

THE REBELLION

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WALPOLE HIGH SCHOOL

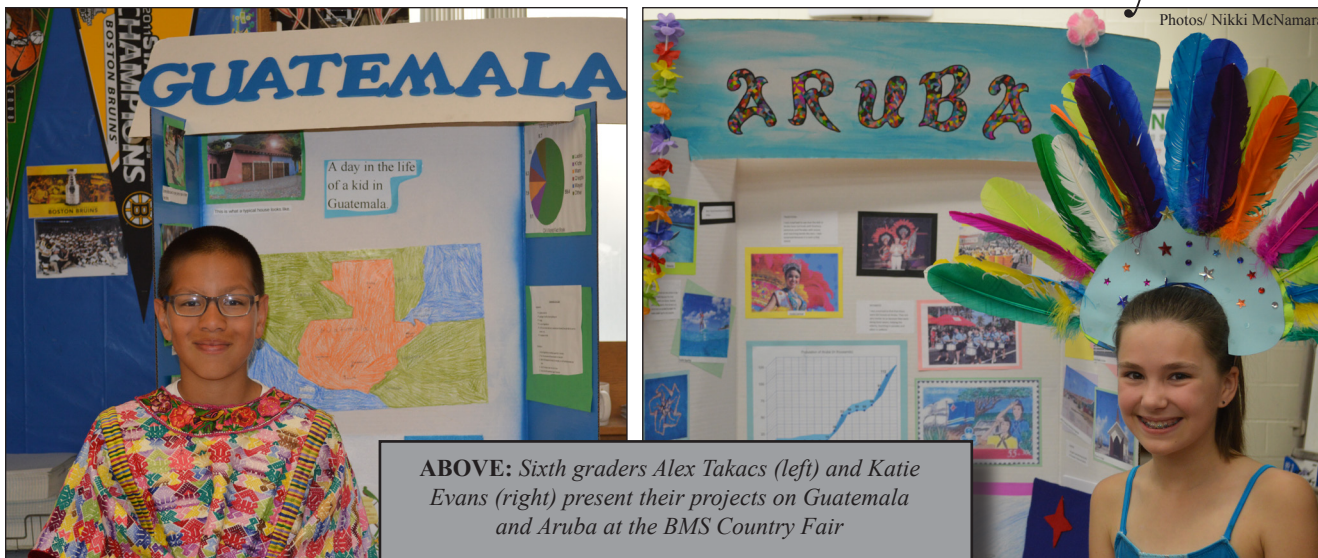
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Bird Middle School hosts its Annual Country Fair

By Melanie Weber
Class of 2017

The diverse cultures and sundry foods of countries ranging from Egypt to Brazil were showcased at Bird Middle School on Thursday, May 21 as the school hosted its annual Country Fair with the sixth grade class. Beginning at 7 pm in the cafeteria and in the gym, the Country Fair featured 165 sixth grade students presenting poster boards of 116 different countries. Families and friends explored the different cultures and even got a taste of typical foods from the foreign countries.

Organized by Mr. David Cuzzi, a sixth grade social studies teacher at Bird Middle School, the Country Fair is the culminating event for a year-long research project. Throughout the year, students learned about various foreign countries and eventually selected a country to research. With Mr. Cuzzi's approval of their proposal, students researched their country and projected their information on tri-fold display boards. Students even dressed up in a costume that represented their country and brought in a typical food dish from their country. From pineapple empanadas to baklava to Belgium waffles and even



ABOVE: Sixth graders Alex Takacs (left) and Katie Evans (right) present their projects on Guatemala and Aruba at the BMS Country Fair

coconut cookies, food not only represented the country, but also served as refreshments for the friends and families who attended the event. "One of my favorite parts of the Country Fair is the food. It is usually very tasty, and it is cool to be able to try foods of different countries," said sixth grader Erin Foley. The fair basically serves to inform the Bird students and families about other places and cultures in the world in both an educational and entertaining manner.

The purpose of the poster board was to represent what life is like in

the country for the typical middle school-aged child. The topics focused on things that are important to kids like education, recreation, family life, sports, and hobbies. All posters included a map of the country, a chart or graph showing data about the characteristics of children in the country, a handmade flag, a 3D object from that country and various pictures portraying everyday life. Once Mr. Cuzzi graded the students' presentations, the students walked around to see the other presentations. "I enjoyed looking at my friends'

posters and comparing their country to my country. It is interesting to see the differences in cultures," said sixth grader Timmy Flynn.

This year's Country Fair enabled students, friends and families to delve into other cultures while enjoying refreshments and socializing with their peers. Although the fair was only for one night, it left a long-lasting impact on the students as a fun and enjoyable event. "The Country Fair is one of the most memorable things for the students at Bird," said Mr. Cuzzi. "Most former students still remember their countries."

Mr. Connor moves to Bird Middle

By Audrey Lynch
Class of 2017

Seek friendship, speak truth, and do brave things.

Many students at Walpole High are quite familiar with this slogan, as Mr. Edward Connor, current assistant principal at WHS, has taught these three messages every Friday on the morning announcements during his segment, "Mr. Connor's Corner." However, Mr. Connor will soon be delivering the same message to a younger demographic. This September, students at Bird Middle School will welcome Mr. Connor as their new assistant principal, as he takes the place of current assistant principal Damon Rainie.

Mr. Connor has been an educator for over 22 years, starting his career as a Spanish teacher at Oakmont Regional High School in Ashburnham, MA. The following year, Mr. Connor took a new position as the Foreign Language Department Head and Spanish teacher at Natick High School. Mr. Connor stayed in Natick until 2005, when he accepted his position as an assistant principal at Walpole High.

Mr. Connor made his decision to transition to his new position as an administrator at Bird Middle School in the hopes of gaining experience as a middle school administrator. Looking towards the future, Mr. Connor acknowledged that at some point, he may pursue a job as head principal at a middle school; however, he

has no immediate plans to make that transition. His upcoming job at Bird Middle School will give him experience as a middle school administrator. "I would not be a middle school principal without the experience working in a middle school," he said. Mr. Connor is also happy about staying within the district, and looks forward to a change while staying within the community.

Approaching his new position at Bird Middle School, Mr. Connor has several hopes about working at a smaller school with younger students. Mr. Connor hopes to give the students, specifically the eighth graders an idea of what it is really like to be a high schooler. Rising high school freshman often hear stories about what high school will be like. Mr. Connor said, "I can tell them the actual facts, because I have done this for so long. I know what you need to do to be successful in high school." As he has spent the past ten years as an assistant principal at a high school, he is also aware of the problems that students will run into—both socially and academically. Mr. Connor plans to carry on his traditional "Mr. Connor's Corner" each Friday morning on the BMS news. The short segment on the Rebel Report, Walpole High's morning news, previously featured special segments on days such as Valentine's Day or Prom. Matt Mori-

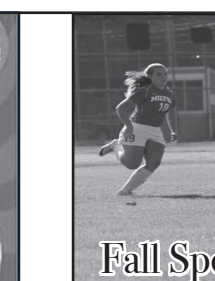
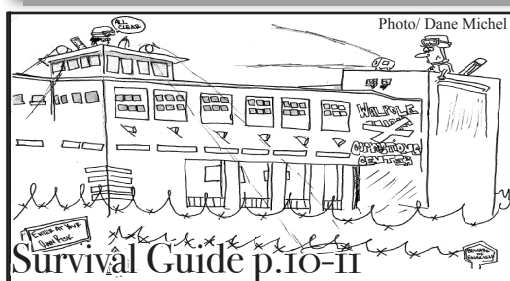
arty, a junior at Walpole High, has recently started working as a news anchor for the Rebel Report, and has been watching segments of Mr. Connor's Corner on the Friday morning news since his freshman year. He said, "I think Mr. Connor's Corner is a great way to convey lessons that students would not normally learn in a classroom setting, while still at school."

At his new position at Bird Middle School, it will be Mr. Connor's first experience working alone as an assistant principal. For the past 10 years, Mr. Connor has worked alongside another administrator with the same role, as each assistant principal has half of the student body to serve. Mr. Connor feels well prepared for the new experience, as he is familiar with Bridget Gough, current Bird Middle School principal, as well as Johnson Middle School administrators. He said, "Whatever middle school issues that I need help dealing with, I know that there are people there that I can talk to—in my school, as well as the other middle school." One of Mr. Connor's main goals is to help both middle schools work together, as both schools share similar goals.

In just a few months, students at Bird Middle School will be listening to Mr. Connor deliver his famous message, "seek friendship, speak truth, and do brave things," upon his arrival at the school in September.



ABOVE: Mr. Connor on his iconic Friday morning news show, "Mr. Connor's Corner."



Fall Sports Guide p.18

WALPOLE HIGH SCHOOL SURVIVAL GUIDE

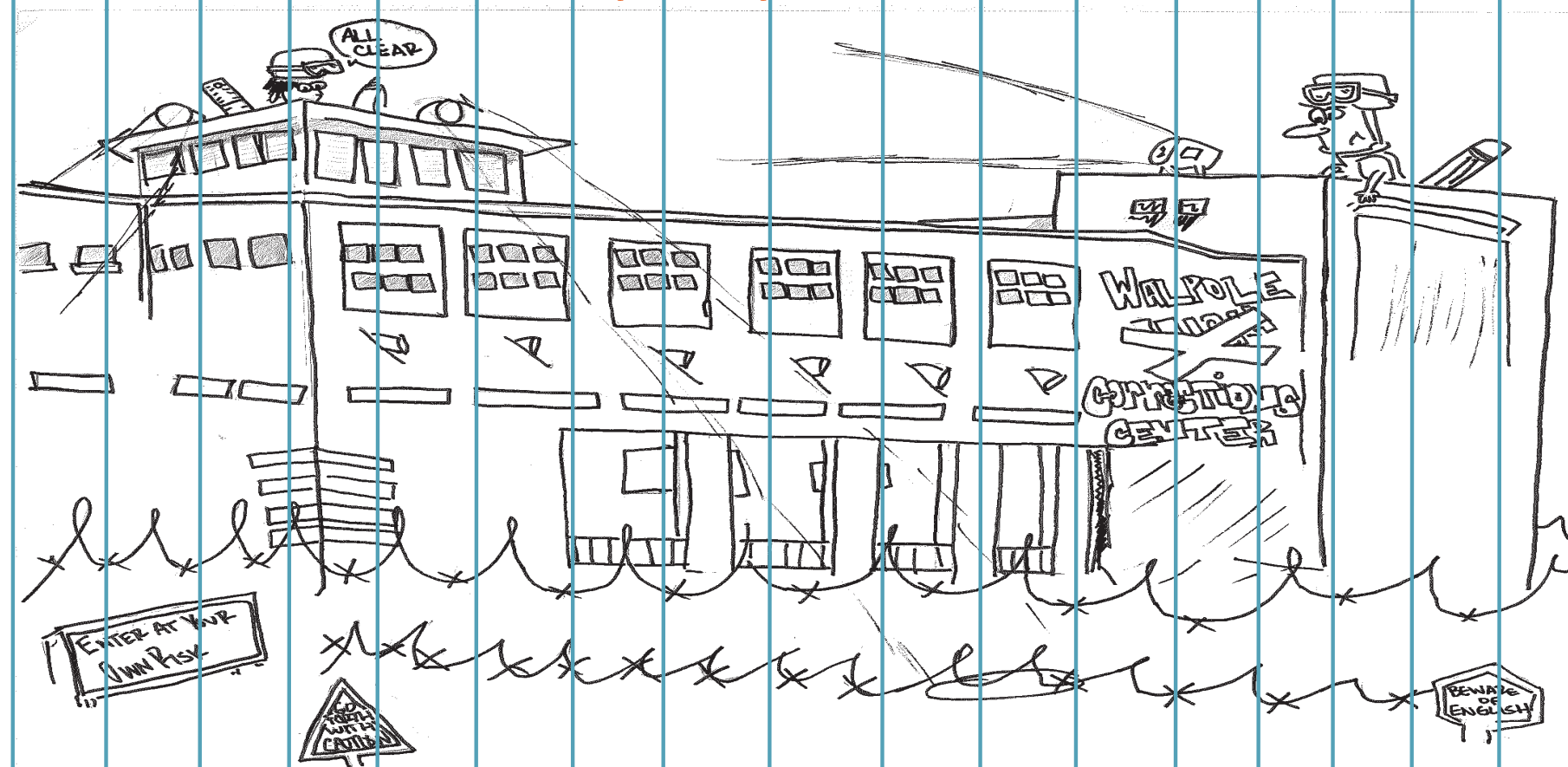
After surveying 140 Walpole High School students and 71 middle school students, the Rebellion compiled some advice for eighth graders about their transition to the high school.

