

THE REBELLION

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Walpole High School

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A TOWN DIVIDED: ON JUNE 2 HOW WILL YOU VOTE?



Citizens Promote Support for Upcoming Override

By Abby White
Class of 2014

With the critical override for Walpole Schools approaching quickly, Walpole Pride is beginning to put forth all their efforts in preparation. With the huge problem of many citizens not being aware of the override taking place on June 2nd, the major goal for Walpole Pride — a political action committee dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the quality of education on Walpole Public Schools — is to inform the public about the override and the impacts Walpole schools could feel without it. Schools could suffer from enlarged classroom sizes, elimination of foreign language from the 6th and 7th grade, as well as a number of fees being raised if the override is not passed.

To help promote awareness, lawn signs are being distributed to those who want them, and dedicated citizens are signing up to hold signs in various locations throughout Walpole to spread the word about the Override. A number of meetings continue to be set up for Walpole Citizens who want to learn more and have questions that remain unanswered. Walpole Pride hosted an information session at the Town Hall on Monday, May 14th at 7:30 pm. Superintendent Lynch, as well as the School Committee, attended this meeting to help answer pending questions. This meeting was televised both on Comcast Channel 22 as well as Verizon Channel 30. It was then rebroadcasted on Saturday, May 19th at 9:00 am, in order to be most productive in providing information for citizens who were unable to attend.

Along with the town working hard to promote awareness of how this override could control the future of our school system, "Street Captains" have been coordinating meetings for their neighborhoods throughout Walpole. Susan Brown, a Street Captain, held a meeting on April 30th.

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Who is the "No"?

By Phil Reidy
Class of 2013

On September 11th, 2001, as Americans were reeling in horror from the infamous attacks by Al-Qaeda terrorists, the Walpole town committee passed an override in order to set aside a significant amount of funding for future use by the education department. In 2007, Walpole residents, by a large majority, voted down a proposed \$3.9 million override that was to serve the same purpose. Now, in 2012, the town of Walpole is once again faced with another proposed override to be voted on in June, which has a bit more severe and more tangible consequences. Foreign language programs in the middle schools will be entirely cut, class sizes expanded, athletic fees raised, and cuts to the staff of many levels of town-funded education will be made. As a student or active follower of town and school affairs, you have probably heard of the benefits this proposed override would confer to the education system and the town rather than the negative side-effects. And, you may have wondered — who are those who are against the override? Who are the large number of residents dawning the "No Override" signs and posting the election signs around town (signs like Robert Luce, Chris Donovan, and Bill Hamilton's).

Samuel Obar, a Walpole High graduate and the fiscal conservative voice behind "Sam Obar 180" (a blog which comments on the events of town and national events from the right-wing perspective) refers to the history of Walpole's overrides as "somber." He cites that in previous overrides which failed, such as 2007's, Walpole stayed afloat. Obar said, "The town proposed raising taxes by \$3.9 million in 2007, it didn't pass, and yet the sky didn't fall!" Obar firmly believes the distribution of funds within town is a problem that should be fixed so it may work in the long run. He said, "Solving the problem we have requires significantly reforming our payroll, not raising revenue. Reforming the system means getting rid of longevity bonuses and annual raises that are not based on performance."

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After 35 years of teaching Math, Lisa Pearson says goodbye

By Kelsey Whittier
Class of 2014

As the end of the year rolls around students become ecstatic and eager to begin their summer, but among all of the excitement they tend to forget the detrimental side to the end of a school year—retirements of beloved faculty members. One who will be especially missed this year is Mrs. Lisa Pearson, who has decided to retire from teaching mathematics after 35 years.

She has been working at Walpole High School for a whopping 31 years and as she puts it, "My whole life is here. I have spent over half my life working at this school." Although she will greatly miss teaching at Walpole High she hopes to still continue teaching at least part time at another school. She joked about her dream job, which is to open a bakery because she is good at cooking.

