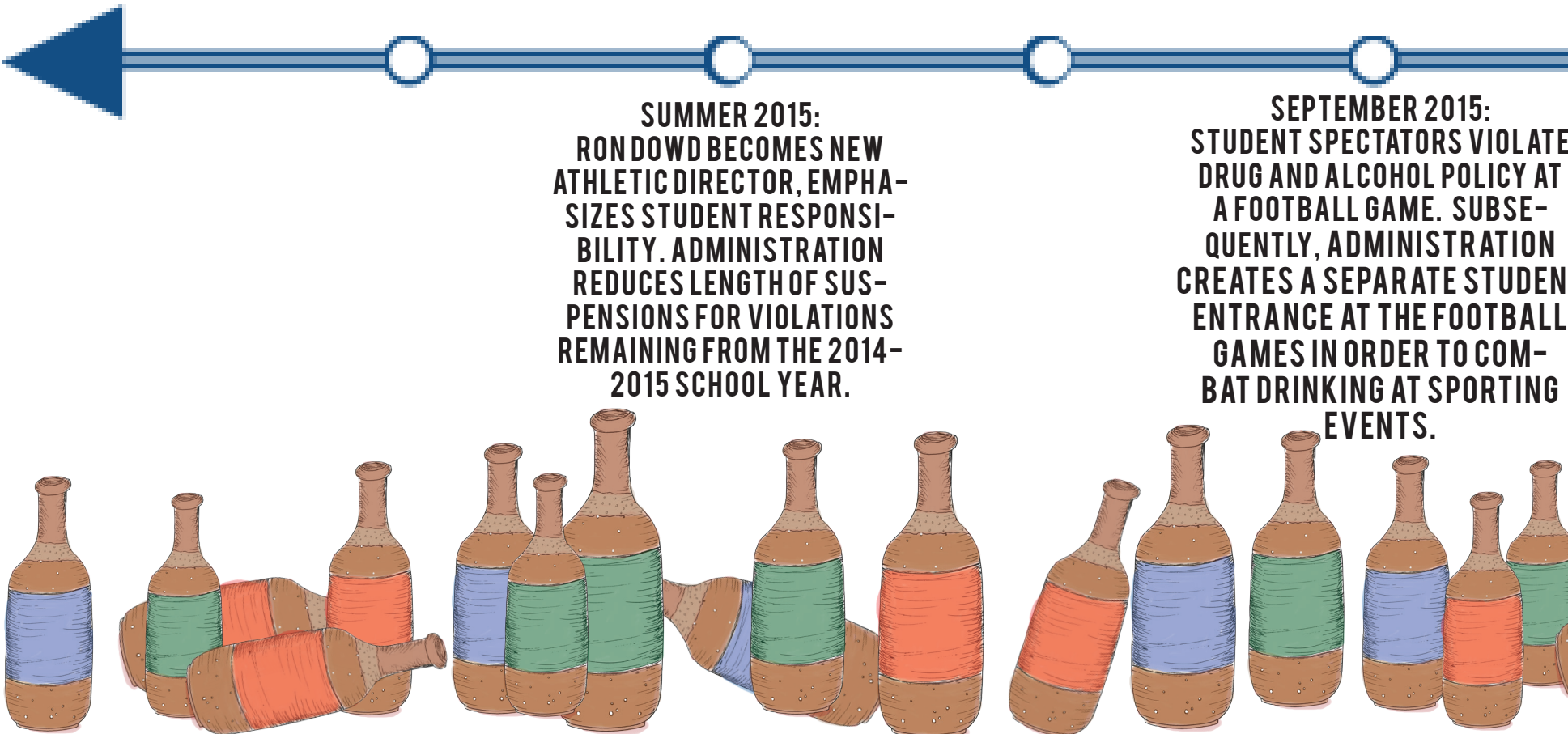
APRIL 2015:  
FRESHMEN BREAK THE DRUG  
AND ALCOHOL POLICY ON  
FRESHMEN SEMI-FORMAL.

EARLY SEPTEMBER 2015:  
DOWD SPEAKS TO SPORTS TEAMS  
IN SMALL GROUPS REGARDING  
THE ISSUE OF CHEMICAL HEALTH  
VIOLATIONS.

SOM  
THE

SUMMER 2015:  
RON DOWD BECOMES NEW  
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, EMPHA-  
SIZES STUDENT RESPONSIB-  
ILITY. ADMINISTRATION  
REDUCES LENGTH OF SUS-  
PENSIONS FOR VIOLATIONS  
REMAINING FROM THE 2014-  
2015 SCHOOL YEAR.