Don't stress yourself out.

Everybody knows the stereotypical idea of the average teenager: angst-ridden, moody, and dissatisfied with their life. Even though we are all first and foremost students, we are also kids, and you will get to live out your teenage years and make the best of it. We may not be in *High School Musical*, but you still get the experiences everyone looks forward to, such as Prom. Try to make High School an enjoyable experience, because you will be here for four years and there is more to school than just grades.

Make new friends but keep the old...

A lot of people coming into high school are not sure how to deal with the new social aspects of high school where both middle schools combine. They fear that they will lose their friends or have to find others and become stressed about their social life— but don't stress. 65% of high schoolers said that their transition to high school was good, and they made a lot of friends. But remember, you don't have to get rid of old friends to make new ones. Cherish the friends you have and still branch out and meet new people!



Get involved.

One of the biggest pieces of advice entering high school from both teachers and students is to get involved in extracurricular activities and sports teams. 72.9% of high schoolers felt that getting involved in activities outside of school helped them to branch out and make new friends. These activities serve as outlets for students to get away from academic stress and help students to find other people who enjoy the same things they do. Just be sure to join clubs based on your interests rather than what looks good on a college application.

Don't be afraid to challenge yourself.

Many people shy away from advanced level courses because they believe that they cannot push themselves; however, if given the opportunity, you should trust your teacher and take the chance to excel past what you think your academic limits are. Your teachers know you better than you think and would not put you in a class that they think you would do poorly in. However, if a class proves to be too difficult, you always have the option to switch into a class where you feel more comfortable.

Learn how to manage your time wisely.

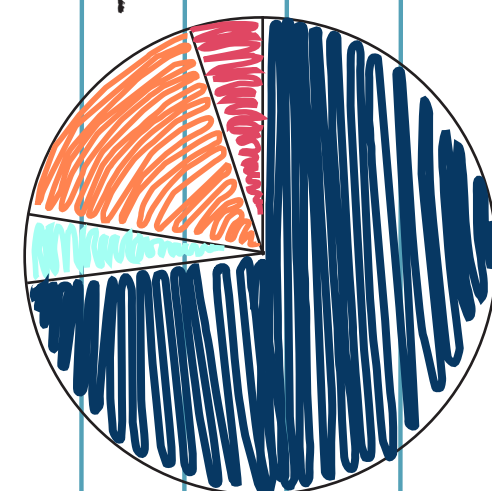
You will be faced with hours of homework as well as extracurricular activities, so you must take into account your own personal schedule when committing to things such as clubs and sports. If you overestimate your abilities to complete homework at warp speed, you will be up late at night trying to complete all the work you have left, feeling tired every day and not performing to your potential. At that pace, school will become a tiring drag. Improve your experience by balancing work and passion. Don't worry, once you get into the swing of things, you will learn to manage your time more effectively.

Do your homework. It will pay off.

The number one thing that middle schoolers most commonly dread coming into high school is the amount of homework that they will receive. Most claim that what they will miss most about middle school is the "homework schedule" and some even feel like they "won't be able to have a life outside of high school," due to large amounts of homework. Yes, there are going to be some nights where you need to sit down and get it done, but if you budget your time wisely, you will still be able to actively participate in extracurricular activities, sports, and hang out with your friends. Homework may seem like the biggest hassle, but if you are able to put the work into it, you are guaranteed to find more success in your classes than if you did not do your homework.



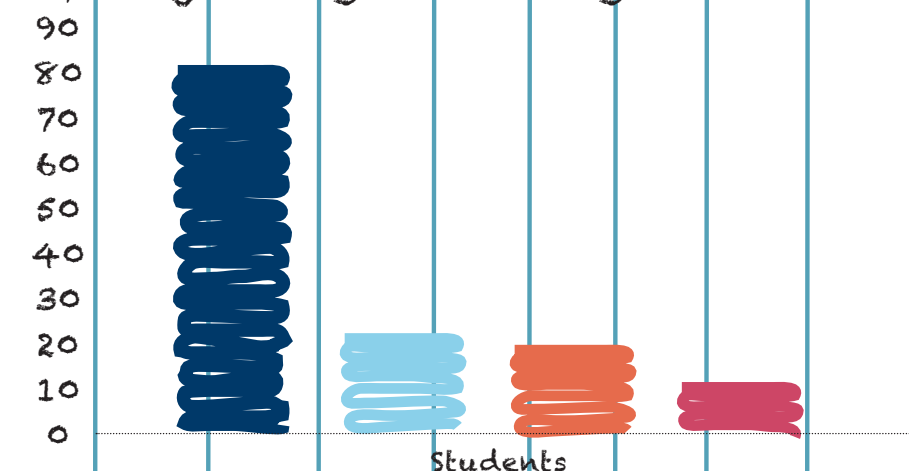
Does involvement in extracurricular activities help to make new friends?



■ Yes (73%) ■ No (5%) ■ Somewhat (17%) ■ Does not participate

A recent study of 140 Walpole High School students reveals the importance of student involvement in extracurriculars.

What was the most difficult part of adjusting to High School?



■ Academics and extracurriculars ■ Where do I sit at lunch? ■ Navigating the school ■ Other

Out of the 140 Walpole High School students surveyed, 60% of students said that balancing academics and extracurriculars was the hardest part of the transition to High School.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Jurassic World takes a bite out of the box office

By Daanya Salmanullah
Class of 2017

When viewers think of seeing *Jurassic World*, the fourth installment to the now billion dollar *Jurassic Park* franchise, their only thought is: how can the newest movie even compare to the beloved original in which realistic dinosaurs were on their screens for the first time? The answer to this question is that the movie contains world class effects, a thrilling plot, a deadly genetically engineered dinosaur, and a new passion for velociraptors that no one would ever expect.

Jurassic World, the theme park, has been built alongside the original park featured in the first few movies on the island of Isla Nublar off the coast of Costa Rica. The park contains the typical attractions of a petting zoo featuring young and friendly triceratops, the Hammond education center where visitors can learn about each of the park's animals, and even a Sea World-style show featuring an ancient aquatic animal, the Mosasaurus, in a feeding show.

The dinosaurs featured in *Jurassic World* capture the audience's attention from their first dramatic appearance in the movie. Whether it is the Indominus Rex, a raptor, a pterodactyl, or the classic Tyrannosaurus Rex,



ABOVE: Dimorphodons and Pteranodons are dinosaurs displayed at the Jurassic World theme park.

the ridiculously lifelike features of the extinct animals will not disappoint. Of course, there is a never-ending amount of razor-sharp teeth and bloodshed, which some critics argue is the only advancement in the creatures, but there is much more. The genetically modified Indominus Rex, whose name means the "fierce or untamable king," meets all of the requirements of an out-of-control, bloodthirsty dino. She is designed to be larger than the T-Rex, have a roar which is paralleled only by the "sound of a 747 taking off", and have a few hidden features that wreak havoc throughout the movie.

Although the dinosaurs are extra car-

nivorous in this movie, with the help of ex-Navy man Owen Grady (Chris Pratt), the audience learns to find a new appreciation for the raptors which were made infamous in the first movies of the series as unforgiving killers.

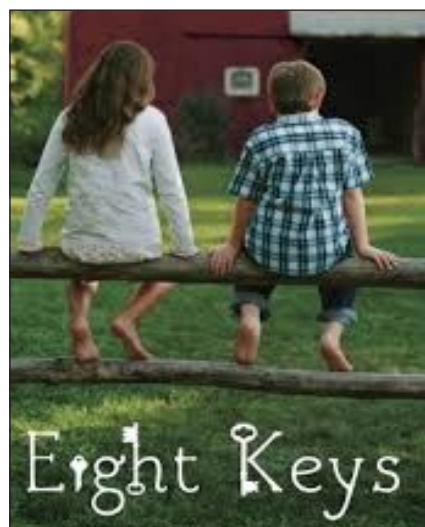
As the velociraptor trainer, Grady develops a relationship with the animals, such as an Alpha would with his wolfpack, and later fights for their freedom when the park's head of security, Vic Hoskins (Vincent D'Onofrio), wants to commercialize the raptors as weapons for the army. Certainly, there is also the conflict between dino and human – as the creators of the park defy the laws of nature by creating Indominus Rex,

who kills everything in her path – as well as the fight for family. Two nephews (Nick Robinson and Ty Simpkins) of a manager of the park, Claire (Bryce Dallas Howard), come to visit her as their parents go through a divorce, and a much-needed love story develops between Claire and Owen as they fight to save the park from Hoskins and save themselves from the dinosaurs.

Whether the audience is interested in the story of love, brotherhood, survival, or just the dinosaurs, the viewers will get to experience a once in a lifetime bond and battle between man and beast and see history's greatest creatures come back to life in this new classic.

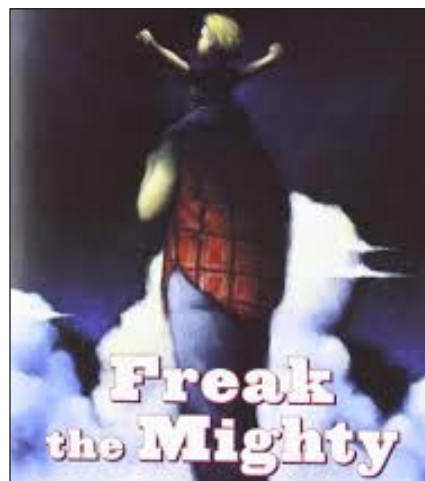
Middle School Summer Reading Sixth Grade

Eight Keys is a story about a girl and her friend moving into middle school. They loved to make believe and play games, but things suddenly begin to change. Bullies and other middle school problems get the kids down until they find a key that can unlock the eight rooms in her uncle's barn and that results in a mysterious adventure.



