

# THE REBELLION

December 2012

Walpole High School

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Walpole, MA 02081

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## Rebel Cheerleading qualifies for National Championship

Photo/Midcoast Photo



*The Rebel Cheerleading team poses for a group picture.*

By Lauren Scanlon  
Class of 2013

The Walpole High School Cheerleading team made a statement at the Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators' Association State Tournament on Sunday, November 18th at Shrewsbury High School. The girls got a bid to the State Tournament on November 11th at the South Sectional Regional competition where they scored a 175.25, the highest score in Rebel Cheerleading history.

The required score is 160 points to move forward onto States and 160 points is also required to move on from States to Nationals. The Rebels competed in the second session of the day with all Division 2 and 3 teams that qualified at Regionals. There were 24 teams total in the second session and only 8 qualified for Nationals, the Walpole Rebels being one of them. In Division 2, Dracut, Reading, Woburn, Walpole, Hopkinton, and Milford were the only teams to qualify for Nationals. The girls scored a 165.25, placing 4th in the state behind Dracut, Reading, and Woburn. Although their scores dropped 10 points from the South Sectional Regionals the week prior, the girls still scored high enough to receive the bid to Nationals that they had hoped to obtain.

The National Championships take place during the winter season; therefore, the Walpole Winter Cheerleading team will be attending the Cheerleaders of America Ultimate Pure National Championship, held March 29-30 at the Gaylord Palms Orlando in Orlando, Florida. The winter season will be the same

athletes as the fall season for the most part despite a few girls having other commitments. Senior Captain Sam McChesney said, "This achievement shows that we are athletes and our bid to nationals has proven it. The cheerleading team is going further than all of the other male and female sports." With all other fall season sports coming to an end because of falling short in games or disappointing endings, the cheerleading team's season is extending longer than any other sport at Walpole High School. McChesney said, "We want to show our Rebel Pride throughout the nation. [The bid] has proven that we deserve more recognition than the minimal amount we have previously received."

This is the second time in school history that the Rebels have qualified for Nationals but this being the first time during a fall season. Last year, the varsity winter team went to Hartford, Connecticut and became National Champions. The girls are dreaming bigger this year and would like to continue their quest to become National Champions in Orlando, Florida. The team is going to have many fundraisers throughout the winter to raise the estimated \$15,000 needed for the trip.

McChesney said, "With our new all-star coaches helping us every step of the way, we were able to accomplish a routine that we would have never thought was possible before." Head Coach Courtney Doherty provided the girls this year with extra help from extremely talented and intelligent all-star coaches Sean Bibeau and Mikey Hamel both from Methuen, Mas-

sachusetts. All of the coaches pushed the girls hard and gave them the critiques that were needed, both of which were huge reasons why the team was quite successful this fall season. McChesney said, "Our jam packed, high skill level routine is what aided us in receiving our national bid in the fall and our team is packed with extremely talented athletes." The Rebel's elite partner stunt consisting of a ball-up followed by a switch-up to heel-stretch is the most skill packed stunt the Walpole Rebels have ever performed. With the new release move of flipping in the pyramid sequence recently legalized to perform this year, the team and coaches took advantage of that skill to boost their points. From a tumbling perspective, the skill level was very high. The routine consisted of half the team throwing round-off-tucks to open up the tumbling sequence followed by 10 high skilled specialty tumbling passes. McChesney said, "Qualifying in the fall gives us a chance to actually fundraise, unlike when we qualified in the winter of 2011 and could only afford to go to Connecticut Nationals." Fundraising will be a huge part of the girls winter season because they need all the help possible due to financial issues. The girls will be holding a "Drop and Shop" on the Fridays of 12/7, 12/14, and 12/21 for parents to drop their children off at Elm Street School with the team to play varieties of games and sports for \$20 while the parents go Christmas shopping. The Rebels will also hold an annual February cheerleading clinic over February vacation for any youth aspiring to be a cheerleader. Many other fundraisers will be done by the girls to bring in as much money as they can so the girls will be able to compete in the COA National Championships.

## Construction set for press box in honor of Coach Lee

Photo/FWCAC

By Jake Moser  
Class of 2013

Think back to the year 1980. Most people recall the Iranian hostage crisis, the brutal murder of John Lennon, or even the Miracle on Ice in the Winter Olympics; however, Walpolians had their attention fixed on the high school football team and their fearless head coach, John Lee. Even to this day, Walpole residents, both old and young, speak of John E. Lee and his herculean achievements. In his 25 years as coach at Walpole High School, "General Lee" boasted an unearthly record of 212-33-7, giving him an astounding winning percentage of .855, along with 11 BSL Championship titles, 1 State Championship, and 4 Super Bowl victories. Beyond that, what really separates Lee from the rest of history's successful coaches are the core values and work ethic that he instilled in all his players over the years, helping these young men prosper and succeed in college and the working world.

Hence, in honor of our town's famed football coach former players, the Walpole High School Gridiron Boosters, Friends of Walpole Community Athletic Complex (FWCAC), and other donors have begun a project to raise a structure in Coach Lee's name at Tur-

co Field. "Coach Lee is a legend in high school football," said Shannon Lesttan, one of the people in charge of the project. "He also instilled great values in the young men he coached and taught them to respect themselves, others, and the game itself."

The coalition plans on building a press box on the hill opposite the bleachers for in-game commentary and filming of the various sports teams that make use of John Turco Field at WHS. Although football boosters and former football players are spearheading the project, other sports teams—both at the high school level and youth level alike—will benefit from the structure. Not only will our town's fresh-



*The John E. Lee Press Box is set for construction in June 2013.*

man, junior varsity, and varsity football teams be able to make use of the John E. Lee Press Box, but also the teams for soccer, field hockey, lacrosse, and track can utilize the building during their own games as well. Also, there are numerous youth sports programs that will have the opportunity to utilize the press box too.

*continued on page 10*



# EDITORIALS

## What should Obama do next?

By Matt Brownsword  
Class of 2014

The election's over. Every number has been crunched—at least, I think Florida's done counting—and President Barack Obama has won, and no amount of Karl Rove and Grover Norquist complaining can change the result. The Democratic Party controls the Senate and the White House, and the Republican Party controls the House of Representatives.

CNN, being the pioneer of the future that it is, has already installed polls trying to gauge who the front-runners will be for the 2016 presidential election. Senator Marco Rubio and current Secretary of State Hillary Clinton were leading the Iowa pre-pre-pre-straw poll numbers for their respective parties.

No one doubts that the president has a tough job in getting America back to the level of economic prosperity, national security, and hope for the future that was achieved during the Clinton Administration. Now is as good a time as any to get the country back on track.

### Economic Recovery

The most asked question, and probably the one least answered by the government is: What is America going to do about it?

The answer, promoted ever since the election ended, is compromise. Republicans and Democrats have to combine their ideas into a well-thought-out, efficient plan for the short-term, as well as the long-term. Republicans, who have been supporting spending cuts from the federal budget, have to accept at least a tax increase—or even a cessation of various tax loopholes and deductions—that Democrats have supported, and vice versa.

People may scoff at the idea that history can tell us a lot about what to do—"It's a new day, a new age, times are different"—and they are right in a way. However, history is the only predecessor the American people can look towards to for guidance on how to fix a recession. Yes, Americans have to look at the recovery from the Great Depression, lead by former president Franklin D. Roosevelt, for guidance on how to fix this mess.

Roosevelt's New Deal policies were at the root of fixing the Great Depression; Herbert Hoover had sat idly by and thought that throwing government dollars at the problem only increased an entitlement sentiment felt by the lower class. However, Roosevelt believed that the only way for America to get going again was to raise them on the shoulders of the government. Roosevelt instituted various spending programs that put people to work, which cut back on the maldistribution of wealth that plagued the poorest of Americans, all through spending government dollars to raise the poor from the ditch that the Great Depression had created.

Sound familiar? The situations created by the Great Depression of the 1920s are eerily similar to the problems in America today—inequality in the distribution of wealth, a shrinking middle class, et cetera. However, the response has not been nearly the same, and why not?

The deficit is a huge problem: yes, America had gone to war prior to the Great Depression, but it was 15 years earlier, and the war debts had all been lumped on the shoulders of the Ger-



*President Barack Obama was reelected this past election, with even higher expectations in the rehabilitation of the economy.*

mans. Now we have other, continuous wars to blame such as the Iraq and Afghanistan War which have increased our military spending to enormously high rates, enlarging our deficit to an incredibly problematic level, which makes imitation of the New Deal policies tough.

The deficit at the time of the New Deal was raised roughly 250 billion dollars, an increase that in this day and age would be not be allowed. However, during the Iraq War, the government did not ask its constituents to pay a necessary, yet small increase in taxes. Instead, they took it straight from their own budget, largely increasing the deficit. With extra government revenue, and decreases in the federal government's spending budget—especially in defense—Obama can begin to institute New Deal policies to lessen the disparity of wealth and increase the size of the middle class. If people begin to spend more, it puts more money into the economy, generating higher profits for corporations and allowing them to put the people back to work. It is Economics 101, and it is high time to put it into action.

### Foreign Policy

A center piece of this whole discussion is foreign policy. The most important area in the world for the United States is the Middle East, no question about it. The US has to institute a strong, lasting, and beneficial foreign policy in order to straighten out the countries in the Middle East and decrease the violence occurring in that region.

One simple step is, again, right in the annals of history—tolerance. Although the Islam religion is not defined by the extremists that run terrorist groups like Al Qaeda and Hamas, the sentiment towards America felt by Muslims is usually the same—anger. Who can blame them? Building military bases outside of the two most purely religious Muslim places in the world—Mecca and Medina—was not exactly a well-thought out plan. American soldiers urinating on the Qaran in Afghanistan while religious fanatics inside the United States burn the Qaran? Not exactly going to help an already damaged reputation.

Americans, and countries around the world, need to learn from their own First Amendment to the Constitution—

the freedom of religion. It seems simple, almost too simple, and it seems as if most Americans allow Muslims to practice Islam; however, it is the extremists and the actions of said extremists that infringe this civil liberty. American religious extremists who speak out against the Muslim religion as a whole and talk about the eradication of the Muslim people as a whole are not too different from the Islamic extremist groups that are trying to eradicate American influence in the Middle East. Both are, in large part, not reflective of the feeling of the rest of the tenants of their respective religion, and both are not tolerating enough of each other's ideas. It was Voltaire who said famously, "I do not agree with what you have to say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." People have to respect the beliefs of other's; Americans must accept Islamic values, and vice versa.

Another major issue in the Middle East is Iran. Iran's prime minister, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has been egregiously aggressive towards Israel, saying that Iran will wipe Israel off the face of the Earth if it gains nuclear power.

Iran has shown signs of attempting to build nuclear bombs, and the United States' tie to Israel has created an anti-American sentiment to go along with the hatred of Israel. However, there is no real indication that Iran is anywhere close to the construction of a nuclear bomb, so the United States has to be careful. Iran knows that the world will not allow the nuclear bombs to be made. If the process continues, a keen eye will have to be placed on them, but the president should hesitate to make a military decision for the safety of our nation.

One of the most apparent conflicts today is in Syria, ruled by one of the cruelest regimes in the world, led by Bashar al-Assad. For months, the Syrian government has been bombing strongholds of the rebels, the people who oppose the Syrian regime, and the bombing has spilled over into Lebanon and Turkey. Obama has already supplied the rebels with American-made weapons, but the rebels have not succeeded much, other than a raid on the capital of Damascus. Obama can not hope to sit out for much longer, because

if the violence spills over Syria's borders into other, already problematic Middle East countries, the already thin fabric of the Middle East will be ripped apart. Obama should help the rebels when the time is right, through military operations on the ground and a restriction of airspace for Syrian war planes so that al-Assad can be ousted and Syria can become a democratic nation and not severely damage the structure of the Middle East.

Another foreign dispute, The Israel-Gaza conflict has ceased for now, after seven days of airstrikes littering the streets of Israel and Gaza. This conflict is only a product of the constant war that has ravaged the Middle East since the inception of Israel, and since the U.S. is a longstanding ally of Israel, we must help in their defense. However, Bebe Netanyahu, prime minister of Israel, has maintained that Israel has the right to defend themselves, and Obama has taken this stance for now; seemingly, it is a win-win, for Obama is supporting Israel while also not putting extra money that the US cannot afford to spend in the conflict.

### Hope for the Future

No one can argue that the American way of life has to be altered in order to emulate the success that Americans envision for the future. Education and energy policies, in particular, need to be altered in order for our country to move forward.

Domestically, the government needs to take a larger role in the fostering of education for the younger generation. Teachers need to be paid in the quantities that the important people in society are paid—doctors, lawyers, etc. Teachers are the instruments of learning for children, the teachers of future engineers, mathematicians, the pioneers of social reconstruction and improvement. Jobs like consulting, which have much smaller impact in the benefit of society, are paid at ridiculously higher levels. Federal and state governments have to put more emphasis on paying teachers higher rates in order to attract more professionals to the position.

Energy policy is huge issue for the future of America, and unfortunately it is an area that America trails behind other industrialized nations. Consider this: 97% of scientists agree on global warming—an alarming rate of agreement between all scientists—yet 26 % of Americans do not. Humankind is ripping a hole through the ozone layer and scientific evidence is extraordinary, massive, innumerable; however, 26% of Americans can not seem to accept it.

It all starts with acceptance. Once people can learn to accept the fact that mankind is responsible for the harm done to our planet, we can begin to protect it through legislation that prohibits the use of little things like plastic bags. Also, America should invest in resourcing clean energy in any way possible, not only to help the planet, but to decrease our dependence on foreign oil. America, with the largest economy in the world, should be a pioneer in bettering the world for future generations; however, we fall far behind.

Overall, America needs a lot of work: From domestic to international, from economic to social, from big to small, changes are needed. Hopefully this is the right president for the job, and when the 2016 election is upon us, the United States should be in much better shape than it is now.



# GOP ideologies need reform in a modern America

By Phil Reidy  
Class of 2013

Change. Hope. These words ring out in today's political arena. Barack Obama's campaign in 2008 was established on these words, and Mitt Romney offered Americans the promise of "Real Change"—a sleight at Obama's apparently ineffective four years as president in bringing about any progress for the nation. Republicans, however, have failed to recognize the desperate need for change in their own party. Change, quite frankly, is the only hope for the GOP (Grand Old Party) if they plan on running in 2016.

The America of 2012 is far different than it used to be. Incumbent Barack Obama organized an extremely successful grassroots campaign, mobilizing a growing African American and Latino population from the very beginning. The election of Wisconsin native Tammy Baldwin, an openly gay woman, to Senate this past election illustrates that things have changed and are changing, whether or not entrenched socially-conservative members of the GOP are willing to acknowledge it. History has shown that resisting change is a sure recipe for disaster. Unless the Grand Old becomes the brand new, Democratic candidates will continue to defeat Republicans in the primary in the same manner and margin as Barack Obama's powerful victory this past November.

## Social Issues

For some reason, the Republican party and its supporters have decided that social-conservatism and fiscal rationality are two ideologies that can be firmly interwoven in the party's platform without contradicting each other at all. Fiscal rationality and strengthening the private sector have no relation to barring homosexuals from marriage or interfering with a woman's ability to have control over her body. The party experienced in 2012 the degree of disconnection they had from the people's feelings, as well as simple reality. Insensitive comments about "illegitimate rape" from Todd Akin and others like it show a disturbing social backwardness that the GOP must identify and subsequently rid

itself of. The GOP are unattractive to a predominantly socially-liberal American populace, and continuing to prop these icons up as figureheads of the GOP's stance on these issues is going to destroy the image of the party and diminish its chances in future elections. For example, appealing to minority voters will not happen in the form of stricter immigration laws, nor is the image of wealthy and xenophobic white males a selling point. They need to acquire a proponent of rational and fair immigration reform, like the sort proposed by Republican senator Marco Rubio of Florida, who calls for comprehensive immigration reform, and believes that the GOP should favor a reasonable and a less rigid immigration program. He said, "What we really need to be is the pro-legal immigration party."

## The Economy

Romney's qualifications as a business man were certainly impressive, but his evaluation of 47% of Americans as "victims" was a major detriment to his campaign. The no-mercy philosophy of economics reflected in Romney's choice of words does not create a positive reaction in the American people. Romney's plan is a unrealistic panacea to the economic plunge our nation has taken. Republicans should be concerned more with reviving job growth, not with assuming that our most consistently impoverished areas and lost jobs are the result of laziness. But this doesn't mean just simply adding to a federal welfare system. Welfare has become a bloated system, unable to provide those who need it with a concrete solution to their financial troubles in the long run, and its rapid expansion as one of multiple entitlement programs is bleeding the federal government dry. Republicans, proponents of the private sector, already have an advantage over Democrats in this particular field. By lowering taxes on businesses while slowly peeling back federal welfare programs and providing tax-benefits for businesses that hire new workers, Republicans can realistically get Americans back to work. In regards to the national debt, Republicans have to realize that their support of expanding the military budget is as much to blame for the debt as is constantly expanding welfare programs.