SEPTEMBER 2015:  
STUDENT SPECTATORS VIOLATE  
DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY AT  
A FOOTBALL GAME. SUBSE-  
QUENTLY, ADMINISTRATION  
CREATES A SEPARATE STUDEN  
ENTRANCE AT THE FOOTBALL  
GAMES IN ORDER TO COM-  
BAT DRINKING AT SPORTING  
EVENTS.





# CONSIDER THE DECISION TO CANCEL SCHOOL DANCES

kids who are too drunk for their own school dances, similar to how the media has previously portrayed them as Confederate Flag fanatics.

In *The Boston Globe*, Imbusch explains that he cancelled the dances to protect students from possibly dangerous situations. “In the meantime, before one of your children gets hurt or mistreated on the dance floor, gets assaulted after they leave the dance by an intoxicated student, or wraps their car around a tree, I maintain my stance regarding dances at Walpole High School,” he said. “It is impossible to sanction events that can possibly put students in such grave danger.” Though Imbusch meant to use this statement as a way to show parents the dangers of the dances, the media ran with the severe speculations he made to the point that Walpole High students were generalized as aggressive and impulsive teenagers. Furthermore, media coverage misconstrues the facts of student misdemeanors. The article in *The Boston Globe* states that in the past two years, Walpole High had 33 drug and alcohol violations, with 12 that occurred at school dances. While these statistics are correct, several media outlets failed to recognize the fact that chemical health violations on the whole have decreased. Drug and alcohol violations are those that occur on school property, for example when a student is in possession of or under the influence of illegal substances while at school or a

school-sponsored event. Chemical health violations, on the other hand, include any and all alcohol violations whether on school property or off school property. Drug and alcohol violations are also considered chemical health violations. The 2014-2015 school year alone had 62 chemical health infractions, but this number decreased to 26 in the 2015-2016 school year. Is it not important to note the 58% drop in chemical health violations in the past two years? But aside from the media’s portrayal of WHS students, these statistics raise another interesting question: why are students facing stricter punishments this year if there has been an improvement in the number of violations in the past two years?

## SOLUTIONS

It is time for Walpole to take ownership of its issues. Teen drinking is a major problem and steps must be taken to educate students before it is too late. According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, 33% of students have had at least one drink by age 15, and 60% have had at least one drink by age 18. Alarming as this may be, it is the reality of the situation. Though the school should promote avoidance of alcohol and other drugs, the school must also inform students more realistically on ways to stay safe when they do encounter alcohol; whether students

encounter alcohol in their high school career or later in life, the knowledge of smarter drinking habits could prevent future tragedies like the ones Imbusch mentions as possible outcomes of school dances.

By cancelling the dances, administration treated the drinking issue as an insurmountable problem. Last year, backpacks and bags were banned from the football games, and a student-only entrance was added. These changes and preventative measures that ensured a safer environment at the football games worked to solve the chemical health violation problem without banning students from football games. Even though these measures have been put in place, student attendance at the football games and participation in the Brigade have been greater than ever before. This solution to drinking at football games should be applied to school dances.

Like at football games, students should not be permitted to bring bags into the dances. If students arrive to dances drunk, behave drunkenly or behave inappropriately at all, immediately remove them from the dance. Then, put them into police custody and keep them there until they can be safely escorted home by their parents. Underage drinking is a crime and it is time that the school treats it as such. If students drink on school grounds, punishment is in order. Students should not be allowed to attend future events after they drink. And if certain students are acting as obscenely as administration claims, why does administration continue to allow them to stay and return to more dances?

One question remains: why did administration immediately jump to the conclusion that the only way to solve the problems at school dances was to cancel them entirely? In the same way that administration worked constructively to foster a safer environment for spectators at school sporting events, they should have attempted to establish more positive solutions before instituting the most radical option possible—one that is divisive, controversial and uncompromising. With increased communication and trust, students and administration can work together to create a positive and protected school environment.