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Barry Greener retires from teaching after 40 years in Walpole

By James Cullinane
Class of 2012

Upon the conclusion of the 2012 school year, Walpole Public Schools will say good-bye to a man who for the past four decades has molded the minds and characters of countless students with undying commitment. Whether it be at Walpole High School, where he taught History from 1972-1987, or Johnson Middle School, where he has taught Physical Education since 1988, Barry Greener has earned the respect of students with his demanding, yet undeniably hospitable demeanor.

Coach Greener's road to Walpole High School began nearly 22 miles down the road at Weymouth High School. Following high school, Greener went on to the University of Maine, playing guard at the D-1 level at merely 160 pounds, a weight he maintains today. Greener would not only be named MVP of the UMaine football team following his senior campaign, but would also captain his wrestling squad.

After graduating college, it became apparent that

Greener did not wish to part ways with sports. He signed on to become a student assistant coach at Maine and received his Masters degree in Physical Education.

A mainstay in the Walpole Athletic Department, Greener was the head coach of the wrestling team from 1972-2002 and, after 37 years of assisting the football program, took the reigns as head coach in 2009. Seeking his eighth super bowl ring in the fall, Greener's approaching retirement will not include leaving the football program. While Greener is revered by many for his impressive coaching resume, he has never allowed his coaching responsibilities to interfere with educating students. Thomas Morris, a close friend of Greener's during his 15 year tenure at Walpole High and the current History Department Head, said, "If one of his wrestlers was struggling in class, Barry would teach him in a different manner after class. He had a way of getting through to those guys. Academics always come first with Coach Greener."

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EDITORIALS

New Schedule requires better foundation for school’s programs

By Sydney Gillis
Class of 2012

Last year, Walpole High School administration implemented the Advisory and PLC programs. The 2011-2012 schedule consisted of no homeroom, and Advisory and PLC blocks once a week (as long as there were no half days); however, problems were immediately evident. The schedule on PLC days and Advisory days were confusing for teachers and students, and the schedule was not consistent from week to week. To fix this problem, a new schedule has been proposed for the 2012-2013 which consists of daily Advisory blocks in the middle of the day, with an extended advisory on Friday, and PLC blocks at the end of the day on Tuesday. However, the real problem with Advisory and PLC is not necessarily the confusion surrounding the schedule, but rather the confusion surrounding the purpose of Advisory and PLC.

The motivation behind the Advisory Program was to create a relationship between a student and a teacher by providing 20 minutes a week for a small group to meet with an assigned teacher. However, many students did not feel comfortable with the idea. For example, Senior Rebecca Goula said, "It's a forced relationship with a teacher who I have no desire to have a relationship with." Goula's thoughts are echoed throughout much of the Senior Class, but the feelings could just be caused by the late implementaion of the program. For this year's graduating class, Advisory was introduced during junior year. By this time, many students had already developed close relationships with teachers and classmates, and being placed into a classroom with randomly selected students and a randomly selected teacher seemed futile. "We were all reluctant to do it because it started junior year," said Senior Christine Drogan. In addition to the late start Advisory had for some students, the inconsistency of it prevented many students from feeling comfortable with their advisors. Although it was proposed that Advisory would be held once a week, this was difficult to maintain. During weeks when there was an early release day or no school, PLC and Advisory would not be held. So, holding Advisory everyday in order to eliminate its inconsistency might be a step in the right direction. Senior Meaghan Lescault said, "Maybe

better bonds will be developed if advisory is everyday instead of a few times a month."

In terms of the Advisory Program itself, it can largely be deemed inconsistent. Some students (Especially sophomores and freshmen who have had it for two years) love advisory; however, some students detest it. And sadly, both groups of students are equally passionate about their feelings. So where does this difference come from? For the most part, this difference comes from one place: the randomly selected advisor. Depending on the faculty member, an advisory could be a fun place where you play games and use sidewalk chalk outside, or it could be an awkward space where the teacher may try to lead an unsuccessful discussion about the pressures of teenage life. But — this inconcistency is not the teacher’s fault. The Advisory Program simply needs more direction, not a new schedule.