## Foreign Policy

Obviously the security of the country is a number one concern for Republicans and citizens alike. Barack Obama's acknowledgment of how the definition of military strength has changed in the past 20 years was correct. Improving the armed forces with intelligence, not size, will put military funding where it needs to be and hopefully assuage the 16 trillion dollar debt. The U.S. must maintain a military force to protect itself and our trade interests abroad, and these fields alone are where we should devote our funds. But in all other aspects, the US should remain an undetected and precise hand in dealing with external threats. The Iraq and Afghanistan wars wasted lives and resources, and further intervention in foreign conflicts, as John McCain has called for in Syria's civil war, will continue to drain the United States of her strength as a nation. The GOP should work with Democrats in not expanding our conventional armed forces, but rather strengthening our nation's secret services and computer security — where our true national security threats lie in the modern day. Our relations in the international community are just as important today as they've ever been. Republicans will also have to prove that they can maintain positive relations with foreign powers through diplomacy and trade.

## Conclusion

The failure by the GOP to claim victory in the 2012 election may have been due to their selection of Romney as a candidate. His background as a corporate magnate and a Mormon were certainly uncommon traits amongst average Americans. But the problem is a broader one, pertaining to the GOP itself. The Republicans will have to look at their 2012 defeat to learn and adapt. Fiscal conservatism is not a dead concept, nor is it a bad idea when some of the current national predicaments are unemployment and massive debt. Getting Americans back to work and financially strengthening the average citizen is what the people and what both parties should be chiefly concerned with. Harping on outdated views didn't appeal to American voters this past election, and it certainly won't appeal to them in 2016.

# Higher tobacco age limit infringes on rights

By Amanda McManus  
Class of 2013

Some Walpolians may recall a few years back when the Walpole Board of Health banned the sale of tobacco in pharmacies. This included the local CVS, Big Y, Stop & Shop, and Walmart stores. It irked certain people who felt their right to choose whether they can smoke or not was being tinkered with and people worried what they would restrict next. Well, they weren't wrong in worrying. Two years have passed and the Board of Health is at it again, working to raise the age limit to buy tobacco from 18 to 21.

The man behind it this time around is Dr. Lester Hartman, a physician at Westwood-Mansfield Pediatrics, whom has asked Walpole and many other nearby towns to raise their tobacco age limits. These proposals strive to prevent children from developing an addiction to cigarettes during the prime period of time when smoking habits form—the teenage years. This is an agreeable observation—its not common to see someone 30 years of age picking up a pack of cigarettes for the first time. Its the 14, 15, and 16 year olds. So if we're talking about "children" here, how could changing the tobacco age limit from 18 to 21 affect kids who typically begin smoking at a younger age than 18 or 21 anyway? The local change would not even target the intended age group.

The legal age limit could be 18 or 21—kids will still hunt them down somehow especially if a true addiction has formed. Let's not forget that they can go a town over to buy cigarettes in Norwood or some place else. Nearly everyone in the world has defied the law in some minor way, especially teenagers, so it would be more effective to take a different approach, other than restricting their right to choose whether or not they want to smoke as a "legal adult" at the age of 18. Teens will most likely not abide by this law if

many of them don't abide by it currently. Instead of trying to control the people, the way to create a change is to inform them. All of the angsty little teenagers will want to defy the law anyway, and a raise in the age limit will probably only excite them even more. In most cases, its easy to argue that many kids start smoking because they think it's cool and it's what everybody else is doing. However cliché that may sound, it's what blatantly drives them to begin such a nasty habit. The community must make the children think this isn't what everybody else is doing and that it isn't cool. The Board of Health or any other volunteers in the community should focus on just how many people don't smoke, or maybe even make the teenagers smoking feel alienated, as if it's uncommon. They surely won't want to conform any longer.

Whether or not the community wants to take that approach, it's more effective than trying to influence the right to choose whether or not someone wants to smoke cigarettes. It harms no one except the smoker, especially with the second-hand smoke laws in place; therefore, they should have the right to decide if they want to destroy their body. It may sound a little ridiculous, but that right should not be inflicted upon by others unless it is

harmful to the community. Controlling people's deserved rights only angers them.

Not only will the change be unfair, but also local police will have to enforce these laws. Anyone who is 18, 19, or 20 is clearly not going to stop smoking if the law is implemented, and would be at risk of getting in trouble for smoking when they would not have before. Think of how ridiculous that sounds—20 year old adults who are not allowed to smoke in Walpole.

On January 8th they will be holding a public hearing for the age limit change. The public will most likely not react positively to the proposal. The Board of Health's mission is to promote good

public health, not to restrict the rights of people who the federal system has granted permission to smoke. What's next, restricting the right to buy junk food?

Smoking is obviously unhealthy, but so are a lot of things. If the Board of Health thinks that they can prevent smoking at an early age, they are mistaken, especially by doing it with these laws.

Even the Board is divided on the issue, some believing that the law isn't going to change anything. If the law does pass, the community and the Board will quickly learn that it will not bring any of their desired results.

# THE REBELLION

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

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is pleased to present

The Walpole High School Students and Class of the Month

SEPTEMBER

**Junior**

**Matthew Brownsword**

**Spanish IV**

Matt has made a strong contribution to our Spanish 4-Honors class in this first month of school. He is ALWAYS volunteering and seems to enjoy communicating in the foreign language. He is very creative with his use of the language and is a conscientious student who completes all his work. I usually do not nominate students for Student of The Month this early in the year but if anyone deserves this honor this early in the year, it is Matt Brownsword.

Mrs. Kate Bacon

**Junior**

**Kenneth Trotman**

**English**

**Freshman**

**Kevin Xia**

**Pre-Calculus**

OCTOBER

**Senior**

**Michael Habib**

**French V**

Michael comes prepared to class every day, no matter what. He has never missed a homework assignment, nor been unprepared for class discussions. When he comes to class, he sports a wonderful infectious smile. He always speaks French with me, both in and out of the classroom. Moreover, he speaks French in the classroom with his classmates. He is incredibly conscientious about his work and his attitude. I can always count on Michael to question unclear items during my lesson in a thoughtful and respectful manner. He does this not only for his own edification, but also to help his classmates. Indeed, I often see his classmates ask him to explain things if I am not available. He is just a formidable learner, and my dream student.

Mrs. Liz Pierce

**Senior**

**Andrea Lee**

**Honors Calculus**

**Junior**

**Deirdre Bindas**

**Drafting**

**Junior**

**Michael Van Der Linden**

**AP Calculus**

ACTIVITY AWARD

No student was nominated for September’s Activity Award.

**German Exchange Program**

It is very hard to have a stranger stay in your home for three weeks. It is even harder to have that stranger follow you everywhere you go for three weeks. I applaud the American students who hosted Germans this year. They showed their guests the best of Americans. They were hospitable, generous, happy and enthusiastic to a fault. At the airport, the Germans cried because their American students had become so important to them. It takes special people to participate in an exchange of this caliber, and this particular group exceeded my wildest expectations.

Mrs. Elizabeth Pierce

**Mrs. Milne**  
**Pre-Calculus Period 6**

This class is a highly motivated, conscientious group of students. As a group, they showed excellent mastery of the sine and cosine graphs, performing well on an assessment which tested their ability to write equations from graphs and sketch graphs from equations. Students are diligent about doing their homework and taking care of any make-up work due to absence. This class is a pleasure to teach.

**Mrs. Pierce**  
**German II Period 7**

This is an energetic, positive group. We have a lot of fun while speaking only German in class. These students are always prepared for the day’s activities and never groan about any work I may give them. They show me everyday that they like learning and like learning German. They energize me and I look forward to seeing their happy faces every period 7.



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# Coffee House showcases Walpole High student talent

Photos/ Montana Gulbrand



Seniors Brandon Chin and Evan Parsons perform in the media center.

By Andrea Lee  
Class of 2012

Walpole High students have a lot more talent that they are not always able to display on a daily basis as they might with academics and athletics. Some of these talents include the ability to sing, play an instrument, and perform. On Monday, November 5th, these students got the chance to show their skills in a very relaxed setting during an event known as the Coffee House.

On Monday night, students filtered into the Walpole High Media Center to watch their friends and peers perform. Past Coffee Houses were held in the cafeteria, but Mr. Hahn and Caleb Cofsky, both of whom ran the event, changed the location to make the setting more intimate and to have better acoustics.

While there were chairs set up, many people ended up standing, whether behind the chairs or near the door, or sitting on the ground. Before the performances, the participants practiced around the library. Snacks and, of course, coffee were available for all to enjoy. After guests were settled, Mr. Hahn introduced the first act: Seniors Ali Ajemian and Becky Chariton performing Taylor Swift's hit "We Are Never Getting Back Together." The duo proved to be a crowd favorite. Ajemian played guitar and spoke certain parts of the song, getting laughs from the audience, while

Chariton sang the popular tune. After applause, the two took a seat as they prepared for a later performance.

Afterwards, a first time performer, junior Jenna Donahue, took the seat and played guitar while singing as well. By this time, the library was packed with people watching the students. Donahue performed "Give Me Love" by Ed Sheeran, providing a very well executed first performance. After she finished, Mr. Hahn pointed out that people had made signs for Donahue in the back of the library; she had a lot of support for what was probably a nerve wracking performance.

Cofsky took the microphone afterwards as he multitasked with both guitar and vocals. Cofsky's voice has been heard before at Walpole High; not only did he work on music for the Film Festival, but he performed at Mr. WHS too. Cofsky once again proved to be a crowd pleaser as he sang "Suite: Judy Blue Eyes," a seven minute song by Crosby, Stills & Nash.

The next performance was juniors Andrew and Brian Hazerjian and Jimmy Martin with Mike Griffin on the tambourine. Andrew sang and played bass along with the other guitar players to provide a very catchy, upbeat performance of "No Rain" by Blind Melon.

Maria Earabino is another popular singer known at Walpole High for both her YouTube channel and her consistent placing in the Battle of



Senior Isabella Caraccioli sings and plays guitar at the Coffee House.

the Bands contests at Adams Farm Field Days. Earabino performed an original song called "City Lights" and played guitar along with vocals, continuing to impress her listeners.

Junior Nikki Mich and Sophomore Kayla McBrien were also stand out performers at the Coffee House. McBrien sang and played guitar with Mich's vocals as they sang "The Last Time" by Taylor Swift. Their performance featured a lot of great harmonies, and they earned one of the loudest applauses of the night. Junior Doug Stewart said about the night overall, "I never realized how talented my fellow students were."

Senior Isabella Caraccioli came on afterwards with both vocals and guitar of "If I Ain't Got You" by Alicia Keys. After impressing the crowd with her soulful voice, she performed again alongside Martin on guitar and Griffin on tambourine with "Whole Lotta Love" by Led Zeppelin.

Chariton, Ajemian, Cofsky, McBrien and Mich joined forces again along with Andrew Hazerjian to perform "Blood Brothers" by Ingrid Michaelson, the song they entered into the We Are All Blood Brothers contest. The four singers (Chariton, Cofsky, McBrien and Mich) each had different verses and came together on the chorus with great harmonies. Ajemian played the guitar while Hazerjian was on piano to create a well rounded performance.

Another first time performer came on afterwards: freshman Jenny Salvant, who sang "I'm Yours" by Jason Mraz with McBrien coming on again to play guitar and sing with her. "I like performing for people mostly because it's fun for me, but the coffee house is a good way to promote all of the local musicians in Walpole who should have more fans," said McBrien.

Freshman Angela Pyne was the last girl performer of the night; she sang "Treacherous" by Taylor Swift with her guitar. Being only a freshman, her confident presence and powerful voice were impressive.

The last performance of the night was of seniors Brandon Chin and Evan Parsons who both sang and played guitar. The duo ended the night on a high note with an upbeat performance of "How Far We've Come" by Matchbox 20. And with that, the first Coffee House of this year was over.

The event overall proved to be not only very successful but also a significant improvement from last year: "That's probably the most people we've ever had," said Cofsky. Performers and guests alike enjoyed the night as they got to showcase both their undeniable talent and listen to good music. There are going to be more Coffee Houses this year in the winter and the spring to give students another chance to perform in front of their peers in a very relaxed way.

## Walpole Rebel Football Team gets a hair cut: Team raises \$13,000 for St. Baldrick's

By Daniel Aldridge  
Class of 2014

For the third year in a row the Walpole High School Football team participated in the St. Baldrick's event, a fundraiser for children's cancer. The popular program took place on Saturday, November 17, yet again giving players the opportunity to help raise money to give back to those in need, right in time for the Thanksgiving season.

This year the Rebels raised \$12,270 with senior Cam Hanley and junior Kyle Raftery both raising over \$1,400. Along with raising money to help cancer research for children, the event is also known for having the participants shave their heads. Many players grew out their hair for several weeks or months leading up to St. Baldrick's only to watch it all fall off in the span of minutes.

The event kicked off with Kevin Sullivan (a former Walpole High School graduate and football player) thanking all who helped raise money and all who came to help organize the shaving. After, Mr. Kung, (Junior Rebels player Noah Kung's father) who is an orthopedic oncologist, gave a speech to all in attendance telling them about the work he has done and how every dollar donated helps



Junior Aidain Moore gets his head shaved for a good cause.

doctors work toward a cure for childhood cancer.

Mr. Kung specifically gave a speech about one boy that he treated and how at only 17, the boy was di-

Photo/Bryan Kelleher

agnosed with cancer. However, they were able to fight and defeat the cancer using arsenic, which previously was looked at only as rat poisoning. After, Mr. Kung's touching speech, the boys lined up in order of grades to get their heads shaved and the fun ensued.

First up to get their heads shaved were the three top fundraisers: senior Hanley and juniors Raftery and Jake Ciavattone. Raftery, who arguably had the longest hair on the team, was sad to see his hair go but he knew it was for a good cause. Raftery said, "I had the longest hair here and I was thinking, 'Wow, I'm going to be cold. I'm going to be freezing.' My hair has been so long forever and it always keeps my head warm. It was going through my head, but I knew it was for a good cause so I had no problem."

Head coach Barry Greener was very proud of his team and its dedication to the St. Baldrick's program and went on to say, "Every kid on the team did something, 100 percent participation." While the team has now successfully raised money from each of the last three years for the event (totaling \$36,895). Junior Connor Moriarty believes the team spirit is far from over. He said, "When next year rolls around we will definitely be ready to fundraise and hopefully beat the amount that we raised this year."



# High Walpole turnout favors Conservative ticket

By Deirdra Chapman  
Class of 2013

Despite the results of the 2012 Presidential Election and the Massachusetts Senate — with both Democratic candidates taking the win — the majority of Walpole residents voted for the Mitt Romney/Paul Ryan duo as well as the incumbent Republican senator, Scott Brown.

As for the 3 statewide questions on the ballot, Walpole residents voted yes for questions 1 and 3, and voted no for question 2—exactly the same as the overall state results.

The voter turnout was relatively high this election, with over 80 per cent of the town heading out to the polls. About 53 percent (7,456 votes) of the voter population voted for the Republican Presidential candidate, Mitt Romney. The Obama supporters were not too far behind this number — 6,360 votes supported the newly reelected president. For the two senatorial candidates, an overwhelming amount of Walpolians put their vote in for Scott Brown while only 36 per cent voted for the overall winner, Elizabeth Warren.

For being one of the more conservative towns in Massachusetts, many Walpole voters saw Romney and Brown as the more favorable candidates — with almost 9,000 votes going for Brown and almost 8,000 going for Romney. Many of the young voters, especially a handful of high school seniors, were excited to vote in this monumental election. For many, this was their first experience at the polls.

Senior at Walpole High, Krissy Jankowski said, “I voted for Scott Brown because he's bipartisan unlike Elizabeth Warren.”

Another conservative senior, Jen McDonald voted for Mitt Romney because she said, “Obama dwells too much on the middle class and minorities. They need to be addressed, but not to that extent. Romney could present a new fresh opinion to the economy.”

While many young voters tend to vote the same as their parents, others do not.

Another first-time voter, Frankie Nardelli said, “I voted for Obama even though my parents and most of the town voted Romney. I think Obama doesn't get enough credit for what he did the past four years.”