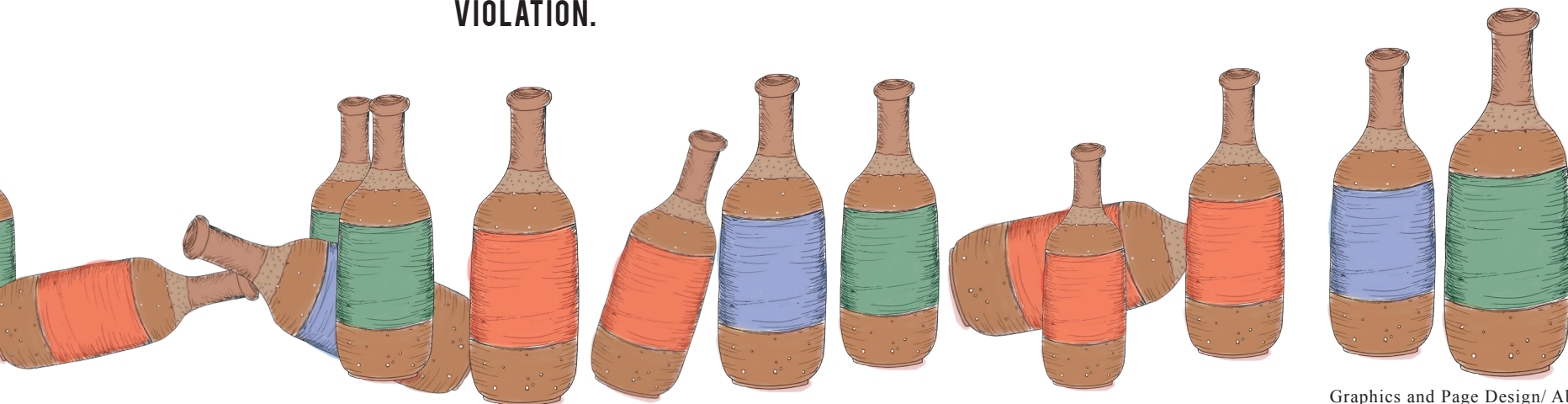
## Chemical health infractions and policy changes

**JANUARY 2016:**  
SOME STUDENTS REMOVED FROM  
THE WINTER BALL FOR DRUG AND  
ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS.

**SEPTEMBER 2016:**  
DOWD SPEAKS TO SPORTS  
CAPTAINS SEPARATELY RE-  
GARDING CHEMICAL HEALTH  
VIOLATIONS.

**MAY 20, 2016:**  
PRINCIPAL IMBUSCH AND  
WALPOLE POLICE IMPLEMENT  
SCHOOL-WIDE DRUG AND  
ALCOHOL SEARCH ON THE DAY  
OF PROM. STUDENTS FOUND IN  
VIOLATION.

**SEPTEMBER 2016:**  
ADMINISTRATION CANCELS  
ALL SCHOOL DANCES, WITH  
THE EXCEPTION OF PROM AND  
FRESHMAN SEMI-FORMAL.





# THE REBELLION'S TOP HALLOWEEN MOVIE PICKS

Nearly as soon as a fall chill is in the air, people are in the full swing of a Halloween obsession, ready to fully submerge themselves into the vibes and traditions the holiday brings. Watching the films that have sculpted the way people feel and think about the holiday is a great way to get into the spirit. The selected films below are the bare essentials needed when constructing any Halloween marathon.

By Rebecca Boyajian, Entertainment Editor

## Hocus Pocus



Director: Kenny Ortega  
Cast: Sarah Jessica Parker, Kathy Najimy, Bette Midler, Omri Katz, Thora Birch

When the three Sanderson sisters, a vibrant witch trio comprised of bossy Winifred (Bette Midler), giddy Sarah (Sarah Jessica Parker) and the worrisome Kathy (Omri Katz), show up in Salem just in time for Halloween, three young locals take it upon themselves to put an end to their evil plans. Taking place in Salem and revolving around eccentric creepy witches, the film had all the makings to be a hit from the beginning and has proved to withstand the test of time due to its comedy and theatrics that reaches to all age demographics.

## Coraline



Director: Henry Selick  
Cast: Dakota Fanning, Teri Hatcher, Keith David, Dawn French, Jennifer Saunders

A young girl named Coraline stumbles upon a portal that transports her into an exciting alternate universe where her “other parents” pamper and adore her, she has to make the decision whether to return home or remain in her new world; however, when things begin to take a dark turn, Coraline realizes her perfect world is not as it seems and the ability to leave is not fully in her control. The twisted plot of the film grasps the audiences’s attention and leaves them thinking, perfect for when in the mood for a haunting holiday flick.