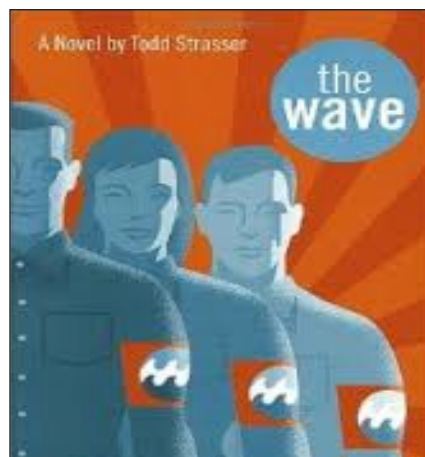
Seventh Grade

Freak the Mighty is the tale of an unlikely friendship complete with kidnappings, robot human hybrids, and epic adventures. The two kids are Freak and Max and they are complete opposites but end up being great friends and realize they are better together than when they are apart.



Eighth Grade

The Wave is a story about a classroom experiment gone wrong. In an attempt to help his students better understand how the Nazis became so powerful during the Holocaust, a teacher decides to conduct an experiment. Things spiral out of control as the kids form a group called the Wave from the ideas that the teacher gave them.



High School Summer Reading Previews

For the full list of this year's summer reading books, go to the Walpole High homepage and select the WHS Summer Reading 2015 tab under "What's happening."

By Daanya Salmanullah and Rebecca Boyajian

Class of 2017

Enigma
by Robert Harris

Enigma is the story of Tom Jericho, a man working during the time of World War II to crack the Nazi's Enigma Code. In the process, his life becomes full of mystery as he does not know who to trust with completing this highly secret mission as people in his life go missing. Though the novel is pure fiction, the author portrays the computing project accurately in this thriller.

Looking for Alaska
by John Green

The award-winning *Looking for Alaska* follows the fictional life of Miles Halter who heads off to boarding school seeking change from his dreary life. His whole world is flipped upside-down when he meets the witty and beautiful Alaska Young and suddenly finds himself in a world of alluring danger and excitement.

Emma
by Jane Austen

Sometimes regarded as Jane Austen's most flawless work, *Emma* is the story of Emma Woodhouse, a young girl who does not find love in her own life but works to find love for others. While meddling in her protégée's love life, she faces consequences that she never expected.

Go Set A Watchman
by Harper Lee

Harper Lee's second novel follows Scout Finch as she returns home to Maycomb County, Alabama to visit her father Atticus and deals with the issues that shaped mid-1950s America. The book is the most anticipated release of the summer as it is the sequel to the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *To Kill A Mockingbird* and shines a new light on the enduring classic.

The Martian
by Andy Weir

Andy Weir crafts a delightfully terrifying and nerve-wracking adventure of an astronaut, Mark Watney, the first person to land on Mars, and most likely the first to die there. Watney finds himself stranded on the mysterious planet after his team mistakes him for dead, with no food, hardly any resources and no way to signal for help.

Unbroken
by Laura Hillenbrand

The #1 New York Times best seller-turned-major motion picture is the inspiring true story of World War II hero and Olympic track star Louis Zamperini. Laura Hillenbrand enlightens her readers with the hero's incredible tale of survival, resilience and redemption in *Unbroken*.

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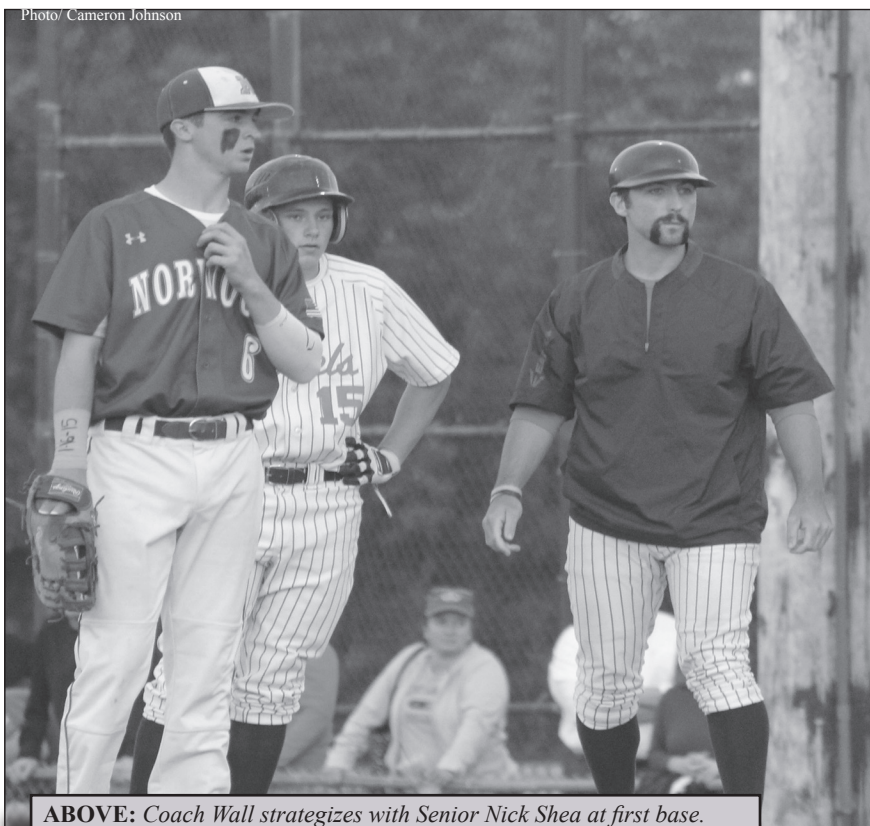
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Under New Management

Coach David Wall does it all



ABOVE: Coach Wall strategizes with Senior Nick Shea at first base.

By: David Moser,
Emily O'Connell
and Sophia Giovaniello

Head Coach William Tompkins has deservedly received much of the praise for turning an underperforming regular season 12-8 team into a playoff contender; however, one other person on the coaching staff has gone largely overlooked. This coach has been the common denominator for three Herget Championships this year as an assistant coach for Rebel Football, Boys Basketball, and Boys Baseball.

In short, Assistant Coach David Wall does it all. "Wall has brought a lot of intensity to the team. He is always fired up whenever big plays are made or when big hits happen," said senior baseball captain Kevin Quinn. "His passion helps keep everyone loose and focused on the game."

For baseball, Coach Wall not only coaches and works with outfielders, but he is also the first base coach. Whether he waves players on to second or signals players to steal or not, his keen readiness during the games allows him to easily communicate with

his players for the best course of action.

In the first playoff game on June 4, Walpole Baseball defeated Barnstable 2-0 in the preliminary round. In the second game on June 8, they defeated Taunton 4-2 in the Division 1 Eastern Sectional Quarter-Finals game. On Wednesday, June 10, the Rebels took on rival Norwood at Braintree High School to compete in the Division 1 Eastern Sectional Semifinals. Despite getting a lot of men on base throughout the game, they were left stranded. Walpole went scoreless and lost 4-0.

"Throughout the season, Coach Wall's energy was a key factor to the team's success. His love for the game and the players he coaches made him a tremendous addition to the coaching staff" said baseball Head Coach, William Tompkins.

In addition to baseball, he is the defensive back coach for football, which went 11-1 and were Herget league champions, the head coach of Walpole's boys junior varsity basketball team, and one of the assistant coaches for Walpole's boys varsity basketball 15-7 team. Coach Wall is also involved with the summer Rebel Hoop basketball camps and the baseball Extra Bases camps.

"Coach Wall is a big reason for why the basketball program has been very successful the last three years. As JV coach, he prepares his players for varsity by working them hard, treating them fair, and teaching them the skills they need. During varsity games, the guys can count on him for advice on how to handle different situations" said boys basketball Head Coach, David St. Martin.

Before he was in Walpole, he grew up in Braintree, Massachusetts where he played football, basketball and

baseball. He later continued to play football at Bridgewater State College.

"He's young and very understanding. He played all the same sports I do, so we can really relate to each other," said Charlie Auditore, sophomore at Walpole High School who has been coached by Coach Wall for football, basketball, and baseball.

At Johnson Middle School, Coach Wall has also been the Physical Education (PE) teacher for the past three years. Before Coach Wall arrived at Johnson Middle School, Barry Greener was the PE teacher along with Johanna Madge. Mr. Greener's classes had a focus on an old-school type of PE with an emphasis on seasonal sports and the Boston College (or BC) workout that featured daily pushups and sit up type workouts.

When Coach Greener retired from teaching, Coach Wall took his position at Johnson Middle School in the fall of 2012. Coach Wall followed the same curriculum for Physical Education class, but at the same time, was able to bring his own style and teach physical education in his own way.

"He has an enthusiastic personality that the students and staff can really relate to," said Ms. Madge.

Even though success in sports is one of Coach Wall's goals for his players and students, it is not the main one.

"The main thing I want to happen each season, is for my athletes to get an understanding of how hard work and dedication can lead to success in not only sports but anything else they choose to do," said Mr. Wall. "I want my players leaving each season with a larger understanding of work ethic, dedication, and commitment to goals."

Walpole competes at Unified Track Championship

By Meghan O'Meara
Class of 2016

After two regular season meets, Walpole Unified Track and Field competed in the Southern League Unified Track and Field Championship at Sharon High School on Wednesday, May 20. Ms. April Zyirek, the Special Education Department Chairperson and Program Coordinator, and WHS Special Education Teacher, Mrs. Mary Caine, worked together to implement the program this year for the first time ever. With approximately 24 students, Walpole Unified Track and Field had the largest team in the Southern League at the Championship Meet.

"We also had a large group of faculty and staff who volunteered, along with spectators who have come to the meets to support the team," said Caine.

The Unified Team practiced about once a week; however, Physical Education and Health Teacher Quinn Geary practiced all of the events with the students during their PE classes. The Educational Support Personnel in the Career and Education Program also worked hard to prepare students in PE.

WHS Junior Theresa Swindlehurst, an active member in the Best Buddies program and a student partner on the team—participated in the 100 meter dash and shot put. Swindlehurst enjoyed participating in Unified Track and felt that she benefitted from being on the team.

"It helped me have more patience and be able to better understand people with disabilities," she said. "It also made me realize they are just as good at sports as everyone else."

Special Olympic athlete Courtney Waters, who participated in re-



ABOVE: Senior Selene Henry and junior Courtney Waters participated in this season of Unified Track and Field.

lay races, javelin, and shot put, had a great experience with unified track.

"Amire Loftis and I were the best team—he was the fastest one out there, and I like to win," said Waters.

Both Waters and Swindlehurst plan on participating next year. To any WHS student interested in joining the team, Swindlehurst said, "Make sure you can commit fully and really bond with the students. That way, everyone in the group can grow to their fullest potential."

After the decision had been made in the fall of 2014 to bring Unified Track

and Field to Walpole High, Ms. Zyirek applied for a grant through Special Olympics to get the team started and received \$2000.00 grant money for the first year. Hoping to raise more funding, the Special Education Department also reached out to parents for donations.

Susan Cisternelli, a parent of a student in the program, reached out to local businesses and friends for donations. In addition, parent Jackie Groden donated snacks on the day of the meets. While Texas Roadhouse donated the team shirts, Walpole High School bought the

supplies and paid for buses for the meet.

To prepare for the season, Ms. Zyirek and Mrs. Caine went to meetings and training through Special Olympics and brought two students to a leadership conference at Special Olympics Headquarters. Ms. Zyirek asked Ms. Teresa Canney, Science Teacher of the Special Education Department, to coach the team because of her experience with track.

Caine said, "It was amazing to see the athletes push themselves and succeed and the partners try their best in their events as well as encourage the athletes."