Even though her candidate lost, Jankowski added “Although Romney wasn't elected for president I'm not too disappointed because I think Obama will still do the best

he can and I honestly think he can only go up from here.”

Question 1, the Right to Repair, was voted yes by a vast majority of people-88 per cent voted yes, while a mere 12 per cent voted no.

The new law requires automakers to provide independent repair shops as well as dealers with easy access to the computer codes needed to diagnose complex car problems for young voters. The popular argument behind the law is that it is typically easier for citizens to go to a near-by mechanic instead of the original dealership for car problems.

First time voter Amber Walsh said, “I voted yes on [Question 1]. I don't have much reasoning other than that I support local auto body shops and would like to see them prosper.” Question 1 had the biggest gap between yes votes (10,868) and no votes (1,498) out of all the ballot questions.

As predicted Question 2, Physician Assisted Suicide, was the most controversial question of them all. It was the only one voted down by Walpolians, and ultimately by the entire state as well. The law was voted down by 55 percent of this town's voter population; 44 per cent voted yes for the “Death with Dignity” to pass.

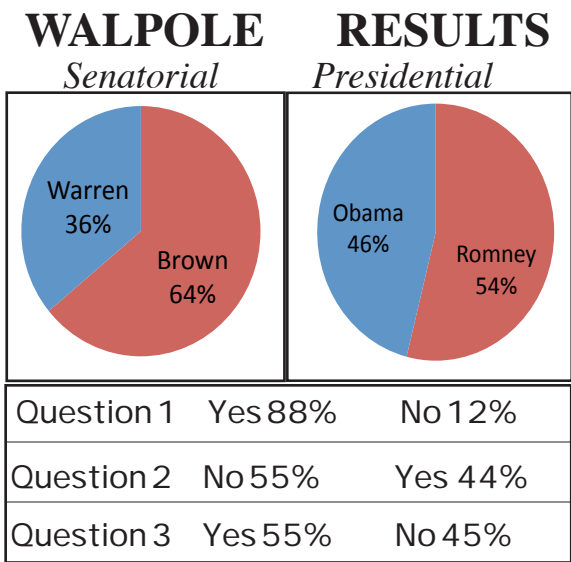
Religious beliefs tended to strongly oppose this law for many devout Christians believe that God should dictate when one dies. McDonald said, “I voted no on assisted suicide, for both my religious beliefs and for the reason that sometimes doctors are wrong, sometimes your body can fight longer then expected.”

Personal experiences could easily sway a person's vote for this question as well. For many, it wasn't religious beliefs that made them vote no, it was the way the proposed law was written. The circumstances around the lethal medication raised confusion and questions among Massachusetts's voters.

Walsh said, “Although I am religious, I tend to be pretty socially liberal, but I had to vote no on this one because I did not like the way the policy was written.”

For the 44 per cent who voted yes for Question 2, their main argument is for people to have the right to choose when they die if they are of course terminally ill and meet all the criteria. Nardelli said, “I didn't really know much about it, but I think if someone is terminally ill in a hospital and has only a few months to live they should be able to end their suffering earlier than intended.”

Considering the confusion over the is-



sue, this will most likely be brought up again.

The 3rd Question regarding Medical Marijuana passed, like Question 1, by Walpole voters. In Walpole, 55 per cent voted yes for the use of this drug medically, where 45 per cent voted no.

Another controversial question, Medical Marijuana was ultimately passed by the majority of Massachusetts's voters as a whole. The measure was proposed by petition and called patients to possess up to a 60-day supply of marijuana for personal medical use if they met specific qualifications.

Walpole High senior Mary Cuddy said, “I voted yes because it really can help people ease and forget about their pain.” Many supporters of the law know Marijuana is not a risk free drug, but see it as far less harmful than other drugs like alcohol and tobacco.

Walpolians who voted no on Question 3 think the risks outweigh the benefits in some cases. For someone who voted no on this question, Jankowski said "I don't think there's anything wrong with the way our laws were before. Regardless of the precautions we take I think it could cause a lot of damage.”

Even though many Walpole voters might not have gotten the results they hoped for in terms of candidates, the voter turnout for the 2012 Presidential Election was very high, and many young voters were eager to get registered and educated about the issues on hand so they could share their opinions when they arrived at the polls.

## Local Walpolians reflect on 2012 election results

By Phil Reidy  
Class of 2013

Since 1972, Massachusetts has almost always voted Democrat, breaking its record only two times: In 1980 and '84, Massachusetts added even more fuel to Ronald Reagan's massive victories against Jimmy Carter and Walter Mondale, respectively. Apart from Reagan's victories, Democratic candidates can usually rely on the Bay State.

For a long time however, our town of Walpole has remained an oasis for Republican candidates looking to exert at least some influence in Massachusetts.

Found in Norfolk, the richest county in the state (28th in the country for highest annual income), Walpole's conservative voting history doesn't seem like too much of an anomaly in a town where some of the nation's wealthiest reside. This year was no different.

Romney carried Walpole with an even greater percentage than McCain did in 2008. However, Romney fell short of his needed 270 electoral college votes on the national level. Notable political commentators around town, some conservative, some liberal, reacted differently to the results of the 2012 election, an over-arching theme being that the weakness found in candidate Romney and the GOP - not the strength of incumbent Barack Obama - was the reason for Democratic victory and Republican defeat.

Andrew Bacevich, professor of Inter-

national Relations at Boston University, frequent contributor to Boston.com and the Boston Globe, as well as the author of such works as The Limits of Power: The End of American Exceptionalism, found that Romney's failure was due to his being, as Bacevich termed it, "a weak candidate." Like most voters in this year's election, Bacevich knew that "economic issues predominated for very understandable reasons." He said, "[Obama], running for re-election with a 7.9% unemployment rate and a string of trillion dollar deficits, ought to have been very vulnerable." But even still, Romney's qualifications as a successful businessman and his understanding of private sector economics still failed to win over Bacevich, a fiscal conservative. "I voted for Obama," said Bacevich, "as the lesser of two evils. Given the fact that the country has been at war for more than a decade, it's actually quite striking how little foreign policy mattered [to voters] in the election. Romney came across as too bellicose for my tastes, so I'm hopeful that the outcome will produce marginally positive effects."

For Bacevich, an expert in the field of International Relations, his concern about Romney's ability to tackle foreign policy was a major concern and a contributing factor in his decision to vote for President Obama.

Other observers of this year's election see major flaws in the fundamentals of Romney as a can-

didate and the party backing him.

Sam Obar, the fiscally-conservative voice behind his blog Sam Obar 180, was himself unimpressed with Romney as a candidate. "This was a bad year for Republicans" said Obar, "in part because Mitt Romney was such a lackluster candidate. People just weren't enthusiastic about the GOP, their message, or many of their candidates. They have a major brand problem." Obar also said that he did not vote for Romney, but for third-party libertarian candidate Gary Johnson.

"I voted for Gary Johnson," said Obar, "because I thought Mitt Romney was a panderer who had a pretty unimpressive tenure as governor." Similar to Bacevich's criticism of the Romney campaign, Obar said, "With the economy so bad and so many things going wrong for Obama, the president could have been kicked out, but the Republicans really blew it."

Christopher Jean, a teacher of International Relations, believes that Romney's loss this year had a combination of causes. "Traditional trends in American politics are changing," said Jean, "the Tea Party has been rebuked. Republicans were unable to anticipate that wealthy, propertied whites would not be the only factor in winning them the election."

Many saw the nation's changes this year as a clear indicator of a changing nation. Jean said, "It's bigger than just Obama vs. Romney. This year's election, and not just the presidential

one, showed that African Americans and Latinos, are becoming part of a nation where the system can begin to work for them. People see that the opportunity for success in this nation shouldn't fall in the hands of a few established groups. The legalizing of marijuana and the election of openly gay people to public office show one obvious fact: Our nation is changing."

Jean, a self-described "true liberal", voted for Jill Stein. "People need to get real about global warming. The science has been around for years" said Jean, "It wasn't even seriously discussed in this year's election. We need to broaden the conversation to talk about something that is very dangerous if it gets out of control."

Whether or not the Republican party will return in 2016 in shambles or having successfully arisen from their 2012 defeat, there is a definite awareness amongst Americans as to the change our country has undergone. Every generation has always seen its inheritors as a lost group. If anything, we look on our children as having an uncertain fate, especially in times of revolutionary change.

The brave new world of Youtube, drone-missiles, the god-particle, and a changing country all present an unsettling image to those still caught in the world of yesterday. As John F. Kennedy said, "Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans."



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# Hypnotist Jerry Spinnato captivates WHS students with laughs

By Karalyn Kickham  
Class of 2014

The annual Hypnotist Show is one of Walpole High School's most popular events. Every year, several members of the senior class volunteer to be put under hypnosis and to be laughed at by their peers for the duration of the night. On November 29, Student Council hosted the show with the return of hypnotist Jim Spinnato. 14 seniors were hypnotized, including Eric Jansen, Nolan Murray, Tom Demarais, David Driscoll, Molly Breen, Hannah Romaine, Becky Chariton, Jen McDonald, Michelle Baldwin, Richie Breen, PJ Hayes, Tom McGourty, Emily Muller, and Sarah Bryce.

Spinnato started the show by inviting any seniors interested in being hypnotized to the front of the auditorium where he tested them to see if they could be hypnotized, and then invited them to the stage. The first act of the night was Spinnato telling the hypnotized volunteers that whenever he said the word "microphone," they would believe that the person next to them smelled irresistible. This resulted in Romaine, Chariton, and McDonald on top of each other trying to get more of the scent. Baldwin and Richie Breen also got close to smell each other, until Spinnato informed them that the smell was now repulsive, and some students almost left the stage while still under hypnosis to get as far away from the bad scent as they could.

One of the funnier acts of the night was when Spinnato assigned different tasks to the boys and the girls. Each girl thought her last name was hysterical whenever she tried to say it herself, but whenever Spinnato



Seniors Hannah Romaine, Becky Chariton, Jen McDonald, Michelle Baldwin, and Richie Breen laugh hysterically while under hypnosis.

said her last name she got angry and yelled at him for making it sound weird. The boys, on the other hand, got emotional while answering questions Spinnato asked them about goals for their futures and college. Murray began to cry while telling the audience how much he would miss his mom.

The stars of the show, Richie Breen and Nolan Murray, were then given instructions to perform different tasks. Richie Breen was instructed to search for an audience member's missing dog, Fluffy. Richie walked around the auditorium screaming "Fluffy!" in a loud high-pitched voice. He did not stop until Spinnato told him that he found Fluffy. While Richie was searching for Fluffy, Murray was given a water gun that would not squirt when he pointed it at the audience, but sprayed every time he pointed it at his face.

Baldwin then believed that she could use "hypnodust" to hypnotize the other volunteers and make them fall asleep. Next, Spinnato told the volunteers

that they were ordering at McDonald's. One of the funniest orders came from Jen McDonald, who said, "I'll have a happy meal. With the girl toy."

One of the most entertaining parts of the show was when Spinnato told the volunteers that they saw the hottest celebrity in the audience, but it was really just a student watching the show. Chariton got to meet Justin Bieber in the form of senior Kaitlyn Lanchester and Jansen met Jennifer Lopez in the form of sophomore Stephanie Lund. The funniest encounter was when Murray met Victoria Justice in the form of sophomore Kody McCann. McCann wrote Victoria's signature on Murray's back, and when Spinnato said Murray could give Victoria a kiss on the cheek, Murray politely said, "That's only for the second date."

For the final portion of the show, Spinnato assigned each volunteer a certain song, and when they heard the song play they did a specific task. Driscoll rocked out to Carly Rae Jepsen's hit single "Call Me Maybe," followed by

Bryce and Muller believing they were female body builders. McDonald and Baldwin strutted around the auditorium believing that they were supermodels. Jansen danced along to PSY's "Gangnam Style," and then Chariton rapped in a made-up language. Chariton later said, "I can honestly say I don't remember anything. I heard I did some hard-core rapping, which I'm absolutely proud of." Romaine danced around the auditorium under the impression that she was auditioning to be Jennifer Lopez's backup dancer. Molly Breen did a disco dance, followed by Richie Breen's slightly disturbing dance as a belly dancer. Murray galloped around the auditorium yelling "Who's your daddy?" and McGourty tried to dance like

Michael Jackson. The show ended with all the volunteers dancing to "YMCA."

After the show, Romaine said, "I was hypnotized. It was weird and it was like my body and my eyes felt heavy and numb. At the time you kind of know what you're doing but you can't stop, and then after everything is blurry. It was so weird, but so much fun." McCann, who was mistaken for Victoria Justice, said, "It was really weird because I don't know (Murray). I've never talked to him before and he thought he knew me and that I was Victoria Justice." Although it was obvious that most of the volunteers were actually hypnotized, some have been accused of faking the entire thing. McGourty admitted, "I was faking the whole time. I think Dave (Driscoll) was too, but I think everyone else was really hypnotized." Hypnotized or not, the senior class put on an extremely entertaining show leaving the underclassmen excited for Spinnato to return next year.

## Walpole High students read original writing at annual Poetry Reading



Senior Allison McGourty reads her snow globe poem.

By Andrea Lee  
Class of 2013

Radio commercials, bullying, bubbles, hate, and AP Calculus—these were just a few of the plethora of topics that students wrote poems about to perform at the Poetry Reading. This year's Reading, an annual event that is coordinated by Mr. Michael Alan, proved to be very successful as parents, students, and alumni alike filled the Starbucks inside Barnes and Noble on November 19th. Those in attendance listened to their classmates read their original poetry, which varied from fun and carefree to sad and emotional, in the relaxed setting of the coffee shop.

Music welcomed the guests as an opening to the poetry reading; senior Isabella Caraccioli performed a set and, afterwards, so did senior Caleb Cofsky and junior Andrew Hazerjian. The music not only was entertaining for all attending but added to the calm atmosphere. Afterwards, Mrs. Ann Marie Kennedy and Mr. Alan introduced the night, noting the amount of students in the Creative Writing class that were going to be reading poetry, along with other students who did not take the class but wanted to participate with their original writing.

Some of the poets chose to write about happier subjects that created light, entertaining writing pieces. Junior Leslie Hill's first poem was about the joy of popping bubbles as she reflected on the fun of youth and growing up. Fellow junior Valerie Lancy read her poem about falling in love with her best friend, and her optimism was apparent in her voice. Another poet, junior Meg Driscoll, read a poem that she wrote about her sister, which proved to be a crowd pleaser. Senior Keiko Ivinson, who played a prominent role in helping organize the event along with Alan, read a poem about the wonders of art in the world. "It was a lot of fun," said Ivinson. "It was a great experience and I'm really

glad that Mr. Alan gave not only the creative writing students, but all the students at WHS the opportunity to be able to express ourselves through poetry."

The funniest poems or poets that got the most laughs from the crowd were seniors Daria Grady, Jungbin Lim, and John Montaquila. Grady engaged the audience by talking about her experience with a horrible car radio commercial—1-877-KARS-4-KIDS. Lim read a poem about AP Calculus, comparing the class to being sailors "cruising through the maelstrom of drowsiness." Seniors in the audience, particularly those who understood the experience by being in the same class, laughed throughout the reading at the comic poem. Montaquila was the last poet of the night; even though some of his poems were serious, his personality itself during the introductions of the poems was enough to get the audience laughing and enjoying his work; he was noted by Alan as a crowd favorite.

Not all of the poems were this carefree; a majority of the readers wrote about very sad or dark experiences and thoughts. Junior Genevieve Canavan followed this path as she read a poem about a bully victim that eventually took his life, and Junior Gracie Nelson talked about her experience of moving as a child.



Senior Jungbin Lim reads his humorous poem to the crowd.

Some of the most emotional poems were about family members. Senior Rick Sgalia read a very detailed poem recounting the experience of visiting his mother in the hospital. Another senior, Alison McGourty, got a strong applause from the audience after her poem about the snow globe her grandfather gave her. Junior Alexa Demarco read several poems, but the most impactful was about her relationship with her mother, which was the most emotional reading of the night.

Another junior, Mackenzie Wilson, shocked the crowd with her poem titled "Miss Perfect;" after talking about the fake girl, she ended with the memorable line, "Enjoy your life, Shrew."

Senior Bobby Rose was another crowd pleaser with his poem about hate; he was noticed by Alan as a particularly well done performance.

With more than 30 poems read, the night was a tremendous success and very entertaining. The only disappointment was the absence of known crowd pleaser and junior Adam Finkle; otherwise, the Poetry Reading was a very enjoyable night for students, parents, and even the alumni that came to support the poets. "It's a very collected group of poets this year," said Alan. "I thought that they all did very well."