## Halloweentown



Director: Duwayne Dunham  
Cast: Kimberly J. Brown, Debbie Reynolds, Phillip Van Dyke

Halloweentown was produced in the time period when Disney Channel produced classic movies with ease, and though people disregard the children’s channel, this movie gem truly captured the holiday’s vibes. Most people of an older age demographic have pre-established doubts of what a children’s network can produce, but this movie about a young girl and her grandmother who use their witch powers to save a town infused with Halloween magic will only add a fun and thrilling addition to any holiday movie marathon.

## Other Movies to Marathon this Halloween Season

### Top Scary/Horror Movies:

The Birds	(1963)
Psycho	(1960)
Halloween	(1978)
Friday the 13th	(1980)
The Babadook	(2014)

### Top Animated Movies:

Corpse Bride	(2005)
Coraline	(2009)
Nightmare Before Christmas	(1993)
Paranorman	(2012)
Charlie Brown: Great Pumpkin	(1966)

### Top Live Action Non-Horror Movies:

Young Frankenstein	(1974)
Casper Meets Wendy	(1998)
Edward Scissorhands	(1990)
Beetlejuice	(1988)
The Addams Family	(1991)

### Top Disney Movies:

Halloweentown	(1998)
Mom’s Got a Date With a Vampire	(2000)
The Little Vampire	(2000)
Twitches	(2005)
Don’t Look Under the Bed	(1999)

## Fall fashion embraces both new and old trends

Now that the cooler weather is coming in, so are the latest fall trends. From flannels to bandana scarves, read in for all the scoop on autumnal essentials.

By Gabriella Donahue, Staff Writer

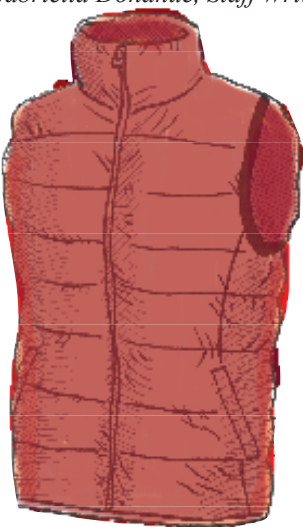


### Outerwear:

This fall outerwear is most commonly worn layered over tees, flannels or sweaters for an extra layer of warmth. Denim jackets can easily be transitioned from summer to fall by pairing it with a long sleeve tee or sweater. In addition to the denim craze, bomber jackets have been re-introduced this season. Similar to denim and bombers, military jackets provide a stylish extra thermal layer.

### Scarves:

Besides the classic chunky-knit scarves most every girl sports throughout the chilly months of fall, another type of neckwear is new to the game: the bandana scarf. Popular throughout the summer and simply shifted into the fall, these adorable kerchief-type scarves have made a major comeback. Paired with a plain tee and any variation of jacket over top, these scarves have a magical ability to complete any outfit. While not so much protecting your neck from the chilled autumn air, sometimes it is okay to make a sacrifice or two for fashion’s sake.

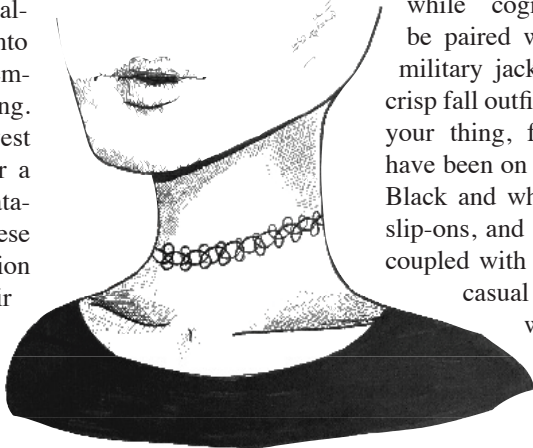


### Vests:

Returning every season, vests, a fall style staple, have finally made their way back into wardrobes with the cooler temperatures now approaching. Whether it be a quilted vest from stores like J.Crew, or a cozy, fleece version from Patagonia or The North Face, these sleeveless yet toasty fashion pieces have claimed their spot as a fall fashion favorite each year. Top them over a sweater, flannel, or hoodie and you are ready to brave the cold!

### Chokers:

These popular necklaces have been very up-to-the-minute throughout the summer, and now, heading into the fall, are sure to remain in vogue. Although circa 1990, these super tight, super trendy necklaces have surely made a name for themselves in the 21st century. Similar to their cousin the bandana scarf, chokers seem to add extra flare to any outfit and can be sure to make you look trendy.