Fall Sports Preview: What freshmen need to know



Photo\ Ellie Kalemkeridis

BOYS SOCCER

HEAD COACH

Lee Delaney
lee@massretirees.com

LAST YEAR'S RECORD
10-4-4

PREPARATION FOR THE FALL

Coach Delaney: "Get in shape and stay in shape. Get together with teammates as much as possible for informal practice/scrimmages."

SUMMER PROGRAMS

These options include captains practices, Club Soccer, BAYS Spring League, Bay State Games, Norton Summer League and Keene State Summer Camp.



Photo\ Bryan Kellner

BOYS XC

HEAD COACH

Tim Giblin
tgiblin@walpole.k12.ma.us

LAST YEAR'S RECORD
8-3

PREPARATION FOR THE FALL

Coach Giblin: "The captains hold practice & get together to run with the team every day. It is a laid back environment but essential for a successful season."

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Running over the summer is suggested. About 12 runners will be attending Westwood Running Camp in Western MA.



Photo\ Henry Baker

GOLF

HEAD COACH

Billy Cunningham
wdcunningham@pga.com

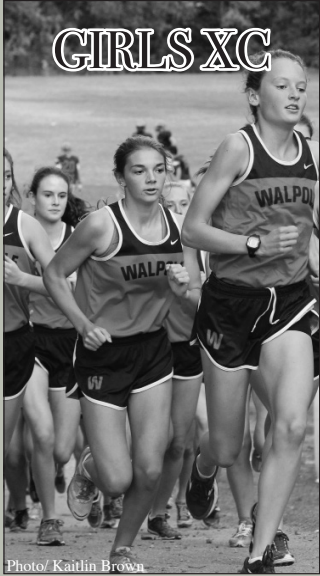
LAST YEAR'S RECORD
4-4

PREPARATION FOR THE FALL

Coach Cunningham: "Practice as much as possible or go to a driving range or a golf course to work on fundamentals."

SUMMER PROGRAMS

The New England PGA runs a junior tour with all different age divisions. These are great events and would definitely help with the upcoming season.



Photo\ Kaitlin Brown

GIRLS XC

HEAD COACH

Jamie Farrell
jfarrell@walpole.k12.ma.us

LAST YEAR'S RECORD
8-3

PREPARATION FOR THE FALL

Coach Farrell: "Athletes should have a great time and work hard to be successful at all competitive levels."

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Captains hold practices at 9am Monday-Saturday all summer. Meet outside of the snack bar. Captains will also pass out workout sheets. Athletes should make sure to stay hydrated.



Photo\ Max Simons

FOOTBALL

HEAD COACH

Barry Greener
bgreener@walpole.k12.ma.us

LAST YEAR'S RECORD
11-1

SUMMER PROGRAM

Gut Camp is a conditioning and strength program at the high school that runs from 7/6-8/18 Monday through Thursday from 6:00-8:00am. The camp is run by past Rebel alumni and current college players. The program is separate from the varsity program. Its main focus is on building speed while weight-lifting is secondary.



Photo\ Alex Otero

VOLLEYBALL

HEAD COACH

Lisa Cyr
walpolevolleyball@gmail.com

LAST YEAR'S RECORD
12-6

PREPARATION FOR THE FALL

Coach Cyr: "Athletes should come to pre-season in top condition (including running, core work, and plyometrics). Athletes should also try to play volleyball! There are sand courts at Adams Farm where friends can get together to play."

SUMMER PROGRAMS

There is a Skills & Drills camp and a Setting & Hitting clinic at the Walpole Rec. The Norfolk Aggie has a camp, as does SMASH, which is a club that runs in Newton. www.walpolevolleyball offers information on other camps as well.



Photo\ Hiromi Kondo

GIRLS SOCCER

HEAD COACH

Erin Kearney
erincarnes3@yahoo.com

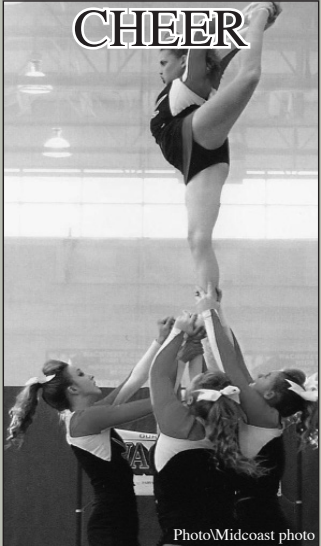
LAST YEAR'S RECORD
14-2-3

PREPARATION FOR THE FALL

Coach Kearney: "Work on ball skills, getting in shape, having a good first touch, and understanding the basics, such as dribbling, passing, shooting, and defending."

SUMMER PROGRAMS

There is a pre-season camp that is the week before tryouts start (August 17-21) to prepare athletes for tryouts. Captain's practices (Mon, Wed 7am) start around July 4th at Turco. Summer league is Tues and Thurs nights. Athletes should attend the parent/player signup meeting in June (email will be sent out), so coaches have access to current information.



Photo\ Midcoast photo

CHEER

HEAD COACH

Elisabeth Udhal
rebelcheer0@gmail.com

LAST YEAR'S RECORD
1st in Division

PREPARATION FOR THE FALL

Coach Udahl: "Over the summer, athletes should attend tumbling classes. It is also important to work on flexibility, so they will be well prepared for the season. Any flyers will have the proper flexibility to perform."

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Throughout the summer, there are captains practices twice a week to work on cheers, motions, and endurance. They stunt, jump, and tumble. Gymnastics Academy of Boston also offers class on Tuesdays. There are also various tumbling classes at Cheerfactor Gym and other facilities to help teach athletes new skills.



Photo\ Max Simons

FIELD HOCKEY

HEAD COACH

Marianne Murphy
murphy_marianne@hotmail.com

LAST YEAR'S RECORD
15-1-3

PREPARATION FOR THE FALL

Coach Murphy: "Athletes should make sure they are physically fit. They should make sure they are involved in a conditioning program like Velocity, along with working on individual stick and shooting skills."

SUMMER PROGRAMS

College coaches run clinics and camps throughout the whole summer. Athletes should check the website of local colleges for dates and times of these events. There are also summer leagues available as well that are run at Canton High School.



Photo\ Boston.com

SWIM

HEAD COACH

Cheryl Cavanaugh
cheryl_cavanaugh@walpoleswimteam.com

LAST YEAR'S RECORD
9-5

PREPARATION FOR THE FALL

Students should join Walpole Swim Team over the summer. They can find out additional information on the web site www.walpoleswimteam.com.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Student sign ups for introduction to competitive swimming are through the Walpole Recreation department. Students interested in spring board diving-Blue Hills Regional School will have an introduction to diving and swimming clinic in August. Go to www.bluehills.org. Anyone with gymnastic experience can become a Rebel Diver.



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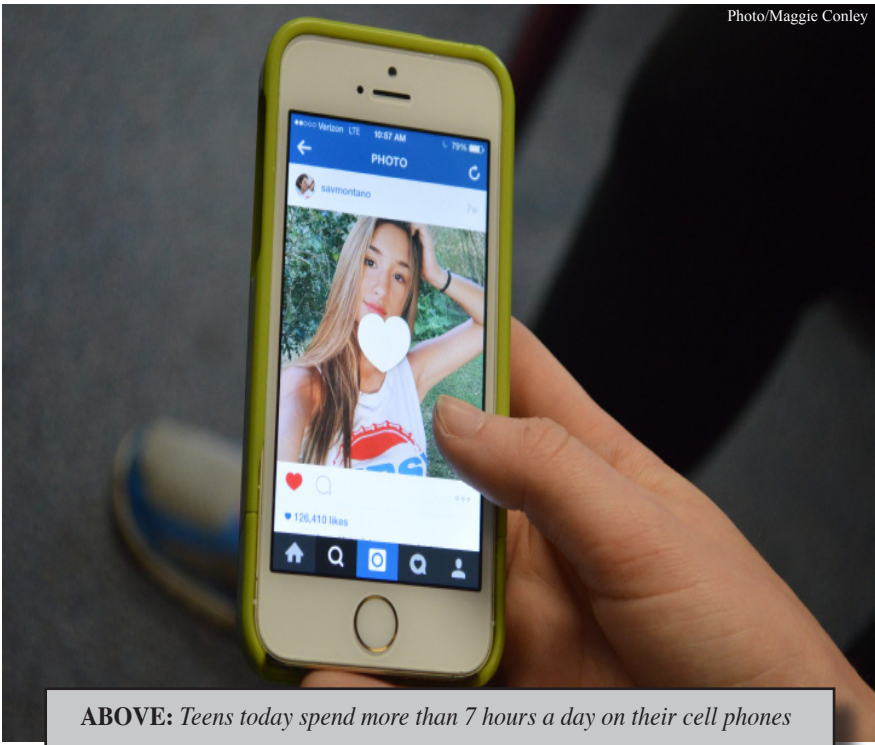
EDITORIALS

Post, refresh, like, repeat: Society needs to disconnect

By Ellie Kalemkeridis
Class of 2016

In today’s generation, the majority of us rely on our phone as if it is our lifeline. A world without Instagram, Facebook, and any other form of social media feels incomplete. If someone snatched their phones from their hands, teens might not know the answer to these earth-shattering questions: “How am I going to check Justin Bieber’s twitter feed?” or “How will I instagram a picture on Throw Back Thursday?” Oh, and I’m not just talking about teens--plenty of adults can admit they have some sort of undying emotional attachment to their phones (Yes, that’s you, fifty year old Farmville addicts popping up on my feed).

As our culture and societal standards change more and more every day, teens and adults find themselves envying the lives of random people on social media who don’t even know they exist. There are several females on Instagram who are considered “Instafamous”--a title typically delegated to a someone with a perfect body, face, and life (and let’s not forget 500k followers as a result). Teens don’t obsess only over these icons of perfection, but they aim to shape themselves and their own lives into a mirror image of the latter. Despite these perceptions, these so called “Instafamous” females are no more than ordinary teens just like us--they too are molding their lives into the perfect image for someone to see, to yearn to have. Specifically, girls in both middle and



ABOVE: Teens today spend more than 7 hours a day on their cell phones

high school treat Instagram as if it’s a contest: unspoken popularity points are given to those with more followers, more likes in a certain time period, and more creative captions and edits. I have even heard of girls (sadly, one of whom is my cousin) going as far as liking their own pictures off of separate accounts that they previously made themselves--all just to bolster the superficial popularity they attempt to create on their profile. What if they don’t reach what’s considered a satisfactory amount of likes? Of course, there is a simple solution to prevent any tarnish on the image of perfection they have worked so hard to uphold: the delete button. Deleting

a picture because of insufficient likes even days after it’s posted may be viewed as a sense of relief, for what if a peer stumbled upon and set you aside in their mind as a try-hard wannabe? But why do we view our phones as the holy-grail to our happiness? While we sit on the phone scrolling through junk on Twitter or Instagram, we are not only losing precious hours of our day, but more importantly we are losing those intangible aspects of social interaction, the interaction that shapes our character and moreover our identity. Who really are we if we spend so much time wishing we look like, or have the life of so and so on Ins-

tagram or Facebook? We can wish we were these people as much as we want, but merely wishing will never change our perception of ourselves, and the significance of our individuality in such a conformative society. With all the things visibly wrong with our society’s abuse of social media, we can still manage to find a possible upside. Instagram and other forms of social media surely can provide an outlet for freedom of expression, and the freedom to share one’s unconventional opinions. Without the societal pressures from the outside world that inhibit people from expressing themselves, people feel as though they can open up to the entire online community in which someone may just share their same interests. But here’s a question for us to consider: is it possible that the way we portray ourselves on social media is the way we really are? Are we more open to expressing our true self when we know we won’t be judged face to face by those who set the societal by-laws on what’s acceptable and unacceptable? Think about how you act or think when you are alone. Would you act the same way or share those personal thoughts even if put in front of a room full of your peers? It’s open to your interpretation. Are you the person you are when no one’s watching? I propose you see what a day without your phone can do. Take a walk outside, visit an old friend, maybe even read a book (GASP). Who knows? You may just realize your own life may be just as special as Sally-what’s-her-name’s with 500,000 followers appears to be.