# Sprechen sie Deutsch?

## The 2012-2013 German Exchange Experience

By Phil Reidy  
Class of 2013

The typical American family vacations domestically, whether it be the droves who search out more temperate climates to escape the cold that accompanies the holiday season, or the Americana-pilgrims who trek to see the significant sites the nation contains. The Grand Canyon in Arizona, the bustling cultural and financial hub of New York, the capital in Washington and its many monuments and government buildings; all provide the American vacationer with an expanded view of their nation's culture and history.

But in a world where the previously scrutinized importance of national identity seems to be in decline, the American vacationer can no longer avoid a coming obligation to understand not only the vast diversity of their own nation, but the world as a whole.

Exchange programs, like the programs Walpole High School provides, have allowed students to experience foreign culture on a level their parents are probably quite foreign to themselves. China, France, Germany and Costa Rica are among the many nations Walpole High sends students to for cultural enrichment and perfection of their speaking ability in the local tongue.

Recently, Walpole High participated in its biannual German exchange, hosting students from the small town of Ingelheim, located in southwest Germany just south of Mainz. It began in Logan Airport, on a serene October day. A group of American students stood awkwardly shuffling as the plane arrived in the mid-afternoon. I myself was among the American students anxiously awaiting their exchange partner, unsure of what to expect.

We all stood, laughing and joking about our expectations of the exchange. We barely knew each other, let alone the German students who were about to arrive in less than ten minutes. Drove of tourists and people on business flew out of the terminal, toting suitcases and wheel-along coach bags. Valets stood holding signs with names. The outcries of joy as friends and family reunited sounded throughout, but still we waited. Finally, a large group of teenagers poured out all at once. Frau Weber, a familiar face from the previous exchange, stood at the vanguard of the group. Behind her, our guests for the next three weeks followed.

Their fashion was notably different. Scarves, usually unseen at Walpole High, especially by boys, were worn by almost all of the exchange students. Their clothing was all around well composed and stylish. Some were quite short, some intimidatingly tall. The difference in culture was illustrated by our conflicting physical appearances. Most of the Walpole High students were clad in sweat pants or jeans, displaying a more casual approach to style on this particular day. To us, their nationality wasn't the only foreign aspect of the group. Amongst the group,



Photo/Phil Reidy

The German and Walpole students pose for a picture at Logan Airport.

a few towering students loomed above the rest.

One of these was my exchange partner Daniel. Daniel and I had arranged to participate as exchange partners because his sister had been on the previous exchange and became a good friend of mine. We had communicated via Facebook, posted comical links and even tried to Skype (unsuccessfully), but still the first meeting was awkward. We shared pleasantries and began to strike up a brief conversation, only to be broken up by Mrs. Pierce, the American organizer of the exchange and the German teacher at Walpole High, gathering all of the students to get together for a group picture.

We departed from the airport and made our way back to the house. We talked about our daily lives and interests in America and I asked him about his in Germany. Daniel's father is the Co-Editor in Chief of the National German News Network and an expert on terrorism, a topic that peaked our interest because of its relevance in America today. He described his interests in mathematics and computer science, as well as politics and history. He was aware of the pending election, and shared his views about the political goings-on in America, declaring himself an Obama supporter, much to the disdain of my father, a fiscal conservative. The political differences would create interesting conversation, or rather fervent debate, later on. I knew of the Eurozone crisis and Germany's important role in trying to soothe it. I was familiar with Angela Merkel and some of the political goings on in Europe. Both parties were surprisingly well-informed on the other's political atmosphere.

The first day was rather unremarkable. There were tours of the house and gift giving, but it was mainly a time to discuss places we intended to visit and to get an idea of what Daniel liked to eat.

School was another story. Practically every student who crossed my path acted like an anti-body, immediately sensing the foreign presence and staring at him as he walked by. School was constantly in a rush.

In Germany, lunch is a 45 minute block where students may leave and go elsewhere to eat. Class numbers vary day to day, requiring the student to stay later or even ending their day in the late morning. Daniel was unfamiliar with the militant precision of the five minute intervals between classes, or the 25 minutes we had to eat. The PLC Tuesdays threw him off, just as he seemed to be understanding the weekly and daily schedules.

Teachers politely introduced the exchange students to the rest of the class upon meeting them. Daniel loved Mr. Jean's International Relations class, for not only for the diverse array of topics covered in class but the unorthodox method in which Mr. Jean teaches his courses, using a vast arsenal of humorous ways in which to teach the subject matter.

Days in the exchange went by in a similar manner to the first, going unchanged but briefly interrupted by the Germans heading off to New York for a week. Towards the end of the exchange however, I noticed that a change had taken place. "It seemed like all of a sudden, I was joking and getting along with my German student better than ever. I didn't even notice, but it seemed like we were really good friends, rather than just exchange partners," said senior Laura Drinan, another American student who participated in the exchange.

Laura, like myself, participated in the previous exchange. "In the first exchange, I remember thinking, this is going to be really awkward, and I just thought it would be like that the entire time. Surprisingly, it wasn't like that. We ended up getting along really well. I felt like I understood more about where she was coming from, and she understood me too."

The exchange really opened my eyes, and I made a friend in the process. It was great." And it was just as enlightening and enjoyable the second time around as well. Daniel got to see historic Boston, the aquarium, and even a few sports events. All the while, Daniel and I discussed things of mutual interest, mostly Morgan Freeman's "Through the Wormhole" and the then-undecided election. We joked and got along swimmingly, for lack of a better term.

And so, as the three week exchange drew to a close, I began to see that not only were we finding out more about each others country, but we were finding out more about these kids we exchanged with. The "foreign" aspect of their nationality and fashion so noticeable upon our first impression wasn't present in their character as human beings. Walls between us were broken down just like when the Berlin Wall came crumbling under David Hasselhoff's victory dance in November of 1989. The exchanges true meaning presented itself to me, and now the trip over to the deutsche Stadt, some eight hours away by plane, doesn't seem like too daunting of an experience.

## Walpole Community plans construction of John Lee Press Box

continued from page 1

The coalition has been working with local Walpole architect Kevin Uniacke and General Contractor Kevin Heayden to develop the plans and scope of work to build the press box. Depending on their ability to get labor and materials donated, the estimated cost of the project is \$124,665, so they are calling on the Walpole community to help raise the necessary funds. Through both collected and pledged donations, the current funds raised for the project are \$83,691, roughly 67% of the way there (numbers as of 11/26/12). After they reach the target amount for the project, the coalition plans to begin construction next June with a dedication ceremony in the fall.

As for the press box itself, the plan is to construct a 32-by-10 foot structure containing three separate rooms with their own entrances. "The press box will be used by both the home and away coaching staff in addition to the filming crews," according to Lestan. "Other events such as the Relay for Life that take place at Turco field can televise their events through the Walpole Cable Station, who will be able to broadcast events from the press box." The press box will also be handicap accessible, roof access for filming outdoors, as well as a cable hook-up and protection from the elements for the broadcast crew and coaches. Currently those people must sit outside to announce

or film the games, so a little protection from the elements will go a long way.

Walpole athletics have always been successful throughout the years, and a vast majority of that success is due to Coach John E. Lee and the values he instilled in not only our football team and high school, but also in our town as a whole.

"Coach Lee worked hard day in and day out at mastering the game of football and demanded a lot from himself physically. He gave 100% of himself and expected 100% from the other coaches and players," Lestan said, and she's not alone in her thinking.

"He is a huge part of our town pride and I'm glad we are finally honoring a person as important to this community as Coach Lee," said current senior Walpole High School student-athlete Mike Rando. So, along with the track and field complex, the addition of lights, and the new scoreboard, the new press box will hopefully add more meaningful experiences for the young athletes of our town—both at high school and youth levels.

If you would like to learn more about the project, donate to their cause, or learn more about Coach Lee more information is available on the official website: <http://pressbox.walpolesports.org/>. Also, if you want to send a message to Coach Lee, it will be used in the dedication ceremony.



# ENTERTAINMENT

## “Twilight Breaking Dawn: Part Two” completes series on a barely average note

By Daria Grady and  
Laura Drinan  
Class of 2013

“So beautiful...” The first two words that are spoken in “Breaking Dawn: Part 2” and quite possibly the most contradictory statement to describe the movie. Part 1 ended with a bloodbath birth scene along with a strange, erotic vampire biting transformation of the precious Bella Swan (K Stewart). And as Edward Cullen (RPatz) murmurs that opening line to his mystifyingly average, recently immortal wife, Bella, the first unintentionally hilarious line of the movie has been exposed.

Bella has finally gotten what she wants in life as a post high school grad. No, not an acceptance letter from any college. No, not even a job. She is finally an immortal, blood-sucking animal with red eyes and even whiter skin than she had before, along with the added bonus of a sparkling complexion. Perhaps it was the dozens of hours Kristen Stewart spent with her newly acquired (and long overdue) acting coach, or maybe it was genuine happiness at the thought of the series ending, but for the first time in the “Twilight” franchise, Bella smiles.

Bella then realizes that she has just given birth to her precious daughter, Renesmee. And as you see the baby, the automatic neck twitch and eye squint immediately ensues because what you see is not a baby: it’s a robot - a very obvious, hideous robot that all the vampires adore. Bella runs to fetch her child and finds out some very peculiar news. Her other lover, werewolf Jacob Black (Taylor Lautner) has a dirty, grotesque secret to reveal. He tells Bella that he has imprinted on Renesmee, which in werewolf language means, “I fell in love with your daughter when I saw her.” Bella immediately tries out her new vampire strengths and starts impaling on Jacob, and as he tries to convince her that it’s “just a werewolf thing” and not a pedophile thing, Bella doesn’t stop. To make matters worse, Jacob imprudently refers to Renesmee as “Nessie,” making clear references to the Loch Ness Monster. Eventually and unfortunately, Edward impedes on Bella’s bloodlust objectives and then stops



her from killing the giant dog. As expected, Bella gets over it, and Jacob is now dubbed Renesmee’s body guard, despite his seemingly pedophilic intentions.

Bella runs around town with hubby, Edward, nearby as she gallivants through the forest, jumping from tree to tree at speeds us mere mortals could never comprehend. As it is her first week as a vampire, Edward and the rest of his vampire family must teach her how to become a vegetarian, that is, only eating animals, and not humans. Edward lets Bella off her leash and as she dashes off, she starts sprinting up a mountainside like a Madagascar Day Gecko to catch a rock climber. Edward attempts to stop his wife, but instead watches the show, as if it were a dramatic comedy and nobody’s life was at stake. Bella ferociously hurls herself up the mountain in a dress. If only the climber looked down to see what was coming after him. Pure comedic genius.

Now, to the meat of the story. Some low-life Cullen cousin tattle-tales on Bella and Edward to the vampire government, the Volturi, and tells them that they have created a demon child. Now, these children are a serious matter; at a young age they are capable to wipe out a whole civilization with one cry.

The Volturi slowly rushes over to see if this demon baby actually exists, but the Cullens are very aware that Renesmee is in fact not what they accuse her of being, due to the fact that Bella gave birth to her when she was still mortal (and they had researched vampire/human hybrids on Google during part 1, don’t worry.) A true miracle. To prove their innocence, the Cullens come up with a genius plan. First off, Alice (Ashley Greene) and Jasper (Jackson Rathbone) bail on the family and disappear, just like Edward did in “New Moon.” The rest of the family goes and visits all of their vampire friends and shows them that Renesmee is not a demon. Half mortal, half vampire, full red-headed Renesmee is herded around the country to meet a dozen other funny looking blood suckers in order to stop a war against the Volturi. The Cullens manage to gather a group of vamps and a pack of Jacob’s werewolf friends that are willing to defend their innocence. The two groups, the Volturi and the Cullen & Co. meet up in an open, snowy field. And finally, Alice and Jasper conveniently arrive without any explanation of where they have been. The Volturi slowly approaches the opposing side in cloaks that are Italian Renaissance meets a Michael Jackson music video style. The leader of the Volturi meets Renesmee and does, indeed, agree that she is no demon child, but he is still unsure of how to handle her. So a war starts. By the way: the only way to kill a vampire is by ripping its head off and then setting it on fire. Heads are flying all over the place, main characters die, werewolves give their last cry, the Volturi is killed, the Cullen clan reigns victorious. The most satisfying ending in “Twilight” history... Until they reveal that whole war scene is just an image of what would’ve happened if they actually went to war. Out of nowhere, Alice introduces some Brazilian natives, who casually mention that they know (from first hand experience) that Renesmee poses no threat and will probably turn out to be a pretty cool chick. When the Volturi sees this, they give up the fight. The war was the best scene in all of the “Twilight” franchise and it didn’t even happen. Once again, and for the last time, the fantasy romance saga, “Twilight” is a let down.

## “American Horror Story” season two lives up to lofty standards

By Jamie Ferguson  
Class of 2015

It is not often that one leaves a horror movie completely fulfilled. There is always something the film should have added, a resolution never fully explained, and a character introduced too late to fully develop. For horror movie fans, this is perhaps the most frustrating part of watching a film. Like reading a book with only a few pages left, viewers soon learn that there is just not enough time for everything to happen that needs to happen. Thankfully, FX’s American Horror Story provides a solution for the age-old problem.

American Horror Story is an anthology miniseries, which means that each 12-episode season stands on its own as, more or less, a long horror movie. As described by creator Ryan Murphy, the season is structured around a “beginning, middle, and end.” Premiering last October, the first season generated quite a buzz with its eerie and often controversial story of the Harmon family. After a stillborn child and the father’s affair with a student, the Harmons move to Los Angeles in hopes of rebuilding their broken family. Despite learning the fate of the last family who lived there (an apparent murder-suicide), the Harmons still agree to buy the beautiful restored mansion. The catch? The house, dubbed by sightseeing tours as the “Murder House,” is haunted by its former inhabitants. What the audience soon learns is that everyone who has ever lived in the house was murdered,

and anyone who dies on the grounds is left to haunt the mansion forever.

A departure from the first season, season two of the show is called American Horror Story: Asylum, appropriately titled due to its location at the fictional Briarcliff Institute in 1964. Though the plot completely differs from the previous season, viewers of season one will recognize a handful of cast members who return as new characters. Evan Peters, known for his role as the charismatic psychopath Tate Langdon, plays Kit Walker, a young man accused of being the serial killer known as “Bloody Face.” Jessica Lange, widely praised in her role as Constance Langdon, plays Sister Jude, a coldhearted nun who runs the titular asylum. Zachary Quinto, Lily Rabe, and Sarah Paulson all played small parts in season one, and they return as starring roles in Asylum. This season, Quinto returns as Oliver Thredson, a doctor who disagrees with the methods used at Briarcliff and whose ideas cause tension between him and Sister Jude. Lily Rabe plays Sister Mary Eunice, a young, pretty nun who soon becomes possessed by a demon after witnessing an exorcism. Paulson takes the role of Lana Winters, a reporter who is committed to the asylum due to her homosexuality. The season also introduces fresh faces to the show, and James Cromwell’s character Doctor Arden and Lizzie Brocheré’s Grace are just a few of the new actors added this season.

Asylum centers around multiple plot lines in order to keep the show interesting, and this is one of the show’s best

decisions because if, for example, a viewer gets bored of one storyline, he or she does not have to suffer through it for too long. The stories of Leo and Teresa, a modern day couple, in addition to characters such as Lana, Kit, and the asylum’s staff, keep the show interesting for the entire 60 minute episode. And unlike many current shows, each storyline develops over multiple episodes, all while wrapping things up before they get too stale. Additionally, the multitude of characters has something for everyone, though they are significantly less likable than those of the previous season.

American Horror Story quickly established itself as a show not widely received by the faint of heart. Gay characters, sex scenes, school shootings, and self-harm victims are only a few of the controversial elements that shocked viewers in the first season. These horrors are only heightened by the return of season two, as rape, abuse, anti-Semitism, exorcisms, and blasphemy are all introduced within the first few episodes. Despite the show’s definite shock value, it is all introduced skillfully and purposefully, as the show succeeds at creating three-dimensional characters that are adored and abhorred by viewers, but for all the right reasons. Unlike many modern horror films, the show focuses on terror rather than gore, though there is by no means a lack of gory scenes throughout both seasons. Because of this, the show succeeds at creating a spooky mood that lingers after each episode concludes, all while showing just

enough blood to keep things interesting.