### Shoes:

Options are endless for footwear this fall with slip-ons, sneakers and boots. Pair jeans with any of the above options, and you are good to go! Black and grey boots paired with jeans and a bomber make for a contemporary and chic look, while cognac boots can be paired with jeans and a military jacket for a classic, crisp fall outfit. If boots are not your thing, fashion sneakers have been on trend on as well. Black and white adidas, Vans slip-ons, and Nikes can all be coupled with jeans for a cool, casual look, or paired with joggers if you want to be comfy but still fashionable.

Graphics/ Danielle Borelli



# Fawcett takes on position as the new athletic trainer

Rory Fawcett joins the Walpole High faculty as the new athletic trainer

Photo/ Caroline Pitman



Rory Fawcett joins Walpole High staff as new member of the athletic department.

By Sophia Giovaniello  
Staff Writer

For the first time at Walpole High School, new Athletic Trainer Rory Fawcett is a directly paid member of the faculty. With over 800 student athletes and 26 varsity sports, Walpole High School has many of athletic needs. This year, new Athletic Trainer Rory Fawcett is here to take on these needs.

"There are several hundred athletes and just one me, so I try my best to bring the best care to everyone," said Fawcett.

For the past two years, Walpole High School's athletic trainer, An-

tigone Matsakis, was not a part of the staff faculty for the school. Matsakis worked out of Brigham and Women's Hospital and Walpole High School had a contract with the hospital. The trainer before Matsakis, Mike Belanger, was also contracted to the school through Brigham and Women's. However this year, things are different. Graduating from Ithaca College in Athletic Training, later receiving her master's and then her doctorate degree in physical therapy, Fawcett is strongly qualified for this busy job.

Athletic Director Ron Dowd said, "She has been doing well. This is a tough job to come into. She did

not know any of the students, and physicals and IMPACT tests needed to be done before try outs and with everyone on summer vacation, it is a challenge.

She did a very good job of getting everything completed."

Students at Walpole High School also seem to enjoy Ms. Fawcett as well.

Senior captain of girls volleyball, Abby Hile, recently injured her ankle and visited to her office.

"Ms. Fawcett was extremely helpful for me when I rolled my ankle," she said. "She was very accessible and helped me recover quickly. I think she's very easy to talk to and approachable."

Tayla Randall, a senior captain of girls soccer team, also described Fawcett as extremely knowledgeable.

"I've only visited her a few times, but I can tell she is really smart. I don't know how she balances everyone's needs, but she does a great job."

This year will be Fawcett's first

time working on her own at the high school level; however, in graduate school, she practiced per diem athletic training at the college level.

"Making the jump from the college scene to the high school scene can be difficult, but I think those experiences will help her,"

said Dowd. "Communication is extremely important at this level, and she does that very well."

Currently, Fawcett is available in her office every day after school, comes to each home game or meet and also provides service to athletes before, during and after practices.

She can also meet with a student or parent last block of the school day to discuss injuries and any treatment that may be needed.

Dowd said, "She is a very hard worker and very thorough in everything she does, which will help keep athletes safe."

"Communication is very important at this level, and she does that very well."

"She is a very hard worker and very thorough in everything she does, which will help keep athletes safe."

## The Brigade returns

Photo/ Tim Hoffman



By Aidan Chariton  
Staff Writer

In 2013, Boys Basketball Coach David St. Martin started an inclusive fan section, dubbed the Brigade, to encourage students to support Walpole athletics. However, in 2015-2016, attendance and enthusiasm for the Brigade was at an all time low. The Brigade's lack of involvement in the past few years is epitomized by its Twitter page's massive vacancy of any posts from June 10, 2015 to June 9, 2016.

Nathaniel Kelley, new Senior Class President, has begun a movement to return a sense of pride and support for the school's sports teams, by organizing a rebirth of the once dedicated student fan section.

"As an athlete, [the Brigade] means the world to me," said Kelley, "Nothing is better than hearing people scream your team name and having pride in your town." The Brigade has worked to prepare for this upcoming year of sports: reintroducing a consistent twitter presence, coordinating tailgates before games, and purchasing a large number of Brigade t-shirts. Ultimately, they will attempt to rekindle the school spirit that St. Martin set out to create 3 years ago. Kelley's hopes for the Brigade this year are high.