Middle Schools need to reevaluate dress codes

By Megan O’Meara
Class of 2016

At Bird Middle School and Eleanor N. Johnson Middle School, students are required to follow a dress code requiring that the straps on their tank tops are “two fingers wide” and their shorts are “fingertip length” to create an environment conducive to learning. These requirements may seem trivial; however, they greatly affect the daily lives of middle school students and must be changed. Both middle schools need to implement a new dress code because the current dress code is, inconsistent with that of the high school. The regulation of clothing plays virtually no role in the colder seasons, but the school year can start as early as late August and end in late June. During the warmer months, students wear less clothing to accommodate for the increase in the temperature. The problem with the strap width and short length requirements is that teen clothing brands do not make “school appropriate” clothing. When middle school girls go shopping for spring and summer clothes, stores are filled with booty shorts and crop tops, shirts with cut-outs and skirts with high slits. It is hard to find clothes that parents find appropriate and near impossible

to find clothes that fit the dress code. Another problem with the dress code is that it is only implemented at the middle schools. Walpole High School has a much more lax dress code that allows the school to deem a student’s clothing inappropriate if a faculty member or another students finds it offensive. The dress code at the high school is hardly ever implemented— except in cases like those involving clothing with derogatory messages or racial slurs on them. Why strictly enforce a dress code for three years only to abandon it once students reach high school? The most common way the middle schools enforce the dress code is calling students out of class to discuss their poor clothing choices and making them change. Not only is this process a distraction from students learning, it is also damaging to students’ self esteems. A student calling out a classmate on his or her choice of clothing is considered rude, maybe even bullying; however, ridiculing a person’s clothing choice ceases to be unethical when a teacher is enforcing a school policy. With the onset of peer pressure and puberty, middle school is already a difficult time in every person’s life. The last thing students need is to feel judged not only by their classmates but by their teachers as well. Should shorts cover a student’s butt? Yes. However, students should be allowed to wear what they feel comfort-

able in and their parents should decide whether their outfit is appropriate, not the school. Thighs do not distract students from learning. Shoulders do not distract students from learning. Removing students from class to check that their clothing is “school appro-

priate” distracts them from learning. Instead of teaching students that they need to cover their bodies lest they distract their classmates from learning, school should teach students to focus on their education rather than their classmates’ bodies.

THE REBELLION

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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 website whstherebellion.com

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Basketball Players Earn Spot on JMS Wall of Fame

Photos/ Nikki McNamara



LEFT: Bridget O'Connor, Casey Poli, Lauren Lavanchey, and Bridget Avril's girls 3 on 3 championship team "CBBL."
RIGHT: Matt Falvey, Drew Mullen, and Matt Donato's boys 3 on 3 championship team "Oh Wait."

Photos/ David Moser



By David Moser
 Class of 2017

Hanging over the locker room door in the Johnson Middle School gym, the "JMS Wall of Fame Banner" chronologically lists all of the tournament winners in the last seven years. The banner features six separate tournaments: ping-pong, dodgeball, four-square, volleyball, boys basketball, and girls basketball. Past winners have included some Walpole High greats: Summer King (who recently reached 1000 kills in volleyball and 1000 points in basketball), Kevin Mansen (a current starting pitcher for the Rebels), Nolan Murray (Walpole alum who has gone on to play soccer at St. Anselm college), and Michael Rando (Walpole alum who has gone on to play football at Tufts university). On May 11 and

12, the boys and girls competed in the Johnson Middle School 3-on-3 tournament to add their name to the banner.

For the nine girls teams that entered the tournament on May 11, "CBBL" - the team name for Lauren Lavanchey, Casey Poli, Bridget Avril, and Bridget O'Connor - won the title. For the fourteen boys teams that entered the boys tournament on May 12, "Oh Wait" - the team name for Matt Donato, Drew Mullen, Matt Falvey, and Mark Falvey - won the title. Both tournaments had a five dollar entry fee that helped to fundraise four-hundred dollars so JMS can get new gym equipment.

Johanna Madge, one of Johnson's Physical Education teachers, manages the tournament. "Every tournament Ms. Madge runs is successful, and basketball is no different," said Principal William Hahn. In addition

to forming their own teams, many also picked unique team names and uniforms. For example, the "CBBL" team name was a combination of their first-name initials, and they all wore tie-dye t-shirts. Although the student-selected teams favored the older eighth graders, all students participated in the hopes of a big upset. Seventh grader Bridget O'Connor said about the win over older eighth graders, "as the clock ticked down, I was so happy to see that my team won the tourney out of all the other teams older than us in the tournament." Seventh grader Casey Poli also said, "I have fun playing my favorite sport with my friends and I'm proud to be able to see our names on the banner."

The tournament itself provided students with an intense playoff-like atmosphere. Faculty members reffed

four games simultaneously throughout the first round. Eighth grader Brendan Moser said, "Every year I've been here, I have played in this tournament, and I like getting the chance to get my team's name on the banner." As the tournament proceeded with the first round wrapping up, and as latter rounds passed by, fewer and fewer teams remained.

In the end, after hard fought and close games, only "CBBL" and "Oh Wait" remained. "CBBL" completed the upset and pulled off a tournament win as seventh graders. "Oh Wait" was winning from beginning to end and also earned themselves the title champion. All future students that attend Johnson Middle School will be able to see "CBBL's" and "Oh Wait's" players' names etched on the Wall of Fame banner to be remembered forever.

Stephen Colleran and Girls Distance lead top performances at last middle school track meet

By Emily Martin
 and Delaney Murphy
 Class of 2017

Walpole Middle School Track and Field began the fourth year of its seven week program on April 27. Coached by Fiona Murphy, Chris Lotsbom, and Antonietta O'Toole, the team had three meets at North Attleboro High School. Each meet had at least five teams that ranged from North Attleboro to Saint Mary's to King Philip Regional School. In their final meet of the season on June 10, the boys placed third out of four teams while in the girls placed second out of four teams.

For the girls team, the point scoring came from a wide variety of athletes in many different events.

Eighth grader Abby Rae was the only Walpole athlete who took a 1st place with an 11'9" jump. In the 100m hurdles, she showed her versatility by placing 3rd with a time of 17.60.

For the distance events, they proved to be very competitive. In the mile, seventh grader Michaela O'Toole ran a 7:01.74 to place 2nd. Seventh grader Ali Giffen ran a 7:07 to place 3rd, and eighth grader Leah Whearty placed 4th with a 7:37.

"I was not nervous. [The coaches] made me comfortable," said Whearty.

Meanwhile, in the 800m, Walpole ended up placing 2nd through 6th with eighth grader Camille Logiudice placing 2nd with a time of 2:54.23. O'Toole also doubled back from the mile and placed 5th with a time of 3:16.54.

Seventh graders Stephen Colle-

ran and Ryan Stockwell led the point scoring for the boys. Colleran finished 1st with a time of 63.82 in the 400m, while in the 200m, Stockwell placed 2nd with a time of 29.69. Both Colleran and Stockwell were also the top two finishers in the 800m with Colleran in 1st at a 2:48.03 and Stockwell in 2nd at a 2:48.72.

A three year veteran of the program, seventh grader Tyler Sullivan placed 4th with a time of 6:13. Reflecting on his accomplishment and his past three years of competing for the middle school team, Sullivan said, "[The coaches] helped me go faster, try harder, and [taught me] not to give up."

Having established the elementary school program at Boyden Elementary School, Coach Murphy founded the Middle School Program to better prepare those elementary school athletes for the high school competition.

"I am glad that I started the middle school program so that Walpole kids can now learn about running from elementary school all the way through high school, without missing those 3 years in between," said Coach Murphy.

For the first three weeks of the program, the athletes had the opportunity to experiment with different events. The events in the meet include track events that range from 50 to 1600 meter races (including hurdles), to field events such as turbo javelin, shot put, discus, long jump, high jump and a relay. Eventually, athletes specialized in certain events where they trained to compete at their meets.

With the season coming to a close,

Coach Murphy believes that the transition from middle school track to high school track will be much easier as a result of her program.

"I think they develop a confidence in the middle school program that al-

lows them to give their best when they reach high school," said Coach Murphy. "They have had the experience already, so they can focus on training, improving and enjoying being part of the team once they reach high school."

Photos/ Jess Giffen



ABOVE: Allie Saunders high jumps personal best of 3'10".
BELOW: Stephen Colleran takes 5th overall with a time of 28.44.



Academic changes needed to better prepare students for high school

By Emily Martin and
Daanya Salmanullah
Class of 2017

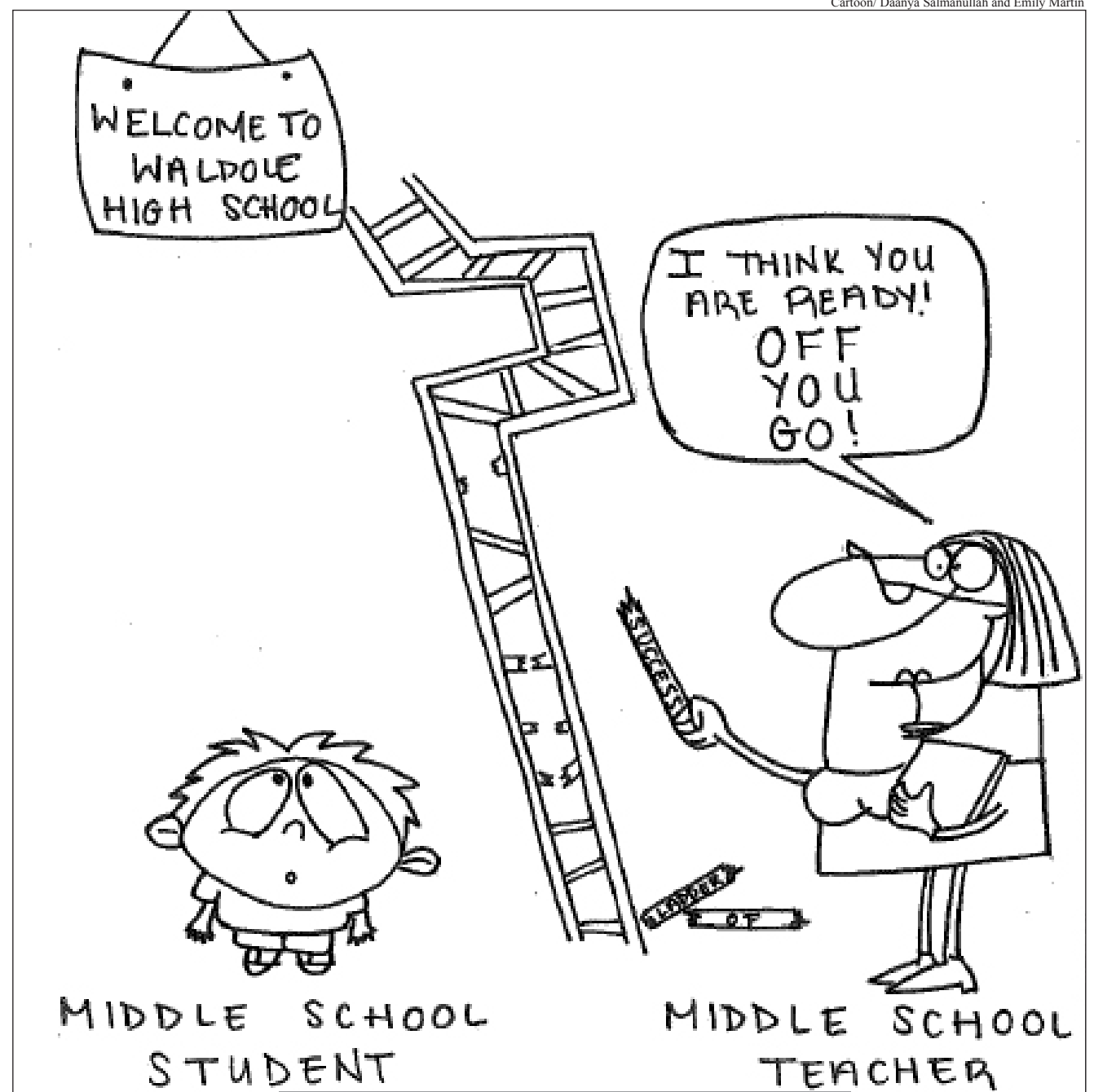
Middle school students must be prepared to change their outlooks on their academic courses and face the facts about high school: A's are not easy to get, and they should not be taken for granted.