For viewers of both seasons, season two currently lacks the attachment to main characters that was established almost immediately in the first season. The charming Tate and the self-destructive Violet Harmon became a couple widely received by viewers, and season two lacks a couple that the audience can vote for. Similarly, Tate’s likable personality and charisma soon made him one of the most popular characters on the show despite his dark and even murderous tendencies. In season two, the evil characters are simply evil, and there are few characters that the audience can root for. For example, though Kit Walker is the writer’s attempt at Evan Peters’ former role as Tate, Kit lacks the blend of tenderness and insanity that made viewers fall in love with Tate. Similarly, Lana Winters, though pitied by audiences, is a boring and one dimensional character for the majority of the show.

In contrast, season one’s often cliché but still successful haunted house storyline is inferior to season two’s asylum plot, as the first season’s theme of ghosts and infidelity grew stale towards the end of the season. However, the second season provides a thrilling new storyline heightened by the eerie setting of the asylum.

Despite being a stark change from season one, as a whole, the second season goes above and beyond the expectations most viewers had for the new season. With its complex characters, haunting setting, trademark spine-tingling scares, and a fresh new storyline, Asylum proves that the horror genre is not quite dead.



# The Rebellion Takes a Look Back at the Best and Worst Entertainment of 2012

## BEST MOVIES

By Hannah McLaughlin  
Class of 2014



### 1. THE HUNGER GAMES

Teeming with action and suspense, this highly anticipated novel-turned feature film proved astoundingly successful, raking in a record \$155 Million in its opening weekend. Director Gary Ross delivers with this enthralling and imaginative portrayal of a futuristic dystopian society governed by President Snow, a corrupt tyrant who forces 24 of Panem's youth to fight to the death in the annual Hunger Games. Thanks to fantastic cinematography and an effortless performance from the stellar cast, viewers find themselves in the movie alongside Katniss as she uses her sharp wit and unyielding determination to navigate through the dangerous and unpredictable arena. The art direction is fantastic, for the filmmakers did an excellent job contrasting the dilapidated districts with the elegant and luxurious lifestyle of the citizens in the Capitol. Additionally, they were able to maintain a somber and morose atmosphere throughout the film that accurately exhibits the effect of the Capitol's dictatorial oppression on the districts of Panem. The best aspect of the movie is the director's ability to stick to the novel's original plotline while simultaneously keep viewers familiar with the series interested throughout the duration of the film. Packed with unprecedented girl power and a whole lot of hand-to-hand-combat, "The Hunger Games" easily transcends the average sci-fi film, leaving fans both anxious and ravenous for more.

### 2. SKYFALL

Just when action movie lovers thought the James Bond series could not get any better, director Sam Mendes exhibits exactly why 007 should never be underestimated. Before

its release in November of 2012, "Skyfall," the 23rd film in the world's most popular spy series, was surrounded by an immense amount of hype and anticipation. Fans sat in theatres with bated breath, as they hoped the adventures of their favorite secret agent would not be as tired and dated as the Bond series itself. Thankfully, "Skyfall" thrilled viewers while keeping them on the edge of their seats for nearly two and a half hours. Daniel Craig delivers yet another exhilarating performance as Bond. Amidst explosions, enemy fire, two "Bond girls," a complex love triangle, and rumors of his death, Bond stays—as always—calm and collected, while the entire audience waits in impatient apprehension for the next bout of danger to envelop the hero. The most successful Bond film to date, "Skyfall" brought in nearly \$800 million shortly after being released. With solid actors and groundbreaking special effects, "Skyfall" is enthralling, elegant, magnificent, savy, and—in a word—genius.

### 3. 21 JUMP STREET

Predicted by many to be a failed attempt at a mediocre cop comedy, "21 Jump Street" both transcended all expectations and set the bar exceptionally high for future buddy comedies. Unlike most R-rated movies, "21 Jump Street" relied on more than just a few raunchy jokes and profanity-filled dialogue to please viewers. In addition to the usual crude-comedy components, the film's witty dialogue was performed flawlessly by funny guy Jonah Hill and—surprisingly—heartthrob Channing Tatum. The actors' portrayal of immature, party-loving cops posing as average high school students is hilarious, and the amusing role reversal of stereotypes evokes sidesplitting laughs from even the most serious of audience members. "21 Jump Street" is easily the best buddy comedy—or any comedy, for that matter—since 2009's "The Hangover." The characters of Jenko and Schmidt secure a spot among the best dynamic duos of all time alongside Batman and Robin, Jake and Elwood Blues, Batman and Robin, and, of course, Bert and Ernie.

### 4. THE AVENGERS

Director Joss Whedon sparks a much-needed bout of nostalgia within the hearts of adults everywhere with the release of "The Avengers," a movie whose colorful cast of comic book characters packs a real punch. Despite a complex plot and the seemingly terrible idea to unite seven of America's favorite superheroes in a valiant attempt to save the world from the evil clutches of dastardly villains, the film received fantastic reviews following its premiere

in May. Whedon expresses the age-old lesson regarding the importance of teamwork by forcing the Hulk, Ironman, Captain America, and Thor—among others—to settle their differences and cooperate for the benefit of the human race. "The Avengers" certainly made a name for itself, as it rose high above other critically acclaimed movies released in 2012 to become one of the best of the year. The success of the film is not attributed to its interesting plotline or creative dialogue; rather, it was Whedon's ability to avert a disaster, make a less-than-perfect idea absolutely fantastic, and amaze the film's skeptics. The biggest act of heroism present in this film was performed not by a spandex-clad actor, but instead by a man behind the scenes. The director masterfully spun the destined-to-fail plot into an impressive action film worthy of praise and recognition.



### 5. THE DARK KNIGHT RISES

Upon the release of "The Dark Knight Rises," viewers of all ages flocked to theatres to experience the final installment of the beloved Batman series. Not only did the film identify itself as one of the best Batman movies of all time, but it also easily surpassed prominent and critically acclaimed superhero series like Spiderman and Captain America. The special effects are far superior to prior action films, and the diverse cast of characters brings a truly fantastic and colorful performance to the silver screen. Anne Hathaway takes on a role very different from those of her previous films, yet she effortlessly delivers. A masterfully executed portrayal of the hero's undying passion for good over evil, "The Dark Knight Rises" certainly triumphs over previous Batman films. Although 2008's "The Dark Knight" still reigns supreme in the superhero's succession of films, "The Dark Knight Rises" secures second place. Tom Hardy is certainly no Heath Ledger, but the actor assuming the role of Bane strikes fear into the hearts of the audience who anxiously awaits the villain's eminent demise.

## WORST MOVIES

By Daria Grady  
Class of 2013



### 1. MAN ON A LEDGE

As the title suggests, the movie begins with a man, and within a few short minutes, that very man is indeed on a ledge. The man, Nick Cassidy (Sam Worthington) a one time cop, but now an escaped convict, is trying to prove his innocence by standing on the 21st floor of the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City. Nick's brother and girlfriend are in a building across the street helping Nick in his quest to prove his innocence. As Nick trots along the ledge, bro and beau are sneaking around, half clothed, looking for some diamond that a business bigshot accused Nick of stealing. In comes agent Lydia Mercer attempting to tell Nick not to jump off the ledge, but we all know he's doing no such thing. Halfway through the movie, some pathetic romantic banter brews between Lydia and Nick, which makes you only want to push Nick off even more.

### 2. A THOUSAND WORDS

So, some magical tree pops up in Eddie Murphy's backyard, every leaf is a word, and when the last leaf falls, Eddie can no longer speak. Commence the quintessential "I must become a better person" plotline. The jokes aren't funny, Eddie's over exaggerated faces are creepy, and the comedic rages aren't comedic. No words can describe how horrible this movie is, only its Rotten Tomato rating of 0% can.



### 3. THAT'S MY BOY

Adam Sandler and Andy Sandberg are a drunk father, educated son duo trying to get along again after a long dead relationship. As a high school student, Adam Sandler had a fling with his teacher, which then resulted in his son's birth... and for some reason this rape goes unnoticed, perhaps it

was supposed to be funny? Throughout the movie, Sandler displays a sloppy, unpurposeful, aggravating Boston accent while trying to rekindle his relationship with his son, solely because he owes money to the IRS. Here it comes, the obvious meat of the movie, Adam learns to be less of a drunk and work hard, while Andy learns to relax a little. All of the jokes are centered around making fun of women and people that aren't sloppy, white guys. Creative.

### 4. THE VOW

Sorry ladies. The Vow features a superbly good looking couple, Leo (Channing Tatum) and Paige (Rachel McAdams) who couldn't be more in love. They find themselves so overly enamored with each other that when stopped at a red light, they proceed to lusciously make out, but suddenly a snow plow literally plows into them, which hurls Paige through the windshield in painstakingly slow motion. Paige awakens from her coma, more beautiful than ever and loses her memory right up until she met Leo. Convenient. Leo runs around town trying to convince her that they certainly were married and that he isn't some creepy man that just scooped her out of the hospital. Paige then turns into some ditz debutant and refuses to attempt to remember her loving marriage with Leo.



### 5. THIS MEANS WAR

Alright, two hunky CIA agents are madly in love with each other, bromancing it up all over the place, until they fall for the same woman. Chris Pine and Tom Hardy agree to start a competition over Reese Witherpoon to see who the better, more handsome man is. Both CIA agents are loaded and always look ready for a GQ Magazine cover. So, the agents stalk, film, and record Reese's life along with the help of fellow agents and the government funded spy equipment. Both stalkers. And for some reason, both keepers. And while all of this hideous action is going on, the two agents agree to not tell Reese, and Reese doesn't tell either of them that she's seeing another guy. Makes sense. Everyone is a manipulating liar, and the movie is down right stupid.

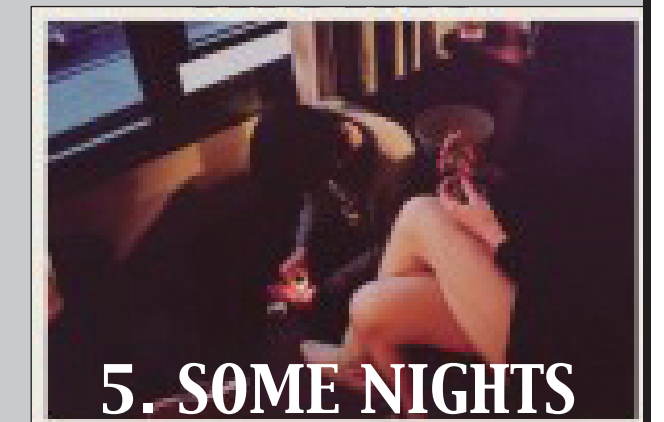
## BEST ALBUMS

By Mary McAvoy  
Class of 2014



### 4. GOOD KID, M.A.A.D CITY

Rap is a stereotypical genre to those who do not avidly listen to it – these days, the formula for a hit rap song is useless lyrics plus an untalented vocalist, such as 'Lil Wayne or Flo Rida. In comparison to what has been popular in rap music throughout the past decade, Kendrick Lamar's good kid, m.A.A.d city is a clear standout and a breath of fresh air for hip-hop and rap enthusiasts. The darker sounding "Swimming Pools," is undeniably catchy, while "Sing About Me, I'm Dying of Thirst," is backed by a smooth, jazzy beat. Other notable tracks are "Poetic Justice (ft. Drake)" and "The Recipe (ft. Dr. Dre)."



### 5. SOME NIGHTS

Music lovers who were once a fan of The Format may recognize the indie pop trio Fun., as both share the same lead singer, Nate Ruess. Though the band's sophomore album features flourishes of autotune (much unlike their debut Aim & Ignite), the liveliness of Some Nights was enough to capture media attention. Ruess's emphatic vocals are specifically recognizable in radio hit "Some Nights," a bouncing, gospel-like track that is easy to sing along to. "We Are Young (ft. Janelle Monét) is another of the band's hit songs—it is an exuberant, youthful anthem backed by slow, heavy drumbeats. Other great tracks are "Why Am I the One" and "Carry On." The first is a soulful tribute to a relationship that is falling apart, while "Carry On," is up-toned and optimistic, with traces of electric guitar here and there. This album has skyrocketed Fun.'s popularity with their songs always on the radio.

### 1. CHANNEL ORANGE

After releasing the mixtape Nostalgia, Ultra in 2011, American R&B singer Frank Ocean released his debut album Channel ORANGE in July 2012 to an onslaught of critical acclaim. The genre R&B is one not necessarily forgotten, but not often thrown into the spotlight; however, Channel ORANGE brings something distinctive to the R&B world. Frank's lower voice, with the occasional falsetto thrown in, is combined with floating, echoing keyboards and percussions that are quiet, yet heavy at the same time. He is one of those artists that can pull off a nine minute song without making it boring, as the excellent breakdown of "Pyramids" keeps listeners intrigued. The constant beat of "Lost" makes for a catchy tune, like a slightly mainstream pop song with a twist. The headlining single "Thinkin' Bout You" is the best of Frank so far, as he puts an atmospheric twist on the typical R&B love song by adding a muffled beat and a heavenly falsetto at the chorus.



Breakout British artist Ed Sheeran brought his successful debut to the United States with the June 2012 release

## WORST TRACKS

By Pat Connell  
Class of 2014



### 1. GANGNAM STYLE

Everyone has already heard this hit by now—on Youtube, it is the most viewed video of all time with 850 million views—but that does not necessarily mean that it is a good song. PSY, the newest Korean pop sensation here in America, released this tune back in July, and it has been played consistently since. Maybe it has been played too much since then and has gotten stale because of this, or maybe everyone knew the song was bad from the start and enjoyed it with a sense of irony. Either way, the song just relies on its novelty value as the selling point. If the music video was any more normal, the dance more arduous, or the song in English, then this piece of Korean pop would have definitely fallen into relative obscurity here in America.



### 2. WE ARE NEVER EVER GETTING BACK TOGETHER

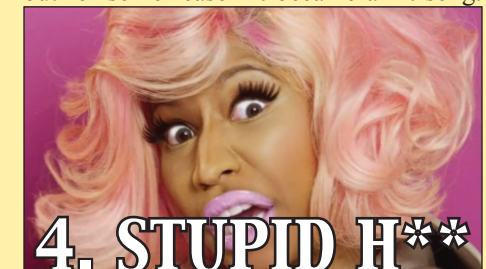
Her new album, Red, is not bad, but when Taylor Swift's "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together" was released back in Au-

gust, hopes were not at all high for the album. Up until that point, Swift had always left at least one foot in country music with her pop side slowly creeping into her music. But this was different. Swift completely tossed aside her acoustic guitar and basically sold out. Sure it was catchy (all pop songs are meant to be), but its simplicity and rather vexatious chorus were the tipping point along with the fact that she has written this song of "we're over, but I don't care" many times before, and it is becoming all too trite. Not only is the songwriting here banal for Swift, but the performance is lackluster as well. When she sings the chorus, there is something about her pronunciation of the last "ever" that is found to be cringe-worthy.

### 3. GOOD TIME

When released, "Good Time" seemed to exist without any reason. Both its singers seemed to be destined as one-hit wonders—Jepson with "Call Me Maybe" and Owl City with "Fireflies"—but they decided to overcome this and produce another hit single. The problem with "Good Time" is their voices. They do not work well together and Owl City's voice, which sounds as though he is talking and not singing, is riddled with auto-tune. The worst part about that is that the auto-tune is supposed to be used subtly, yet that reason makes it

stick out like a sore thumb and ends up ruining the song. Nothing in particular about this song sticks out, and the commonplace of the song is perplexing when trying to figure out how it gained such popularity. Despite pop music being known for appealing to the lowest common denominator, there still are things like odd rhythm or peculiar instrumentation to make songs stand out. "Good Time" has none of this, but for some reason it became a hit song.



### 4. STUPID H\*\*

"Stupid H\*\*" is a song that consists solely of Nicki Minaj rapping over a squeaking pulse of noise, migraine-inducing hand claps, and a hodgepodge of sound effects until, at the chorus, she just starts repeating, "You a stupid h\*\*." Nothing of artistic merit was brought to the table here, and it seems to be just a throw away song, but the fact it was released as a single means there was some sort of effort put into it. Even the verses are lackluster. With Minaj hailed for her lyrical ability on Kanye West's "Monster," one would assume she could muster

something up for "Stupid H\*\*," but most of the verses are littered with unintelligible speech. The most disappointing aspect is the potential the song had. Instead it ended up being one the simplest songs released this year and seeming as though a 5-year with a colorful vocabulary wrote it.



There comes a time in every bands career to call it quits. For Aerosmith, it came with the new millenium after the release of Just Push Play. That album, which was the last to feature new material until now, was below par and had only a few hit singles to keep it afloat. After 11 years, we have Music From Another Dimension, and it is a miserable disaster. It has the bluesy sound of their olden-days albums, but now they sound like old men reminiscing about the good years. And for the power ballads, it's the songs themselves. They do not sound good and they bring nothing to the table that has not already been brought nearly 25 years ago. The band has ran its course and should realize when to close up shop.