"I think we really have the people for it this year," he said, "[the Brigade] has unreal potential."

## Walpole gymnasium to receive new championship banner designs

New, condensed designs will replace current banners

By David Moser  
Sports Editor

For years, every championship team in Walpole has had their place on the walls of the gym; however, this year, Athletic Director Ron Dowd led an effort to take down and replace each banner.

Dowd originally took down the banners to allow the walls of the gym to be repainted. The walls remain white, except for a new orange stripe along the two walls behind each end line.

While the banners were down, already ongoing talks between Dowd and alumni to replace the banners increased. As of now, alumni will be raising the money for new banners, and depending on how much money is raised, a specific amount of banners will be ordered. The hope is for 27 new banners—designed to save space and recognize as many championship years as possible—but it depends on what can be afforded. "There was just no room. We were running out of room," said Athletic Director Ron Dowd. "I wanted a neater look."

Walpole's sports programs are largely successful, and with all this success comes the problem of finding space for banners in the gym. Whenever a team won either a sectional, divisional or state championship, that team would receive a banner to commemorate the job well done. The problem with this



system is that overtime, the amount of banners would add up, and space is limited. Here is where the new banner designs come in, for they will condense all the championship years into one banner, while also leaving room for all the championship victories to come.

As portrayed in the featured image above, a possible design option, each team will have a banner. On each banner, there are three different sections. The first is for each year a team wins a league championship; the second is

for each year a team wins a sectional championship; the third is for each year a team wins a state championship. In the end, all of the banners will be replaced with these new displays.

In addition to the new banners, there is also a change in location of a few teams' banners—specifically Boys and Girls Ice Hockey and Girls Volleyball. The idea behind the move is to put them at each team's home rink or court, while also creating more space in the gym. Both Walpole Boys and Girls Ice Hockey will have their championship banners moved to Rodman Arena, while Walpole Volleyball's will be moved to Elm Street School.

"It's going to cost money in the long run, but boosters and alumni will help fund the cost," added Dowd. "If we look back or someone calls us about their championship, we just have to add years. It's really simple."

To find all the years any sport won a championship, Dowd will be looking back in the record books as far back as 1962—when Walpole was still the Hilltoppers. Despite this difference in name, championship years will still be reported, and all will fall under the name Rebels.

Even though specific banners will be replaced, each championship team's contributions to Walpole High School's success will not be forgotten. Each team's history will continue to be displayed, but in a new, concise and condensed fashion.



# Tierney leads XC team with a 9-0 record

*Junior Sarah Tierney becomes the top runner for cross country after being sidelined temporarily with an ankle injury*



Junior Sarah Tierney wins Quad-Meet against Framingham, Wellesley and Newton North.

By Delaney Murphy  
Staff Writer

On June 20, 2015, Sarah Tierney, then a freshman, stepped up to the starting line at New Balance Outdoor Nationals Track Meet to race the third leg of the 4x800m relay. Four months later, the freshman standout was sidelined with a lingering ankle injury that left her out of competition for the majority of her sophomore year.

Normally, an injury of this severity would be detrimental to an athlete's career. In the fall, she sprained her ankle during a soccer game; in the winter, she had a stress fracture and two torn ligaments in her ankle; in the spring, she had another stress fracture in her ankle

for overworking. This Fall though Tierney, however, was able to overcome her injury and become the top runner for the Rebels, and even return in better shape than her pre-injury state.

Coming off a summer of training and injury prevention, junior Sarah Tierney started her first season of Cross Country off strong. Not only did she finish first in the Walpole Labor Day Road Race female division, but she also won both meets for the Rebels, with impressive times of 19:57 against Needham and Braintree on September 7 and 19:33 against Framingham, Newton North, and Wellesley on September 14.

"I was excited because I haven't run a race since freshman year," said Tierney. "I'm really hap-

py to be back running and racing and being part of a team again."

During the spring, Tierney worked on her own to rest, stretch, and ice her ankle, slowly but surely to ensure healing.

"Not running again was never a possibility for me," said Tierney. "Being injured made me more determined to do better and enjoy the sport even more than I did before." "During the beginning of the summer I was just getting back to running," said Tierney. "As summer went on I ran farther and more often." "I sometimes felt [frustrated] because I wanted to run and race but I couldn't," added Tierney. "When I thought my ankle was better and the doctors told me I was cleared to do physical activity, I got injured again."