In May, the Rebellion sent out two separate surveys about the academic transition to high school, one survey to ninth and tenth grade students, one survey to eighth grade students. In total, 71 eighth graders and 140 high school students responded. For the 140 high school students, 85% of the high school students cited the importance of extracurriculars, and 72.9% said that doing sports helped them fit in more with other students. However, 60% admitted that the hardest thing to adjust to in high school was balancing academics and extracurriculars because they felt stressed about the increase of work in their classes and their time management. Specifically, the high school students cited the following classes as the hardest during their freshman year: English (32.4%), Science (30.9%), and Math (14.4%).

Although middle school students may be at the top of their class with a 4.0 GPA in eighth grade, they might become a consistent B-level student in high school if they also do sports or extracurriculars. If these students truly want to excel, they must either specialize in a specific academic or sports or extracurricular, or they should expect to be somewhat overwhelmed by all-of-the-above.

If these students choose to specialize in everything, they definitely need to manage more responsibilities than in middle school, but teachers and administrators also need to better prepare students for this overwhelming transition to high school.

The addition of a Freshmen Orientation by Guidance Counselor Lisa Conley and the addition of a Freshmen Sports Orientation by the new Athletic Director Ron Dowd have improved the transition for students in extracurricular departments; however, there is still a need for assistance in academics. Since previous members of Walpole High School's administration have transitioned to each middle school,



ABOVE: "The Ladder of Success!"

with Edward Connor becoming an assistant principal at Bird Middle School and Bill Hahn as principal at Johnson Middle School, there are plenty of opportunities to align the curriculums of all schools and bridge the academic gaps between the middle schools and the high school.

In particular, with English, Science, and Math being the most difficult subjects for students to adjust to, teachers and department heads should focus on making the transition more gradual as students become stressed with both a more demanding workload and difficult curriculum. While these more

challenging classes do exist for middle school students, they do not compare to the amount of work that students must complete in high school.

Students deal with overwhelming amounts of stress as they enter high school, and many find it difficult to adequately prepare themselves on a mental level. Specifically, 83.5% of the high school students admitting to feeling "somewhat" or "completely" overwhelmed during their freshmen, and 50.7% of the eighth graders already anticipate that they will be overwhelmed next year.

In the short term, administrators

should focus on trying to assist students by providing coping strategies to help the stress that has resulted from the new workload that they have not had a chance to adjust to.

With a more gradual change into the rigorous high school curriculum, students would feel less overwhelmed and allow themselves to mentally and emotionally prepare for the demanding road ahead. However, they should not try to prepare on their own — the responsibility for preparing also lies within how the community prepares their students for the new high school curriculum.

Middle school sponsored sports will help prepare athletes for high school

By Christian Carr-Locke
Class of 2016

A 2014 Boys Cross-Country class meet championship. A 2013 Field Hockey State Champion. The 2008 Super Bowl. The list goes on and on. Walpole High School sports teams clearly stand out statewide because of their success. Yet, how do Walpole middle school sports teams place in the state?

Easy answer: They don't.

Out of the twelve towns that are part of the Bay State Conference, seven have middle school sponsored sports: Wellesley, Dedham, Natick, Milton, Weymouth, Needham, and Framingham — Walpole does not. The middle schools of these towns compete with one another just as all the twelve schools in the Bay State do at the high school level.

Before high school, athletes are restricted to recreational town and club leagues. When they transition to high school, the former recreation stars find

themselves on the bench, and — for the first time — the jersey that athletes wear signifies more than a sports team, rather, a representation of the school.

Ronald Dowd — Walpole's new athletic director — is well aware of the benefits of establishing a middle school sports program in the years to follow. "Having to be somewhere every single day at a certain time, it's certainly a large transition for eighth graders going into ninth grade. By starting school sponsored sports in the eighth grade, they get accustomed to it and it gives them a sense of responsibility," said Dowd. If students are already used to rigorous daily practices when they enter the high school, coaches can worry less about wasting practice time.

Coaches can transition the focus from the win-loss record towards improving athletes' skill level, playing time, and overall inclusiveness. Through a program that recognizes the importance of including athletes, regardless of ability, athletes

can progress in unison and carry that improvement on into high school. When asked why Walpole hasn't followed the precedent of other towns in the Bay State, Mr. Dowd explained that the amount of fields in the town restricts the availability of playing time to teams.

"High school teams are using middle school fields as it is," said Mr. Dowd. With so few fields, Walpole sports teams have limited time for practice.

Mr. Dowd will certainly have his hands full next year as he adjusts to the role of athletic director, but amidst his many responsibilities, he does plan to implement a middle school sponsored track program for the 2016-2017 school year.

If Walpole does not want to have to play catch-up with other towns, the middle schools, in cooperation with the town, need to take action in regard to making middle school sports an integral part of the middle school experience.

Young athletes are being deprived of the ability to better prepare themselves for the seriousness of sports in

high school. Whether the town has to construct new athletic facilities or find a way to implement such a program with the limited time slots of the existing fields and facilities in mind, the town of Walpole should support Mr. Dowd in establishing interscholastic sports at the middle school level.

Although Walpole Public Schools' budget lacks the finances for middle school sports, that insufficiency could change if middle school athletes were charged user fees similar to high school student athletes. As Mr. Dowd undertakes his role as Walpole's new Athletic Director, he plans to modernize signups for school sports by moving them online. With that modernization, Mr. Dowd should look to expand middle school sports that are self-sufficient through user fees. While the middle schools may only add one sport per year in the near future, the community should support this expansion for the improved development of athletes and coaches.

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THE WALPOLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND CLASS OF THE MONTH

MARCH

SENIOR	KAITLIN CARTER
Katie Carter has shown tremendous improvement in term 3. She currently has the highest term grade out of both of my Calculus Honors classes (50 students in total). She struggled a bit during the first 2 terms, with her grade generally hovering in the low B/ high C range, but this term her grade has gone up 19 points above her term 2 grade. Katie has earned perfect scores on 3 of the 4 assessments we have had this term and earned a 90% on the fourth one. Additionally, I have found that her class participation has increased along with her confidence. She is very attentive to detail and extremely thorough in her solutions. I would like to recognize Katie’s efforts with this nomination. Ms. Sheryl Lerner	
JUNIOR	KATIE HOUSER
Katie has shown herself to be highly motivated and conscientious in a subject that is both demanding and time intensive. She is always punctual with all of her work and everything she does she applies her full attention and effort. She is an engaged participant in every class activity, offering intelligent thoughts to classroom discussions, and she shows team leadership skills in the way she guides her lab team through laboratory activities. Her sense of humor keeps things light, and she is well-liked by her peers. Her study skills are exemplary and I am very proud of her accomplishments thus far. Ms. Sue Wick	
JUNIOR	RYAN KOENIG
Ryan has been working consistently above average in Chemistry class. He always completes his assignments on time and with attention to detail. He prepares well for exams and consistently scores in the 90s. Ryan works well in class with others, and he is an active participant in all class activities. Keep up the hard work Ryan! Mr. Daniel Mullaney	
SOPHOMORE	BRIAN CONNEELY
Brian had done an outstanding job in Geometry this term. He has earned the top score in the class, and he shows an excellent grasp of Geometric concepts. He seemed to handle the two column proofs on congruent triangles with ease while many of his peers were having a difficult time. Brian is always polite and respectful, prepared for class, and ready to participate. He is willing to answer questions and to put problems on the board. I am proud of Brian’s achievement and participation. Mrs. Kathleen Milne	
FRESHMAN	MARCUS VICENTE
Marcus has put a lot of effort into improving his grades this quarter and currently has an 87% in history. His combined 1st semester grade was a 87%. When he was assigned an essay on the causes of World War I, Marcus stayed after for extra help on 3 occasions and ended up earning 48/50 points. As a whole, Marcus has brought his grades in most classes up significantly from 2nd quarter. He’s a good kid and has turned himself into a diligent student. Mr. Joseph Hanlon	

ACTIVITY AWARD

ANGELA HURLEY	SPEECH TEAM	MS. E. LOFLIN
I am nominating junior, Angela Hurley, who recently broke into two final rounds at the past two tournaments. She is a powerhouse Speechie and is representing Walpole very well. Her high scores have helped bring up the overall team score. She has already qualified for the state tournament; I’m sure she’ll do very well at that tournament on April 11. In addition to Angela’s awards, she should be recognized because she has been very dedicated and diligent all year long. Angela is definitely an inspiration to others on the team who aspire to win a trophy. Without a doubt, Angela Hurley should be the March “Extracurricular Activity Award” winner!		

CLASS OF THE MONTH

DRAWING AND PAINTING III	PERIOD 2	MRS. MCKEE
I would like to applaud my Drawing and Painting III/AP class for their investment in a recent charcoal animation project and the outstanding attitude they displayed during this project. Three days of class time were spent to prepare for an all-day drawing marathon. During those times all students were exceptionally engaged and worked together in ways that demonstrate the exceptional inclusive quality of this group. The students in this class remain committed to bringing the project to a conclusion. I could not be more impressed by the integrity and skills demonstrated by this class.		