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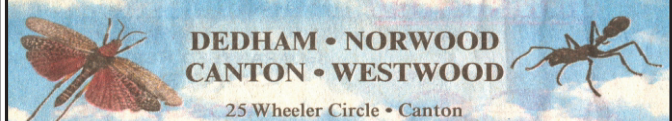
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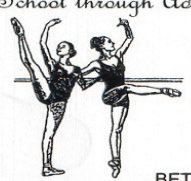
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# Winter Sports Previews

## Adams, Shephard guide inexperienced Boys Basketball team

Photo/Peter Hoegler

By Stephanie Lund  
Class of 2015

As this year's basketball season nears, Walpole Boys Basketball prepares for the upcoming games. With early pick-up games, conditioning, and cross-fit training before tryouts even begin, the team hopes to have a strong approach to this year's season and to improve from last year, which was not a very successful year for the boys. The team struggled last year with a record of 2-17 and unfortunately was not able to make tournament. Head coach Dave St. Martin, along with assistant coaches Mike Harris, Craig Wright, and Keith Wick, now have four spots to fill on the varsity team. The empty spots will not be hard to fill with all of the talented, returning basketball players from the junior varsity team and newcomers.

Even though they are losing some key players this year, including Tim Conley, Tom Donnellan, Brian Lotsbom, and Tim Merrigan, their spots will be easy to fill with the young talent moving up from the junior varsity team in addition to newcomers. Out of the usual starting five from last year's season, two are now graduated. With



Captains Johnny Adams and Ronnie Shephard.

Tom Donnellan and Tim Conley missing from the starting lineup, St. Martin has two spots to fill. Along with bringing up players from the junior varsity team, there are a few very skilled newcomers who would help the team. Even though last year's record was not their best, most of the games that the team lost were very close games. The boys lost to Norwood by three points with a final score of 49 to 46, and they also lost to Dedham by just five points with a final score of 55 to 50. Hopefully they

will be able to pull through this season and put more points on the scoreboard to improve their record. Senior Captain Johnny Adams, a returning varsity player, has been contributing and playing on the varsity team since his freshman year at Walpole High School. He was apart of the starting lineup last year, along with Mike Cabral and Ronnie Shephard, and is one of this year's captains. When asked about his senior year as captain, Johnny Adams said, "We are coming off of a rebuilding year and have a lot of depth and young talent." The team has many strengths for the upcoming season. They are attending crossfit training sessions at the high school, as well as pick-up games and conditioning in order to prepare themselves. They have the speed, height, and strength to make this season more successful. Johnny is and has been a strong asset to the team and will help lead the team to improve their record. "This year we have the ability to get back to our winning ways, to be a tournament team and a contender in the bay state," said Johnny. The team's height, skill, and speed will help boost their record this upcoming season and change their standings. The Walpole High School boys' basketball team will rise above the difficulties of last year.

## Girls Basketball hopes to continue last season's success

Photo/ Matt Brownsword

By Olivia O'Brien  
Class of 2015

With the upcoming winter season the Walpole Girls basketball program has a bright future ahead of them. The team hopes to beat last year's hard earned record of 13-6 which should be an attainable goal considering the talent that their team will have to offer. The varsity team will be led by Coach Stacy Bilodeau, assistant coach Marion Houser, and senior captains Lauren Bodin and Bridget Nicholson. Nicholson said, "I feel like we will have a very strong team this year so I hope to improve our record from last year and make it to the state tournament." Although the team lost five key seniors, they do have experience due to the returning players from last year.

There are some but few weaknesses of the team. Losing five seniors, Adrianna Frattasio, Steph DeSantis, Suzy Gallivan, Michaela Brown, and Shannon Cullen, will make an impact on this year's team. Out of these players, four are guards and one is a strong



Senior Captains Lauren Bodin and Bridget Nicholson.

post player, so it is likely to hurt the girls' team, but as in every sport, saying goodbye to seniors is something all have to do at some point. Coach Bilodeau said, "The league has been strong the past few years

so it is every team for themselves and we are going to have to take it game by game this season." The team will have to work harder this year than in past years to adjust to the differences of the new team.

Strengths of the 2012-13 season vary and will hopefully leave the team with an improved record from last year. A returning sophomore, Summer King said, "I think this year we will have a good, well rounded team with great shooters, guards, and posts who all know each other well, and because we all know each other, we know each others strengths and weaknesses and how to bring each other up when we are losing." As a freshman last season, King was a starter, lead scorer, and powerhouse under the basket. Now with more experience, she is bound to help bring the team to victory along with her fellow teammates and four returning senior players. Bilodeau said, "[The team has] a strong group of returners back this year which should allow [us] to play many defensive sets." As the winter approaches, the Walpole Girls basketball program hopes to prove they are a force to be reckoned with on the court.

## Girls Indoor Track and Field looks for repeat performance

Photo/ Matt Brownsword



Senior Captains Maddy Shea, Megan Peterson,

By Allie Morris  
Class of 2015

Coach Conor Cashman has high hopes for this upcoming winter season. Girls Indoor Track and Field had one of their most successful seasons yet last year with a record of 5-2 (including a victory over Wellesley for the first time in over ten years), but Cashman hopes to top last season by winning the Herget this year. In order to do this though, the team must beat Natick — a town they have never been able to beat.

Unfortunately, the team will be losing many key athletes including Lizzy Almeida, Natalie Doyle, Erin McCarthy, Christina Freiburger, and Savonna Small Brown (who moved to Framingham). Since many talented sprinters and throwers are being lost, many returning athletes and newcomers will have to step up for the team. Fortunately though, there are still strong

sprinters on the team including senior Captain Maddy Shea. Coach Cashman sees this years distance and mid-distance as a strength for this year's team with junior Captain Gina Conti becoming one of the team's leading scorers. Junior Kristen Coyne and senior Captain Megan Peterson are coming off of very successful Cross Country seasons with returning underclassmen

who showed promising times and results during last year's season. Coach Cashman is looking for individuals to step up to help fill in the gaps of those who will not return.

Conti said, "We especially need sophomores, like Lucy Lynch, Katie Flinn, and Allie Morris to grow like they did last year."

Cashman said, "This year's weakness will be depth in sprinting, shot put, and hurdles, but I have seen a lot of interest from our new members." Specifically, Coach Cashman noted the importance of returning junior throwers Alexa Demarco and Ana Orfanidis to fill in for the absence of Lizzy Almeida and Natalie Doyle. The Girls Indoor Track and Field team has high hopes for this upcoming winter season. Over the first few weeks of training, before the first meet, many individuals will have to be responsible to step up to fill in the empty gaps. Coach Cashman said, "We are going to take it one meet at a time."

## Boys Indoor Track plans to run over competition

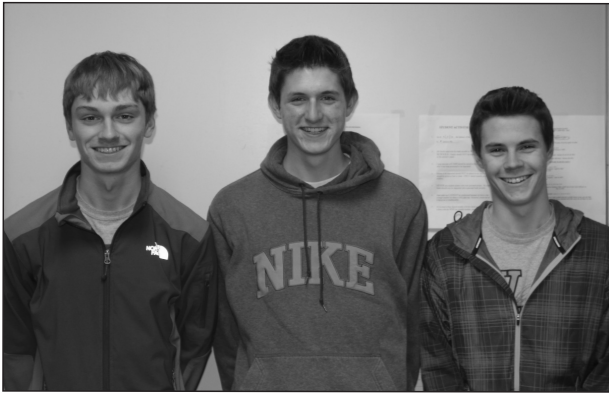
Photo/ Matt Brownsword

By Liz Johnson  
Class of 2014

After closing last year's season with a record of 6-1, the Rebels won the Herget for the third year in a row. This year, Head Coach Kevin Butera hopes to lead the team to their fourth.

Butera said, "I am feeling pretty good about the upcoming season. The team has a lot of depth that will help score points." This year's team will be lead by senior Captains Kemble Lindh, Connor McCarthy, Kevin Delaney and Sean Herlihy.

Seniors PJ Hayes and McCarthy (both athletes who competed at the New Balance Indoor Nationals in New York) are the top returning point-scorers, so the team should be strong in the sprints, hurdles, and jumps; however, Butera is concerned about depth in all of these areas. Much of the team's strengths will come from the distance events where Butera said, "The depth is greatest." Coming off a breakout Cross Country season, Herlihy—as well as Delaney—should lead the deep distance core to success. Coach Butera said, "The struggle [with



Senior Captains Sean Herlihy, Connor McCarthy, and Kemble Lindh.

this team] will be the loss of identity." Because of the loss of longtime teammates Zach Ganshirt, Feasty Conley, Justin Connolly, and Bryan Rockwood, Butera believes that it may take time for this young team to develop an identity.

In addition to finding their identity as a young team, the real weaknesses of the boys team will actually be depth in shot put and jumping.

In terms of season goals, Coach Butera said, "I would like to see the team win the Herget." Coach Butera would also like to place extremely high at the Division II Meet, and the State Championship. Boys Indoor Track has some tough training ahead of them, but they have what it takes to have a successful season.



## Girls Hockey look to replicate past success

Photo/ Mattt Brownsword



*This year's Captains: junior Brooke Matherson, and seniors Michaela Tosone, Bethany Welch, and Ally Russo.*

By Karalyn Kickham  
Class of 2014

Last winter, the Walpole Girls Varsity Hockey team ended their season in the quarterfinals during a shootout against Falmouth. Despite this heart-breaking loss, the Girls Hockey team was able to end the season with the title of Herget Division Champions and an impressive record of 16-3-3. This year, the girls are hoping to reclaim that title and progress even further into the postseason.

The team graduated only two seniors last season, with one being captain Cori Donahue. Junior Delaney Harrop and sophomore Maddie Torgerson both transferred to private schools this fall, and two players decided not to return. Donahue, Harrop, and Torgerson were all starters for the Rebels last season. Stepping up to the plate as captains for this upcoming season are junior Brooke Matherson and seniors Bethany Welch, Michaela Tosone, and Ally Russo. This

is Welch's second year as captain. Although there were several losses on the team, the girls still believe that they will be able to have a successful season. Six freshmen will be joining the team and will hopefully help to fill in some of the gaps on the ice.

Welch said, "I think we will be successful this season. We have many returning players who will hopefully step up." Strengths for the Lady Rebels include a strong first line of offense that will remain unchanged from last season, which includes Tosone, junior Rachael Barry, and sophomore Olivia Knight. The defense is also expected to be strong with some returning starters such as Russo, Matherson, and senior Annie Yonker. A key component to the success of the Rebels this season will be Welch, as this will be her fourth year as Varsity starting goalie.

The girls are aiming to improve from last season and believe they can do so especially with the help of Head Coach Joe Verderber. Although it may be slightly challenging to adjust to the loss of some starters, the Lady Rebels are hoping to meet their high expectations. Tosone said, "[The season] looks pretty positive. We have a lot of experienced players and a goalie that has started all four years so our chances this year look hopeful."

## White, Carde shoot for a Boys Hockey turnaround

Photo/ Matt Brownsword



*Senior Captains Alex Carde and John White.*

By Bobby Rabaioli  
Class of 2014

Looking to rebound from a 3-6-9 record, the Rebels will need to use the experience of the past two years to help them succeed.

"With the talent our team has this year, the potential for success really falls into the hands of the players," said senior Captain John White. The Boys Hockey team is now in the right position to make a run deep into the playoffs.

Co-Captains Alex Carde and White lead an experienced Rebels team that only lost four players from the previous year. To achieve success this year the Rebels will have to be more disciplined.

"If we can stay out of the penalty box and keep a consistent level of intensity throughout every game we'll turn a lot of those close games and potential ties into wins," said White. Also, coming into this season the Rebels will have a new look behind the bench with Coach Dowd. Dowd's experience should help the Rebels in tight games. He may be able to help turn some of their league-setting record for ties into wins.

"[I am] very optimistic to turn many of the 9 ties into wins this year" said Carde. It will not be as easy as it seems for the Rebels who are already facing some adversity with the pre-season injuries to key players like junior

Patrick Baker (sprained MCL), junior Tommy McNamara (back injury), and White (slipped disk). A strength for the Rebels might be in goal and the great depth within each line. With now two years of varsity experience, goaltenders senior Ray Mortali and senior Ryan Erwin will lead the charge and look to improve on the 60 goals against from last year.

The depth within each line is noticeable with many players having 2-3 years of varsity experience under their belts.

"We are all a year older and only lost 4 players," said Carde. But the lack of scoring for the boys team will need to improve on a dismal 40 goals scored which proved to be a major weakness.

The Rebels will look to take advantage of all the off-season work that they have put in. The goal is not just to make the playoffs, but ultimately to make a play-off run. It all starts when the Rebels open up at home against Natick on Wednesday, December 12 at Iorio Arena.

## Cofsky, Jansen, and Company aim to reverse past shortcomings

By Justin Rouhana  
Class of 2014

The Walpole Rebel Wrestling team is hoping to strengthen their team after a disappointing season a year ago: Although some wrestlers achieved individual excellence, the team did not achieve the kind of team success it was looking for.

There are a few wrestlers who are returning starters with a year more experience. Senior Captain Caleb Cofsky had an impressive season last year making it all the way to the All-State Tournament along with sophomore Nick Glover, and junior Trevor Wassel who made it to the State Tournament. The trio are definitely going to be mentioned a lot this season.

Head Coach Devin Pacelli said, "My season outlook is certainly positive." The strengths of the team are ample. Pacelli thinks the Boys are more of a team than last year, with more leadership from senior Co-Captains Eric Jansen and Cofsky. Pacelli thinks the team has a "high degree of camaraderie, which pushes more members to work harder and keep up with each other." This type of attitude in the practice room only pro-

Photo/ Matt Brownsword



*Senior Captains Caleb Cofsky and Eric Jansen.*

gresses the team further in its quest for greatness.

Pacelli believes the team needs to improve on their killer instinct as well as their confidence level in themselves and their teammates. He said, "The very best wrestlers are those who are like sharks smelling blood in the water." Pacelli believes if the team can do this, they will improve as a whole.

When any team moves three members on to the All-State Tournament—Cofsky, graduate Marvin Jean-Simon, and Glover—it is, of course, a more than recognizable achievement. Pacelli said, "It is an indicator of real talent on the team."

The team looks as if it will have a fairly good season. With the motivation from teammates to do better everyday, paired with a new sense of leadership and structure as a team, the boys should be successful. Pacelli said, "We will take anyone of any size." The sport often is interpreted as one in which the athlete must be big and tough, but Pacelli said, "the best have been the smartest, most athletic kids." Coach Pacelli loves the sport and is more than willing to take an athlete who has never wrestled before. Pacelli said, "Basketball and Hockey make cuts. We do not and welcome those who have been (cut)."

## New coach looks to turn around Gymnastics Program

By Helen Hinton  
Class of 2015

With new coach Katie Sullivan, Walpole Gymnastics hopes to have a fresh start this year. Walpole Gymnastics had a tough season last year with a losing record of 0-12 — scraping by with only six healthy athletes. However, senior Captain Caitlin Bryne and junior Captain Olivia O'Hara have high hopes for the upcoming season. Walpole Gymnastics has five returning members from last year and an additional eight new gymnasts who look to help the team improve their record.

Last years' gymnastics team suffered from a lack of gymnasts and it resulted in a frustrating season. While Walpole barely had enough girls to compete in each event, many teams had around three to five times more gymnasts on their team than Walpole. However, despite the teams' record they still worked very hard and man-

Photo/ Matt Brownsword



*Senior Captain Caitlin Bryne and junior Captain Olivia O'Hara.*

aged to put up impressive scores for a team with so few girls. Olivia O'Hara even had the honor of being awarded BSC League All Star.

The team has many returning athletes who are expected to have gained confidence and skills from last year, which will be very beneficial to the team. Walpole Gymnastics is also adding new talented freshman.

When asked about the upcoming season Bryne said, "I hope that the team will win a few more meets this season." But more importantly, she hopes that the team "will have the best team spirit and a strong bond." O'Hara feels the same way and said that she hopes "the team can work together and have a stronger team than last year."

While last year was a rebuilding year for the Rebels, they are already making improvements.

The team is gaining eight new gymnasts and with a total of thirteen gymnasts the rebels will hopefully be able to be competitive and win some meets this year.





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# Seniors prevail in 2012 Powder Puff game



Victorious senior girls pose for a picture at the 2012 Powder Puff game.



Junior Lauren Regan throws a pass to a fellow junior.