Despite not having the sophomore year she was hoping for, Tierney refused to give up. Girl's Cross Country and Track Coach Conor Cashman said, "Sarah's resiliency and work ethic in managing such a difficult injury embodies the spirit of what makes this team work. She knows how valuable it is to be healthy and never takes a race for granted — a commitment and a focus that extends to the rest of the team," said Cashman. Sarah has had a major effect on the team, who are now 9-0 and ranked second in the Division 3 conference behind Hopkinton, according to a poll by Massachusetts State Track Coaches Association.

# Colin Kaepernick takes a knee

*49ers backup quarterback refuses to stand for national anthem since beginning of NFL pre-season due to issues concerning racial inequality in America*



By Kevin Quinn  
Staff Writer

The spotlight does not usually focus on many NFL backup quarterbacks, yet the San Francisco 49ers backup quarterback Colin Kaepernick is now in the center of the limelight.

Kaepernick's kneeling during the national anthem has taken the country by storm after he first knelt before the 49ers preseason game against the Green Bay Packers.

Speaking to ESPN reporters after the game, Kaepernick said, "I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color."

"Kaepernick later added, "To me, this [movement] is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid to leave and getting away with murder."

A week later, Mike Oppong, a junior from Doherty High School knelt during the national anthem during their school's varsity football game. Doherty High originally suspended Oppong, but has since let go of his suspension.

Senior football captain Charlie Auditore spoke on the issue: "I fully understand the right to protest and glad they're doing it peacefully; however, I disagree with this protest because I believe that this issue is only further dividing our nation in a brutal race war."

Other senior football captain David White said, "I believe it's his right to exercise his freedom of speech, but I don't agree with the method. It's disrespectful to the people who protect this nation and the nation itself."

Kaepernick has said that he is receiving death threats from his protest, and reported to ESPN that if something were to happen, it would prove his point.

"It'll be loud and clear for everyone why it happened, and that would move this movement forward at a greater speed than what it is even now."

# Volleyball rallies for big comeback with a six game winning streak

*Rebels rebound after tough 0-3 start to season*

By Craig Cieplik  
Staff Writer

Almost halfway through the fall sports season, Walpole Volleyball is off to a 6-3 start to the 2016 season. After losing three straight games to begin the season, the Rebels have caught fire and won six straight matches.

At the helm of this year's team are senior captains Abby Hile, Andrea Traietti and Kayla Frost. Traietti is leading all of Massachusetts Division 1 with 263 digs so far, and Hile ranks tenth in kills as well as in the top 20 for most blocks this season. Recently, after stepping into a new defensive position Walpole also named Frost player of the match for her play in Walpole's 3-0 victory against Weymouth.

Also stepping up as an essential key player is sophomore McKenzie Rae, a first year varsity setter. After having a very successful JV career as a freshman, Rae came into the season ready for a starting varsity position. She currently ranks third in Division 1 with 225 assists, and has been a consistently strong player helping to lead the Rebels to their victories.

"After losing three matches in a row, we realized that we really needed to step it up in order to make tournament," said Hile. "We became more focused and worked on playing as a team and that has definitely brought us more success."

During this six game win streak, Walpole has beaten North Attleboro, Dedham, Needham, Norwood, Natick and Weymouth, respectfully. Hile said that the wins against



Walpole Volleyball's three captains, seniors Natick and Needham have been the most important of the year so far. "Natick is always a tough team and beating them in three sets was a huge accomplishment for us. Needham was also a huge win because of their undefeated record. Winning these two matches gave us a boost of confidence and showed us that our hard work paid off," said Hile.

The only losses of the year were at the beginning of the season to Wellesley, Brookline and Milton.

Joining the varsity coaching staff this year with head coach Lisa Cyr and assistant coach Julie Rooney, Walpole High School math teacher Zachary Okolowicz became the head coach of the JV team, as well as the hitting instructor for the varsity squad.

Growing up, Okolowicz played vol-

leyball at Cranston High School in Cranston, Rhode Island, where he was captain for both his junior and senior seasons. Okolowicz also played for Assumption College, where he was the captain, president and coach of a competitive volleyball club team.

With his long history in the sport, Okolowicz said, "I've always been interested in coaching, but there weren't any chances to do so at my old school, so when the opportunity arose, I jumped on it immediately."

The experience of the ten returning varsity players, along with the talent of the five new underclassmen has created a positive new perspective for Rebel volleyball. The team hopes to carry on their winning streak in the second half of the season.