APRIL

SENIOR	KYLE GAUGHAN
Overall, Kyle has been a good student throughout the year. He always does his homework and asks questions when he does not understand something. He still maintains the same level of effort and motivation as he did in September. Due to his strong work ethic, he is an asset to other students who work together with him in groups. Kyle is a pleasure to have in class and I highly recommend him for Student of the Month. Mrs. Vanessa Hackett	
JUNIOR	ELYSE BERARDINELLI
In a school year during which Elyse did not have a single “down” month, April was particularly spectacular for her in math. She is meticulous in both her note taking and in her classwork. Once a concept is explained to her, she “gets it”. Elyse always remembers how to do previous material. Elyse always arrives to class fully prepared, with a smile on her face and a positive attitude. She is very worthy of Student of the Month. Ms. Sheryl Lerner	
SOPHOMORE	EMILY MARTIN
Emily is a student in my Spanish III Honors class. For three terms, she has maintained the highest average. Emily is dedicated, highly motivated and an inspiration to all students. Emily received a Gold medal for the National Spanish Exam. However, more so than the wonderful grades in all that she does, Emily portrays all that is good in young people today. She is kindhearted, modest, and a most helpful young lady to everyone in the classroom. Please consider her for this month’s Student of the Month. Mrs. Joanne Sprague	
FRESHMAN	RYAN MURPHY
Within the last month, I have seen a huge change in Ryan. He has always been a great addition to the class, but he was a little distracted and not that motivated to take the extra step to improve his skills. He participates with energy, maturity, and respect. He has dedicated himself to improving not just his grades, but also his skills. On the last grammar quiz, Ryan scored above the cut off mark, but still got extra help to retake the quiz. During the review, he asked questions to come to a better understanding. It has been a pleasure working with Ryan this year. I can only imagine how far he can go. Ms. McKenzie	

ACTIVITY AWARD

ALLISON CULLEN	SCIENCE OLYMPIAD	MRS. SCHWARTZ
I would like to nominate Allison Cullen for the Extracurricular Activity Award. Allison single handedly started the WHS Science Olympiad Team. She recruited enough students for a full team and has shown a lot of leadership in the process. She has organized meetings and fundraisers as well as organized the team into their events for competition. Having been the only student at WHS who had been to a SO competition, she taught the other students (and me!) what to expect. She has a lot of team enthusiasm and is already working on assignments for next year.		

CLASS OF THE MONTH

PRE-CALCULUS	PERIOD 3	MRS. KATHLEEN MILNE
This class has been high achieving throughout the year. However, during the month of April, there was one quiz on polynomials on which many of the students did not perform at their usual high caliber. Some students stayed for help following the quiz to fill in the gaps in their knowledge, and some students became proactive by staying for after school help prior to the next quiz. The rational functions quiz results were fabulous with every student in the class scoring at least 80%. The students did not let one quiz detract from their accomplishments. The class is back on track and ready to move forward, so I nominate the class for a second time for Class of the Month.		

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

JOHN HENRI & CELINE HENRY	MR. MORTALI
John honors his commitment by coming to every meeting, event, and displays the values of Best Buddies at all times. He regularly socializes with his peer buddies at lunch and out of school, and they know he is someone who cares and is a true friend. Many of his friends have followed his lead and joined Best Buddies as well. Both he and Celine have been assets to the club for four years and Best Buddies would like to recognize their integrity, compassion, and commitment to making the school and the world a better place.	



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Bill Hahn Keeps Going and Going and Going as Johnson's New Principal

By Melanie Weber
Class of 2017

Johnson Assistant Principal William Wallace struggled to sum up the impact his new Principal William Hahn has had on the Johnson community. However, inspiration eventually struck.

"He is like the Energizer Bunny," said Wallace. Despite the fact that this quote was facetiously followed up with a "do not print that," his comparison accurately captured the energy that Mr. Hahn has brought to the middle school.

Hired in July of 2010, Mr. Hahn was originally the Assistant Principal of Walpole High School for four years. Although it is hard to make the transition between a middle school and a high school, Mr. Hahn has handled the transition smoothly. During his first year at JMS, Mr. Hahn has implemented multiple changes to make the school a better and more positive community.

"Visibility makes a big difference to the students. Whenever Mr. Hahn has down time, he is always down at lunch duty helping out and interacting with the students," said Mr. Wallace.

In addition to lunch duty, Mr. Hahn greets the students at the door when they enter in the morning, and he is on the daily news. In a shirt and tie, he even played basketball during their recent 3-on-3 tournament on May 11th.

To increase the positivity within the hallways, Mr. Hahn created "The Shout Out Wall" which allows students to write shout outs to their peers and post them on a wall at the front of the building for everyone to see where they can celebrate each other.

He also has started leadership train-



ABOVE: Mr. Hahn poses with students as he is recognized for becoming the new principal at Johnson Middle School

ing with the eighth graders and further incorporated the school's core values within the building.

"He has created a very energetic atmosphere that enables students to feel secure when they walk in the door," said gym teacher David Wall.

"Mr. Hahn makes school fun. It is very important for students to have relationships with their teachers, and Mr. Hahn does a nice job of making us all feel comfortable in the building," said eighth grader Conor Foley.

Not only has he positively impacted the students, but he has also impacted the teachers.

Rather than the previous one or two teacher observations, Mr. Hahn and Assistant Principal Wallace now do five teacher observations which not only enables the teachers and students to feel more comfortable, but it allows administration to create better individual relationships with the students and faculty.

"Mr. Hahn encourages us teachers to want to work hard. He is

awesome and brings lots of excitement to the school," said technology teacher Mrs. Annemarie Wyman.

Most significantly, Mr. Hahn is visible at every event.

The "Energizer Bunny" has improved both the student body and the faculty at Johnson Middle School.

Despite the fact that Mr. Hahn is not the mascot of the Energizer Battery company, he, keeps going and going as he finishes up his first year as principal at Johnson Middle School.

Student recognized in Economics program



ABOVE: Olivia Chiavegato poses in front of her award.

By Grace Sewell
Class of 2017

Almost every student today has an iPhone, but almost no one has bothered to even look at some of the features that the phone has to offer— including stocks; however, the information provided in the stocks ap-

plication is a great tool for both kids and adults to be educated in the field of finance and improve their understanding of how investments work.

To bring this field to the attention of middle schoolers, Mr. David Cuzzi, a sixth grade Social Studies teacher at Bird Middle School, has dedicated his time during the extensions block to supervise students as they embark on

an online game that teaches them a fundamental understanding of investments and how to invest money so it will increase in value. The Securities Industries and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA) Stock Market Game (SMG) program is available to students across the United States and has more than 600,000 students participate every year. The game has reached 15 million students since it began in 1977.

Mr. Cuzzi is proud to share that Olivia Chiavegato, a sixth grader at Bird Middle School, achieved the number one profile out of 593 portfolios (individual student accounts) in the Massachusetts middle school region. Additionally, Chiavegato earned the sixth highest profile out of 1,634 in the state who played the game. This included other middle schoolers, as well as high schoolers, college students, and even adults. As a reward for her accomplishment, Chiavegato was recognized by the Boston Globe at the most recent school committee meeting on May 28th, 2015.

Mr. Cuzzi said, "She made a 36.51 percent (\$26,512.44) return on her original investment of ten thousand dollars." Over the course of four months, Chiavegato's stocks soared and her original investment increased to an outstanding \$36,512.44. To attain her exceptional portfolio, Chiavegato decided to invest in five stocks, including Netflix, Walt Disney Company, Apple, McDonald's, and Macy's.

"I looked at the trends to see what stocks would do better during a certain time of year and then invested in them," said Chiavegato. She excelled by fo-

cusing on well-known stocks as well as trends in stocks during particular times of the year. In fact, one of her stocks did so well that it had a 70 percent increase from when she originally bought it.

Not only does the game teach the students about economics, but it also provides them with real world skills in math, English language arts, Social Studies, and other subjects. Although most students are unaware of how to navigate the stock market, the SMG provides a "Teacher Background" for each lesson plan to help provide supplementary information along with links to help all students from grades 4 to 12 independently play and excel in the game. Students play on their own, but they are still supervised and taught the ropes with the help of a teacher.

However, Chiavegato's success would not have been possible without Mr. Cuzzi's extension.

"The program introduces kids to the stock market and gives them a taste of real-life stock and what it is like to be a real investor," said Chiavegato. The game has also proved to help students academically, as the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) funded a study for the SMG by American Institutes for Research. (AIR) said "the Stock Market Game engages students and improves academic performance, financial knowledge, and saving and investing habits." In addition to benefiting the students, AIR said, "the Stock Market Game program had a positive influence on the financial decisions of the teachers who used the program with their students."

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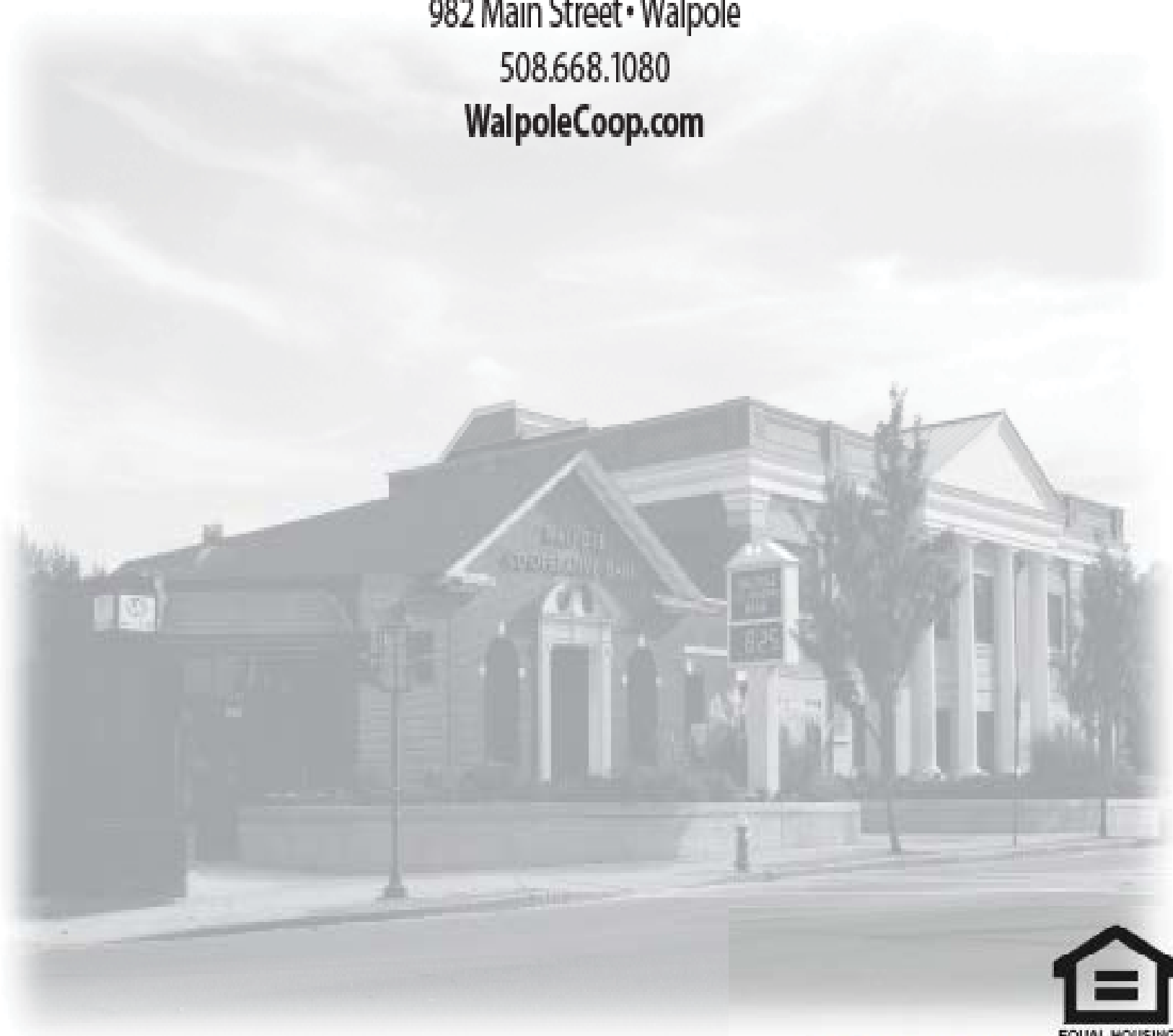


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Rockin' Readers conquer the Battle of the Books

By Kayla Frost
Class of 2017

A test of students' literary knowledge and love for reading, the Battle of the Books is a competition that both Johnson and Bird Middle Schools have participated in since 2009. Each year, students organize teams for the competition early on in the school year. Since the summer of 2014, students at both Johnson and Bird Middle School had been reading from a list of 25 books in order to prepare for their school's Battle of the Books tournament on Thursday, May 14. During the week of June 15, the winning teams from each school face off against each other.