By Aurora Hebner  
Class of 2013

One of Walpole High School's many traditions is to host a Powder Puff game between the junior and senior girls of the high school on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. However, this year, the class of 2013 began something new. On Wednesday, November 21, the current senior girls became the first team in Walpole's Powder Puff history to defeat their opponents two years in a row. Coached by English teacher, Mr. Michael Alan, the reigning champions ended Wednesday's game with a score of 22 to 12. The senior's star players this year included the much-anticipated Samantha McChesney and Bridget Nicholson, both of whom have demonstrated their outstanding athletic abilities during their high-school careers. McChesney, Captain of the varsity cheerleading team, skillfully scored all three touchdowns for the Class of 2013 and Nicholson, Captain of the varsity basketball team, assisted her in scoring the PATs for the winning team. The junior girls appeared to be a threat in the first half because of Lauren Regan's touchdown within

minutes of the start of the game; however, after this early blow to the seniors' egos and confidence, the juniors remained offensively weak throughout the entire duration of the game. Regan's strong athleticism, quick feet, and winning attitude did, however, make her a force to be reckoned with throughout the remainder of the game. Senior Frankie Nardelli said, "Our biggest fear on both offense and defense was definitely Lauren Regan. She was scary out there." Mr. Alan said, "From the moment the game started, we knew that the juniors weren't going to go down without a fight, and they definitely proved that with their first touchdown. But our defense really pulled through and won the game for us." After Regan scored the first touchdown, the seniors' attitude and aggression soared to all new levels. The senior girls concocted a unique plan to do something almost unheard of in Powder Puff history- a punt. This play immediately threw off the juniors and caused them to fumble the ball. Running back McChesney took advantage of their moment of confusion to grab the ball and run for the seniors' first touchdown. The game continued with strong defensive plays by seniors Jen McDonald, Jacqui Conley, and Michelle Monahan.

The seniors have Mr. James Lee and Mrs. Sherri McChesney, both parents of the players, to thank for leading their fan base into loud chants and applause. The dynamic duo even started the notorious wave to motivate their senior daughters and the rest of the teammates after half time. Fans and supporters of the Class of 2013 don't have to fear missing out on the tremendous victory, however, because students in Mr. Alan's film class are making a documentary about this year's Powder Puff, including footage from the game and on-field statements from players. The lack of senior attendance to the practices did cause some senior girls to worry about the possibility of being defeated on Wednesday being that this game could either cause one of two spectacular outcomes: the Class of 2013 could win two years in a row, or a junior class could have the chance to win two years in a row. With this in mind, both the players and the coaches had combative mindsets. Though the highly competitive attitude on the field did cause some verbal altercations, the senior girls are proud to say that they can finish their high school career regarded as the record-holding Powder Puff Champions. In the words of Coach Alan, "Seniors kicked butt!"

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# SPORTS

## Herlihy wins league all-star title

Photo/ Danielle Levya



Senior Sean Herlihy closes out a strong race against Natick.

By Patrick Connell  
Class of 2014

Walpole Cross Country did not seem destined to achieve greatness at the end of last year's season. All but one of their top seven varsity runners were graduating, and junior Anthony DiVirgilio, who was the sole returner of the top seven, had broke 17 minutes and 20 seconds once in the 5000 meter race. Then there came Brendan Wohler who recently just started running distance for winter and spring track; he was the only freshman to break five minutes in the mile. Boys Cross Country did not seem to have a chance if there were no runners consistently breaking 17:20 in the 5km race. Besides Divirgilio, someone needed to step up if any success was to be had. That someone was senior Sean Herlihy.

Herlihy had an excellent season this year and was always the first runner, with a Walpole jersey on, to cross the finish line. To end their regular season, on October 27, Walpole ran in Norwood for the Bay State Conference league meet. Herlihy ran in the varsity 5k race, placing tenth, receiving a

pumpkin and acknowledgement as a league all-star for his efforts. He even beat his personal record with a time of 16:43, shaving half of a second off his previous best. Not only was this his previous record, but Herlihy ran it at the Barnstable County Fairgrounds, a course that is notorious for being fast. This just goes to show that Herlihy continually steps up, which is why he became a league all-star in the first place.

Previously, Herlihy had been enthralled with a different sport: soccer. During his fall seasons of both freshman and sophomore year, he still ran, except with a ball between his feet. Like most soccer players, he had been playing since elementary school, but he didn't quit until he started dabbling in his newest passion, running. He ran long distance on both the Indoor and Outdoor Track teams before joining Cross Country; however, he did not seem like he could be a contending athlete any time soon. When he ran the 400 meter race as a freshman, the lowest time he achieved was 73.14 seconds. That was on pace to run his current mile PR, 4:54. The distance is more than four times that of the 400m, which is intended to be run

considerably faster than the mile. Just by reading the numbers, it is quite obvious that Herlihy has come a long way.

Sadly, it was the end of the road on Saturday, November 10; when Herlihy, and the rest of the Cross Country team, raced against other teams in the Division III meet at Wrentham. There, they faced some stiff competition. Upon being asked about how the team fared then, Herlihy said, "I think we had a good chance of doing well. I looked online, and seeing the other teams we were going to run against, it didn't seem like they were that much, if any, better than we were. Going into the meet, we were pretty well within reach of moving on to All-States. In a hypothetical race where everyone would run their best times before that, we would have come in second. But things never end up like they are supposed to." Unfortunately, Walpole only came in tenth and needed to be within the top four in order to advance. They were off of fourth by a large margin of 113 points. As for Herlihy and his running career after high school, he said, "I'm probably going to keep running after high school, in college. I'm not done yet."

## Farrell leads girls XC to best record in history

Photo/Danielle Levya



Coach Farrell gives advice to junior Kristen Coyne for an upcoming meet.

By Danielle Levya  
Class of 2013

Most teachers leave school at 2:30 on any ordinary day, but not history teacher and Girls Cross Country Head Coach Jamie Farrell. Once her school day is over, she is outside working with the girls at practice or at a meet, whether it is raining, 90 degrees and humid, or 20 degrees in a snowstorm. On October 23, the Girls Cross Country competed against Framingham for their last dual meet at home. The girls defeated Framingham with a perfect score of 15-50 to make their final record 8-3. The girls are the best Cross Country team in Walpole High School history. The 2010 team previously held the position of the best team in Walpole High School history with a record of 8-3 as well, but they did not win the Bay State Herget or win against Weymouth or Wellesley unlike this year's team.

Against Framingham, the girls put 9 runners ahead of Framingham's number one runner. Junior Gina Conti set the new course record finishing in first with a time of 16:09; previous record holder was Courtney Shea with a time of 16:24. Behind Conti, senior Megan Peterson took second place finishing at 17:09 to PR for her last time on the home course. Junior Kristen Coyne, finished seconds behind Peterson with a time of 17:17. Junior Mackenzie Wilson took fourth place with a time of 18:04. Sophomore Emma Campbell and junior Megan Jenkins ran together to finish with a time of 18:13. Freshmen Molly Rockwood ran a huge PR by finishing four seconds after Campbell and

Jenkins crossing the line at 18:17. Sophomore Kathryn Lawton PR'd by 47 seconds with a time of 19:03.

In the JV race, a lot of girls PR'd as well. Junior Jackie Applin runs her first meet, returning from an injury. Applin took first place for the girls with a time of 12:55. Taking second place behind Applin, freshmen Kyra Arenault running a 50 second PR with a time of 13:02. Junior Casey Ganshirt seconds behind Arenault finished at a time of 13:17.

Ms. Farrell has been coaching for seven years now. After four years, the Walpole Public School Program offered a head coach position. After working with Coach Tim Giblin, she was ready to make the transition from assistant coach to head coach and take the responsibility of more work. "I like coaching because I enjoy helping other people be successful and achieve their goals," said Coach Farrell.

Her inspiration for coaching is Mr. Giblin; Ms. Farrell has worked with Giblin for many years now. "Since my first year of coaching, both teams have changed," said Ms. Farrell. When she started coaching, the team was a lot smaller: there were about ten girls, compared to a team of 39 girls now. "We are seeing the program grow. It is great just to see siblings joining the team and kids who have worked with Coach Conor Cashman and Fiona Murphy in the middle school program," said Ms. Farrell.

Girls Cross Country experienced more success this season than previous years. The girls defeated Wellesley for the first time in over a decade and also defeated Weymouth for the first time ever. According to Ms. Farrell, "Success breeds from success, but also having

Photo/Meredith Coleman



The Girls Cross Country team poses for a picture after their Herget-clinching victory over Natick.

a successful team helps achieve goals." Farrell and the Girls Cross Country team hopes that the accomplishments they have achieved this year will carry over to next year. But to do that Farrell hopes for athletes to return next year and train over the summer.

Assistant Coach Gillian Quann has had the opportunity to work with Ms. Farrell. Ms. Quann is a graduate from Walpole High and has experience from running for Walpole in high school. "It is great to have someone on staff who deals with the girls the way she does; she is great with everyone," said Ms. Quann.

When it comes to running a meet or practice, Miss Farrell is very good at managing and delegating responsibilities. According to Quann, "I have learned a lot from working with Coach Farrell. She creates a positive atmosphere and motivates her runners." All the girls on the team appreciate Ms. Farrell's coaching, support at meets and at practice.

"It's always nice to have a strong, positive and supportive coach at practice. She has always been an awesome listener and she takes the time to learn everyone's individual running style to make everyone a successful runner," said junior Casey Ganshirt. Besides coaching and teaching, Ms. Farrell enjoys going on bike rides, cooking, and painting.

Unfortunately, although they achieved numerous firsts, Coach Farrell and her team missed out on their top goal: making All States. At the Divisional Meet, due to a few injuries, the team was unable to qualify for All States. However, since her varsity runners — with the exception of Peterson — are underclassmen, the team should remain competitive for the future.



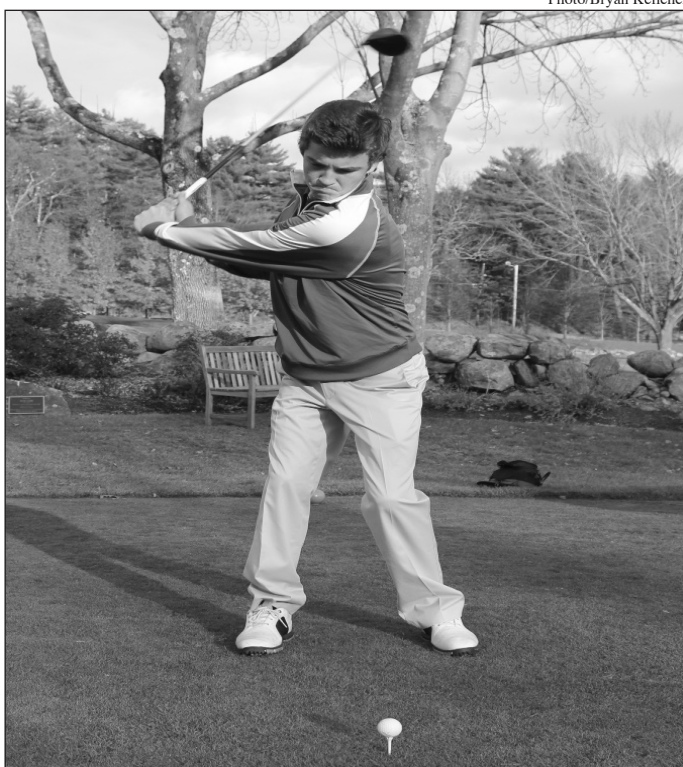
# Boush wraps up successful golf season

By Jake Moser  
Class of 2013

After receiving co-medalist honors at the South Shore Sectional where he shot four-over-par 75, junior Rob Boush concluded his outstanding season by shooting 79 at the Division 2 state golf championship at Beverly Golf and Tennis Club. His score tied him for 13th among individual golfers, nine strokes behind state champion Charlie May of Masconomet, who carded an even-par 70. When asked about his performance Boush said, "I just didn't play well on Monday, the low score was very high and I didn't take advantage of that, which I regret."

Despite ending his season on a slightly sour note, Boush played extremely well this year, accomplishing many things along the way. Namely, on Monday October 27, winds swept through the course at Easton Country Club, where the MIAA's Division 2 South sectional golf tournament took place. Frustrated players struggled with high winds that destroyed most of the 59 players' scores. Despite the roaring conditions, Rob Boush kept his cool, shooting a 4-over-par 75, which was good enough to earn medalist honors and individually qualify for the previously mentioned Division 2 state final.

Also, Walpole finished 8-3 in conference play this fall, an amazing accomplishment in and of itself. "This season started out pretty well, we came out of the gate solid but as the season progressed we slipped up a little bit; however, we still finished strong in our division," said Boush. An even more impressive highlight for both Boush and the team as a whole was beating Wellesley, the team's first



Photo/Bryan Kelleher

*Junior Rob Boush warms up before a round of golf.*

win over its league rival in more than five years. When looking back on the season as a whole, Boush enjoys most the friendships he made this past fall. Boush said, "We had a strong team bond as we're all friends outside of school anyways, which also helped us push each other to play better."

Although the boys played well this year, Boush was quick to point credit for the performance of both himself and the team towards their first-year coach Adam Lucas, whom Boush described as "a huge help as he knows most of us personally and was always there to motivate and give us lessons when we needed them."

When looking back on this season's successes, Boush pointed to his year-round play as the major reason for his accomplishments. "I put a lot of time in this summer and this season to kind of keep my game consistent throughout the season, and I play year round anyways, so the school season really is just a continuation of my regular [season]," remarked Boush.

However, like any good athlete who revels in pushing themselves, Boush did have some regrets about his season. "I wish [I] put in a little more practice time to prepare but it wasn't a huge deal," said Boush nonchalantly.

"Next season I'm hoping that we're going to put on a strong performance because even though we will be losing two starting seniors (John MacDonald and Matt Bender), we will have a talented young team so it should go pretty well."

Joining Boush in returning next fall will be sophomores like Mike Mazzotta, Andrew Abbott, and Jack Donnelly. Certainly the future is bright for Walpole Golf, especially with young stars like Rob Boush leading the way for future players.

## Rebels Swimming and Diving ends challenging season strongly



Photo/Emily Muller

*Walpole Swimming and Diving poses for a picture before a meet.*

By Kristen O'Leary  
Class of 2013

Compared to the previous three seasons, this season was sure to be a challenging one for Walpole Swimming and Diving. The past three seasons the team has been extremely strong in both the swimming and diving aspects of the sport, and has remained undefeated all three seasons. This season, the team lost 7 extremely talented senior swimmers, and one fantastic senior diver. Before the season began, the team then lost an additional five swimmers. The season started with the team's spirits low, as well as their expectations for what now looked like a rebuilding season. The team's confidence increased after their first few wins, and their close win against Newton North was a huge confidence boost looking ahead to the rest of their season. The team practiced especially hard, determined to beat their toughest competition, Framingham, Norwood, and Needham. Unfortunately, the team could not come out victorious in their toughest meets against towns like Framingham, Needham, and Norwood.

The team sent a total of 9 swimmers and 1 diver to the State meet on November 18. This year in the post season, boys did not compete with girls at all. They had their own separate heats for their events, and were not scored with the girls. Freshman diver Hannah Phelan had a phenomenal performance, finishing in second place. This was an even bigger achievement than her third place at the Sectional meet the weekend before. Due to injury, freshman diver Sam Chauvin was not able to compete in States, despite the fact that she qualified.

The 200 yard freestyle relay - including seniors Kris-

ten O'Leary and Krissy Jankowski, sophomore Helen Hinton, and freshman Julia Muller - was looking forward to improving their time even more than at the Sectional meet, where they cut three full seconds off of their record. The girls made a 1:52, which was not as fast as at Sectionals, but was still two seconds faster than the time they made during the regular season. The team finished in 12th place at the State meet, which was a huge accomplishment considering the way the regular season unraveled. Sophomore Katie Smith swam a fantastic 50 yard freestyle and Julia Muller individually swam the 200 yard I.M. the 100 yard butterfly. Junior Lexie Riggott competed in the 200 yard freestyle, the 500 yard freestyle, and participated in the 400 yard freestyle relay. Despite the results they proved to the league this season that even though it was not a perfect season, they never gave up and always left everything in the pool. Riggott said, "I think our team overcame the obstacles throughout the season and came together to support each other and that is why everyone did so well."

Next season looks to be another challenging one for the Rebels, but with a lot of hard work, and good leadership it could be another successful season. The team is losing seniors Hanna O'Leary, Emily Muller,



Photo/Kristen O'Leary

*Sophomore Allie Morris approaches the wall in the 100 yard breaststroke.*



*Freshman Julie Hinton dives off the block in the 200 yard freestyle relay.*

Krissy Jankowski, and Kristen O'Leary. All of these seniors are swimmers, so the diving aspect of the team should become stronger and be a good asset for the team to gain points in dual meets during the regular season. Due to injury, junior Siobhan Kemple and freshman Sam Chauvin could not always compete for Walpole, but next year are expected to return and become another competitive asset to the team.