According to JMS reading specialist Alison O'Hara, the Battle of the Books is fun but also has important educational values.

"Kids who don't read, read more if they are on a team," said Mrs. O'Hara.

Throughout the year, participants added on to their academic duties to study their books and used practice questions to prepare for the big event throughout the time leading up to the battle.

On May 14, teachers then asked teams a series of questions regarding the 25 books they read, and the teams answered with the correct title of the book to receive points. If the team also submitted the correct author of the corresponding book, they gained bonus points.

For example, one teacher asked, "In which book is a young girl forced to choose between her birth mother and her foster family?" and the first team

that answered with "One For the Murphys" received the points. The team got bonus points if they knew the author's name: Lynda Mullaly Hunt.

At the start of the day, three teams battled in a classroom, and the team with the most points moved on to the next round. The three teams with the most points by the end of the preliminary rounds moved on to the final battle in the auditorium.

Battle of the Books was not mandatory for students; however, the entire school gathered in the auditorium to watch the

final battle, so that non-participant students are able to cheer on their peers.

"It's just awesome to see your friends on stage," said seventh grader Matthew O'Malley.

At Johnson, the Rockin' Readers were the 2015 Champions, a team of five seventh graders: Jillian Schmottlach, Emme DeVito, Sabrina Mann, Jessica Khera, and Lindsay Navick (who read all twenty five books). Despite a rough start with a few losses in the early rounds, they succeeded in the final battle to take the JMS Championship

Title. The Johnson winners take a trip to Fisher Elementary School and Elm Street Elementary School to help introduce the program to young readers.

The unique Battle of the Books program allowed for students to express their interests in reading beyond the classroom, while they also gained recognition in a positive manner for their academic achievements. "The battle is kind of intense," said seventh grade participant Rachel Soule, "but fun too because you are with your friends and classmates."



ABOVE: From left to right: Jessica Khera, Sabrina Mann, Emme DeVito, Lindsey Navick, and Jillian Schmottlach, the winners of Battle of the Books pose with their trophies.

Kujawski Recognized as Teacher of the Year Finalist



ABOVE: On Thursday, May 21, Mr. Kujawski oversees his students doing an activity about the light spectrum on the computers.

By Meagan Sundstrom and
Grace Sewell
Class of 2015 and 2017

It is not often that Walpole teachers gain statewide recognition for their efforts. In 2009, Mr. George Watson— a foreign language teacher at Walpole High School who retired in 2011—received the Massachusetts Teacher of the Year Award, and this school year, Mr. David Kujawski of Bird Middle School was a finalist for the 2016 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year. Although he did not receive the award, Mr. Kujawski

accomplished something that only a few educators achieve in their careers.

In a long process of applications, classroom visits, and interviews, a committee selects the Massachusetts Teacher of the Year after about two months of review.

Despite the award being given to Audrey Jackson of Boston Public Schools at the end of this April, Mr. Kujawski views the experience as one that confirms his dedication to teaching.

"Being a State Finalist affirms that I made the correct choice to dedicate my life to education," said Mr. Kujawski. "The truth is that no one goes into teaching saying that

they want to be a Teacher of the Year Finalist; we teach because we love getting kids excited to learn and grow, both socially and academically. The recognition motivates me to keep growing and to support other educators in their pursuit of excellence."

A graduate of Dickinson College, Mr. Kujawski received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies, as well as an M.A.T. from Simmons College and a STEM certificate from the Teachers Col-

lege of Columbia University.

Soon after becoming an environmental educator, Mr. Kujawski decided to pursue a career in formal education, as he was in search of a more intellectually stimulating occupation.

"When I look back on my life's work, I want to say that I played an instrumental role in improving the educational experience for my students," said Mr. Kujawski. "The prospect of lifelong learning and improving the lives of kids are the main reasons why I chose teaching as a profession."

Upon deciding to be a teacher, Mr. Kujawski began to teach at Bird Middle School in 2008, where he is currently a

sixth grade science teacher. But unlike many other teacher-driven approaches to instruction, Mr. Kujawski's approach is very interactive and student-driven.

"My students learn science by doing science," said Mr. Kujawski. "I place very little emphasis on memorizing information that can be looked up on the internet, establishing an environment where students drive the course of our day-to-day classroom discoveries."

Offering a student-centered learning environment in which middle schoolers establish their own ideas and formulate explanations to preconceptions is just one of the various teaching qualities that supports Mr. Kujawski's nomination for Teacher of the Year. He also actively involves himself in improving STEM activities and is currently a part of the NEA/BetterLesson Science Master Teacher Project, for which he provides teaching plans, lesson materials, and video reflections in order to assist them in creating a model curriculum. His work for the project has been published twice during the past year, and he has also been awarded multiple teaching fellowships throughout his career.

Mr. Kujawski's hard work does not go unnoticed within his learning community at Bird Middle School.

Eighth grade teacher Ms. Carrie Conley said, "He makes the transition to middle school easier for the sixth graders. The students are very engaged in his classroom and he provides an inquiry based learning environment."

Although he did not receive the award, Mr. Kujawski's position as a finalist gives Walpole Schools statewide recognition. His student-driven learning environment and passion for education offer Bird Middle School students opportunities to learn interactively with a dedicated teacher.

Johnson students present annual Spring Thing

By Kayla Frost
Class of 2017

As a way to showcase the talent of the students, Johnson Middle School hosted their annual “Spring Thing” on May 21. Run by JMS aide and drama teacher Diana Dent, the show consisted of twenty seven acts ranging from singing and dancing, to stand up comedy.

The show began with group singalong to “I Gotta Feeling.” The next act was an Indian Dance by Tanya Gupta and Vrinda Iyer, followed by various acts of singing and dancing, including a flute solo by eighth grader Smera Gora. “I felt really good on stage,” said Gora.

There was then an original stand up comedy act by eighth grader, Ayla Stasiukevicius, and the student and staff “Lip Sync Battle,” which included Mr. John O’Leary, and students Ethan Colgan, Toshak Patel and Griffin Wilkins.

After intermission, Mairead Morgan and Hailey Lowenstein performed an original skit entitled “Teenagers.” To conclude the show, the staff act showcased JMS teachers dancing to Taylor Swift’s “Shake it Off.”

Griffin Wilkins, JMS eighth grader, participated in five separate acts, ranging from a vocal solo of “I’m Feelin’ Good,” to a tap dance feature.

“It is a little sad because this is my last time on stage,” said Wilkins.

The show not only involved students at JMS, but also friends and families of participants who come to enjoy the performances.

“I like to see the different personalities that are at this school



ABOVE: Meghan Angelo sings “Criminal” by Fiona Apple at the JMS “Spring Thing” (top left). Rachel Soule, Aislyn O’Connell and Evelyn Abbott dance to Meghan Trainor’s “Lips Are Movin” during the “Spring Thing” (top right).

BELOW: Mr. O’Leary performs in his lip sync battle against JMS students on Thursday, May 21, 2015.



Photos/ Jessica Giffen



Mrs. Dent steps down from position as director after 10 years at JMS

By Alison Foley and
Devin McKinney
Class of 2017

Flash back to 2004.

The theater program at Johnson Middle School was not always like it is today.

All students had to work with was a dilapidated old stage, torn curtains, an antiquated sound system, and inadequate stage lights (which consisted of three garage lights on either side of the stage). At that time, the auditorium at the Middle School was hardly ever used for any productions.

However, that all changed with one person: Mrs. Diana Dent. Originally subbing in the school system, Mrs. Dent transformed the auditorium into the ever expanding arts center that it is now. Now, after ten successful years directing both the plays and the talent shows at Johnson Middle School (JMS), Mrs. Dent, a seventh grade instructional aide as well as the orchestrator of the arts at JMS, is retiring from her position as director. The Spring Thing, the talent show at Johnson Middle School, took place on May 21, and was her last performance to direct.

Growing up, Mrs. Dent lived on a farm in Indiana and as a child, she was the only one in her family who was interested in theater. The initial appeal of theater began when she saw her first

play in Indianapolis, Oliver, starring Davy Jones. From that moment on, Mrs. Dent knew that theater was the career she wished to pursue in her future.

After participating in drama throughout her high school career, she went on to major in theater at William Woods College in Fulton, Missouri. Following college, Mrs. Dent became a film and TV agent in both California and New York, and over the course of 12 years, helped multiple clients excel in their careers. Although Mrs. Dent enjoyed seeing her clients do well in the TV and film industries, she thought that working with students was much more rewarding. “It’s so wonderful to see kids discover a different part of themselves or discover something about themselves that they didn’t know that they could do,” said Mrs. Dent.

Mrs. Dent enjoyed seeing the participants of the drama club flourish and discover new opportunities. Also, she loved watching the plays progress from awkward read throughs to fluent and well executed productions. Ultimately, Mrs. Dent strived “to have a memorable evening at the theater, not just a pretty good middle school production.”

Not only has Mrs. Dent valued the drama program as a whole, but she has also appreciated the transformation of each individual student in her



Photo/ Maeve O Connor

ABOVE: Mrs. Dent directing her students on Friday May 15, 2015 in preparation for the annual “Spring Thing”.

program. “I feel like they are all my own kids,” said Mrs. Dent. She loves to watch the students mature and advance in their high school careers, regardless of the paths they choose to take. She often followed her former students through high school and regularly attended their productions.

Mrs. Dent’s relationships with the students she mentored were some of the most important parts of her job. These ties were made strong starting in middle school when the students were able to get to know Mrs. Dent and become part of the family that is the drama club.

Margaret Wall, a seventh grade performer in Johnson Middle School’s talent show said, “She was always really nice and pleasant and she gave me compliments, which turned my bad days around.” Additionally, backstage manager, Jacquelyn Driscoll, said “She is just so open to my ideas and is really accepting.” Evidently, Mrs. Dent’s students admire her and benefit a great deal from their experi-

ences with the drama club at Johnson Middle School. Mrs. Dent encourages more kids to join the drama club for various different reasons. Specifically, drama gives kids a chance to express themselves and become a part of something bigger than themselves.

“Drama is the ultimate team sport because you become a family and learn to work as a team,” said Mrs. Dent. She also emphasizes that even children with stage fright end up feeling totally comfortable on stage due to their constant rehearsing and encouraging cast members who create a relaxed environment on stage. Throughout her career, Mrs. Dent has seen many kids come into drama as normal middle schoolers; however, they have all left as mature performers.

With Mrs. Dent’s retirement as the director, English teacher Stephanie Feinberg will take over the position. Mrs. Dent has faith that the theater program will continue to flourish and she hopes that the program continues to grow.



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