# Adams signs papers, officially commits to Boston College

Photo/ Michael Greulich



*Adams poses for a post-signing picture with friends and family.*

By Michael Greulich  
Class of 2014

Usually, the library at WHS is a quiet place filled with students studying, but for half an hour after school two weeks ago, it was the most exciting place in the whole school. Friends and family gathered as senior Johnny Adams signed his letter of intent to play Division I baseball next year at Boston College.

Johnny verbally committed to attend BC last year, but it was not official until now. He had looked at Virginia Tech and Northeastern, but was always at-

tracted to Boston College. "The combination of a great academics and sports teams was really important to me when I was making my decision," said Adams. "I looked at some other schools, but BC was always my number one choice."

Johnny just signed his letter of intent, but his success in baseball is nothing new. Johnny was part of the Little League World Series Team in 2007, and experienced amazing success as a player on a national stage. "It was the first time I had experienced really tough competition on a big stage. It showed me what needed to be done to

have success against the best players around the world," remarked Adams.

He is not the first person in his family to go to BC either, as his dad also attended Boston College to play baseball. "My dad definitely influenced my decision, but there were a lot of other advantages in attending BC," said Adams. "The fact that it is so close to home as well as the conference they are in was very important to me when I was making my decision. They're in the ACC (Atlantic Coast Conference), which is one of the best conferences in the country. Also, the coaches really showed well for me on the trip when I did my official and unofficial visit. I really liked them a lot and liked their plan going forward."

Adams hopes that he will be able to continue his success through college, but admits that he can't take all the credit for his accomplishments. "I owe a lot of my success to my family and to my friends. They are the ones who encouraged me to pursue my dream of playing baseball in college. Also, my coaches have really helped me out over the years. They encourage me to work hard and to perform the best that I can everyday. My teammates have been really important to me because they have been there for me through all the ups and downs. I'm really thankful for everyone who has been there for me all these years, they are the real reason for my success." As thankful as Adams is of his supporters, they are just as thankful for him.

"John is not only a good baseball player, but he is also a great person," said Athletic Director and Coach Bill Tompkins. "And that's what it's all about. We're really proud to have good young men who play baseball for Walpole High, and John certainly is one of those people. Playing in the ACC, he is going to see some stiff competition, but I'm sure he can equal the task."

Adams admits that playing in the ACC at a Division I school will be a challenge, but plans to approach it the same way he has approached all the other challenges he has faced thus far. "If I keep working as hard as I am now, I know that I will be up to the challenge. I'm thankful for all the challenges I have faced in the past to reach this point, because it has taught me how to deal with adversity."

And although the signing ceremony signified his plans for the future, Adams admits that he still has a lot of work to do in the present. "I'm really excited to be going to BC next year, but I'm still focused on the task in front of me right now. I have a full year of basketball and baseball coming up and I definitely have some work left to do. I will certainly be looking to get some more wins under my belt before moving on to college." And so, at least for the time being, nothing has really changed. "I'm still going to have to work hard and try my best everyday. I may have made plans for after I graduate, but as far as this year goes, the season is just beginning."

## Porkers Capture South Championship, Lose Eastern Mass Final

By Caroline Feeley  
Class of 2014

After defeating Dennis-Yarmouth in the South Sectional Semifinals by a score of 1-0, and then winning the South Sectional Finals 1-0 versus Sandwich, the Porkers headed into the Eastern Mass Finals with high hopes and lofty expectations; however, 2012 ended up not being the year the Porkers reclaimed the state championship as they fell by a score of 1-0 to Acton-Boxborough.

The Porkers headed into their semifinal game against Dennis-Yarmouth knowing that they faced a stern test. All season, Dennis-Yarmouth played strong defense which featured their 6' 2" goalie, Max Allen. Allen's athletic and aggressive goaltending repeatedly turned away the onslaught of Porker scoring chances. The first half ended with no score and the tension mounted as the first 15 minutes of the second half remained scoreless. With 14 minutes left in the game, junior Caroline Feeley stole the ball near the top of the circle and drove the ball towards the net. At the same time junior Brooke Matherson broke towards the net, reached out, and deftly tipped the ball into the net behind Allen. Dennis-Yarmouth spent the rest of the game trying to push up field for the equalizer, but the Walpole defense formed a stone wall that Dennis Yarmouth could not breach. The Porkers survived the final 14 minutes, secured the win and advanced to the next round.

After the game, senior Captain Holly Norberg said, "We knew that Dennis-Yarmouth was very strong defensively. We had to keep them off the scoreboard because it was going to be tough to beat their goalie. It was a good team win." The victory against Dennis-Yarmouth set up the South Sectional Championship game between Walpole and Sandwich. Sandwich started off strong and controlled the first ten minutes of play. The Porkers first offensive rush resulted from good teamwork between Michaela Tosone and Brooke Matherson. Ultimately the ball ended up in the Sandwich circle and after a Tosone shot, Feeley knocked in the rebound for a 1-0 lead. While Walpole settled down after the goal, Sandwich continued to apply pressure on the Porker defense. As they had done against Dennis-Yarmouth, the defense stood tall. By the start of the second half, the Porkers began to assert control of the game. Eventually the Porker pressure wore Sandwich down and, with 12 minutes left in the half Ashley Waldron

ripped a hard shot towards the right post. As in the game before, Matherson was able to reach the shot and tip it in the net for a 2-0 Walpole lead. The Porkers continued to press their advantage and snuffed out any thought of a Sandwich rally.

After the game, senior midfielder Darci Bruce noted how tough Sandwich was to play against. Bruce said, "Sandwich was very quick and athletic. With their big hitters in the back and speed up front we had to battle all over the field. This was a real team win."

The 2-0 victory in the South Sectional Championship game propelled Walpole to the state semifinal game versus Acton-Boxborough. The Porkers had a disappointing end to their season. The Porkers fell to the Acton-Boxborough Colonials in the Eastern Mass Finals. After a hard fought game, the Colonials came out on top with a final score of 1-0. Going into the game Walpole was the number one seed and Action-Boxborough was the number six seed in Division One. With 14:51 left to play in the second half, the Colonials got a breakaway after a failed offensive attempt by the Porkers. They were able to convert this opportunity into the only goal of the game for either team.

At the outset of the game both teams came out playing hard and fast. Acton-Boxborough had the territorial advantage for the first ten minutes but the Walpole defense withstood the Acton-Boxborough offense and the Colonials were unable to generate any prime scoring chances. Walpole controlled the final twenty minutes of the half but the Porkers were unable to put one into the net. The key point of the first half was a stretch where Walpole generated six consecutive corners. During this stretch the Porkers hit two posts and the crossbar. The second half started similarly to the outset of the game. The Colonials did a good job of preventing Walpole from advancing the ball up the sideline and the Colonials maintained a field position advantage.

Photo/ Frank Waldron



*The Porkers pose for a picture with the South Sectional Trophy*

Acton-Boxborough used the field position advantage to launch two good scoring bids both of which were turned away by Walpole's senior goalie Molly Breen. At the twelve minute mark of the second half Walpole launched a counter-attack and kept the ball in the Colonials end for the next several minutes. The Porkers again forced multiple corners and it was after one of these Walpole scoring chances that a Colonial clearing pass resulted in the lone goal of the game breakaway with a little under fifteen minutes left in the game. After the goal the Porkers continued to press the attack but despite advancing the ball into the Colonials circle several times Walpole was unable to convert the equalizer. The game ended with the score 1-0, despite the fact that the Porkers out shot the Colonials, as well as registering significantly more offensive penalty corners with fourteen, while the Colonials only tallied four.

After the game co-captain Michaela Tosone said "Action-Boxborough was a very good team, but so are we. I think we had more chances than they did but they got one lucky break. I guess that is how it goes when two good teams both give everything they have to win a game." Co-captain Holly Norberg echoed Tosone's comments and added "while we did not reach the ultimate goal of winning the state championship, we put ourselves in the position to win and gave it everything we had. I am very proud of all my teammates and coaches."

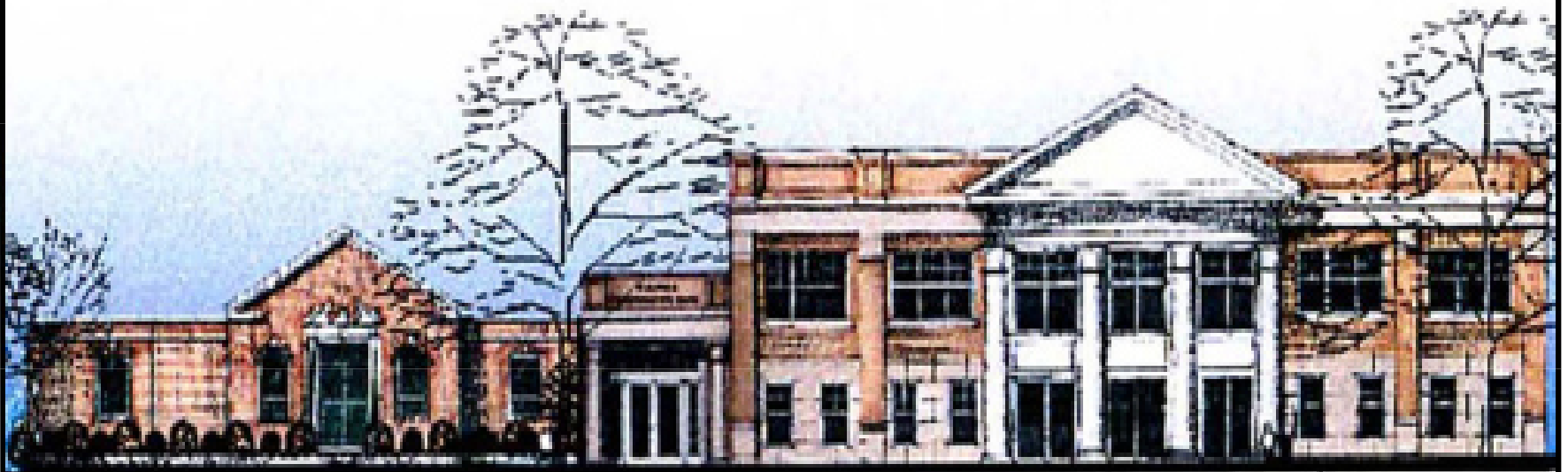




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# Volleyball loses to New Bedford after their Dartmouth comeback



Photo/Mike Greulich

*The Rebels return one of the many New Bedford spikes of the night.*

By Stephanie Sem  
Class of 2014

Volleyball's season has come to an end after a tough loss against New Bedford. Although this was a heart-breaking loss, the team has much to be proud of. The last time the team made it to the third round of tournament was in 2006, and in the time that head coach Lisa Cyr has been coaching, they have never had a bye for the first round un-

til this year. Cyr said, "I am proud of this team for making it this far in tournament. Having the bye was the first step. That was a reward for finishing strong in the regular season. Then the match against Dartmouth was the most amazing match I think I have ever coached. We had a shot against New Bedford and I am proud of all that getting to that level represents." The Rebels started out strong in their game against New Bedford, working up the score to 24-16. The Rebel spirit

was high, but they became overconfident with only one point to go to win the first set, and New Bedford came back. Walpole fought for it, but they just could not get the last point they needed to stop New Bedford's rising momentum and gain their confidence back, so they ended up losing that set 26-24.

After having such a big lead in the game, the Rebel's spirit shot way down in both the second and third sets compared to the beginning. This was evident in their performance, as they lost both of these games, 25-22 and 25-19. The girls lacked in communication along with confidence. This showed as the players threw out their arms hoping they could get the ball, where as in the past they would make the pass confidently, knowing it was going exactly where they wanted it to go.

They also had a hard time working together on the court, which hurt them in the end; with six people on playing at any given time, cooperation together is key to the chances of winning. The Rebels never did gain the lead back but they did not lose hope until the last point was lost and the game was over. This Walpole team ranked higher in the state and in Division I than any previous team. They finished 15 in Massachusetts and 8 in Division I. They also ended the season higher than last year, being tied for third in Bay State League

and second in the Herget League. In comparison to past teams, Cyr said, "This team was obviously motivated to win. They didn't need to be convinced to win. They wanted it. This year the leadership was exceptional. Captains Lauren and Steph kept this team unified and led by example on the court."

This year's team suffered a huge loss of seniors from the previous year who were key players on the court, so it was expected that this year might not end as well as last year did, which was the second round of tournament. However, the Rebels proved that losing these seniors did not mean they would have a losing season. Senior Captain Lauren Bodin said, "I feel this season we definitely stepped it up. We lost key players from last year's team and had some tough shoes to fill, but in the end we lived up to and surpassed our expectations."

This year's team was a different team than in past years and they also achieved more than they have in that past. Just earning the bye in the first round proved this. Beating Dartmouth and making it to the third round of tournament was not expected, but this team did it by working together, being confident, and working as hard as they could. Just like last year, the team will be losing some important seniors, so time will tell whether they will let this effect them in a positive or negative way next year.

# New playoff proposal gives hope to more football programs

Photo/Tim Hoffman



*Junior quarterback Will Bolster looks for an open receiver in a previous game.*

By Michael Fortin  
Class of 2014

As the Walpole football team steamrolled Weymouth High School 48-21 on Thanksgiving day some players came off the field with some disappointment.

This disappointment however was not coming from the result of the game they just played but a game in Framingham where Natick beat Framingham 26-14 to capture a Division 2A playoff berth from within the Bay State Herget. This news was upsetting to the team because they had just found out they were another victim of the playoff system—a 10-1 team that dominated just about every game that will not be going to the playoffs. Walpole nonchalantly rolled through the

tem for the next two years to avoid instances like this. This new proposal is a pilot program and depending on how it goes, it could extend into the future. This new proposal, which was passed earlier this year, provides many more opportunities for football teams.

Teams will be divided into 12 team leagues from Divisions 1-5 and will be separated from North, South, Central, and West. In these 12 team leagues, 66% of the teams will advance to the playoffs compared to this year, where in the Herget, only 1 team out of 6 went to the playoffs. With this proposal, the playoffs will have more of a "March Madness" feel to it because it includes many more teams in the playoffs and gives teams a much better chance of succeeding. Additionally, it benefits teams that usually are not very good. After the 7 game regular season, your team

Bay State averaging about 40 points a game and only allowing 7 points a game. Even the team they beat on Thanksgiving by 27 points, Weymouth, who is only 8-3 is going to the Division 1 playoffs, the apparently stronger of the two divisions, even though the two best teams were in the Herget. So the question is should Walpole be penalized for having one bad game?

Fortunately for teams like Walpole throughout the state, starting next year they will be a part of a new playoff sys-

tem either goes into the playoffs, or if your team does not qualify for them, then your team goes into a pool of teams with similar records as you. With this system, even though they do not qualify for the playoffs they still have a better chance of succeeding compared to the old system because they will be playing teams with similar skill in weeks 8-10.

Also, another new feature in this proposal is the point system. This system contrasts from this years system in which you advance to the playoffs depending on your league and overall record. In the new proposal, for every win within your division you will be rewarded 10 points. For defeating a team in a higher division you will be awarded 12 points, and you will get 8 points for beating a team in a lower division. This is actually beneficial to Walpole because when they play teams in the Carey, they will be awarded 12 points for a win since said teams are Division 1. The Rebels dominated the Carey this season going 6-0 while pitching three shutouts in these wins.

This proposal however does not change everything we have in our current system. One big argument about the proposal is should we keep Thanksgiving games? The answer is yes because after weeks 8-10 the program goes back to the regular season where you play your traditional Thanksgiving opponent. There is a lot of controversy in this because some schools find it pointless to have playoffs then go back to the regular season just to keep a tradition going. But one major accomplishment the proposal establishes is the 6 State Champions compared to the current 19 State Champions.

As Natick and Weymouth advance to the playoffs people ponder if they are actually the best teams to represent the Bay State League. Weymouth struggled in their game against Brockton losing 33-7 and was being dominated for just about the whole game. Natick however did win their game against Plymouth South 38-33 to advance to the Division 2A Superbowl against Beverly. However there was a controversy over this game as Plymouth South claimed Natick was using an illegal ball but the MIAA still granted Natick the win. As next year approaches, teams across the state will enter the season a little more confident knowing that they will have a better chance of making the playoffs and succeeding with this new football proposal.