While meeting everyday might help with this process, the goals of Advisory need to be reestablished. Rearranging the schedule will not fix any problem, but rather disguise it and breed more distrust from students. Better, guided objectives for Advisory will give advisors an established agenda, and students might be more willing to participate. Having advisory everyday is a good idea, but it will not accomplish anything without new goals for the program itself.

Meanwhile, while the teachers effectively use their PLC time, the PLC timeslot has become a time that students look forward to because it gives them extra time to sleep. For the 2012-2013 potential schedule, the PLC will take place at the end of the day. Students will be released from school at 1:40 if they are not required to stay, but will not be released until 2:20 if they are required to attend PLC. "I don't think the PLC day will work," said Drogan. Staying after school for an extra fifteen minutes may not seem like a significant amount of time, but it can impact students' after school schedules. For students who take the bus, getting out at 2:20 might cause them to miss the bus, and getting out at 1:40 will give students an extra half hour where they have nothing to do.

The proposed 2012-2013 schedule change might be better, but it will not fix the problem of inconsistent student experiences across Advisories. Rather, it will only perpetuate that inconsistency. If the goal of it is to establish a relationship between students and teachers, all advisors should be on the same page.

Redshirting prattice unfair to the younger percentage

By Peter Hoegler
Class of 2014

Kindergarten used to be just finger painting, milk, and cookies. But now, in this country, an epidemic of over-parenting is occurring—all in order to give junior a competitive advantage in the game of life. Whether they played Mozart for him or her while still in the womb, or taught them Mandarin at the age of three, parents today consider every possible scenario to give their child the edge. However, sometimes parenting enters a gray area where certain behaviors become borderline immoral. One practice—called red-shirting—occurs when parents purposefully do not enroll their child in kindergarten until he or she is six, causing him or her to be a year older than their classmates. This is to ensure that the child will be among the oldest, and presumably therefore, the smartest kids in class. This practice is notably apparent in the WHS class of 2013 where the most red-shirted students are among the top 10 percent of their class.

Red-shirting has tripled since the 1970s, and now one-fourth of all kindergarten classrooms are—believe it or not—occupied with six-year-olds. Malcolm Gladwell, the author of Story of Success, writes how red-shirting plays a role in today’s society: “It’s a cumulative advantage—a little slight nudge when you are six, will help you when you are 7, 8 and for the rest of your life.” In other words, these early advantages of maturity, growth, and intelligence will snowball, creating an unfair disadvantage for the young, five-year-old's in kindergarten. So what does that mean for those students who "stay where they are supposed to be?"

The belief is that kindergarten and elementary teachers would probably devote closer attention to those older students for they may appear more competent, engaged, and thus higher-performing. As a result, the older student, who was given more attention than his or her younger peers, may have a viable benefit as they begin to read faster and begin to examine information with greater accuracy than their fellow peers. However, is this really fair?

Based on the grade point average of the class of 2013, 65 percent of the top 10 percent of the junior class were born in

the year of 1994 and are, thus, considered the oldest students in their year. Of that top 10 percent, 36 percent of the students were red-shirted and, therefore, spent a full two years in Kindergarten. In relation to the other 90 percent, the top 10 percent holds the most students that were born in the year of 1994, and possesses the most students who were red-shirted in the entire class. Hence, those current juniors, who were red-shirted in kindergarten, may have been given a greater opportunity to excel in their formative years, and eventually in high school as a direct result of these two years of schooling beginning at age five and six.

However, the advantages are not only in the classroom. Studies show that if a student is among the oldest in class, that

student is more likely to be a kindergarten leader. This may in part be due to more maturity, or simply being older, and therefore, larger, the teacher may give the student more opportunities to be responsible and hold leadership positions. If they are a kindergarten leader, they will end up more likely on the high school student council, team captain, or club president. Of course, being physically larger, older, or more mature does not guarantee a six-year-old to achieve that certain success in high school, but it certainly seems to help.

Additionally, some parents decide to hold their child back in kindergarten for athletic reasons. Because these red-shirted students are bigger, older, and or rather physically mature and seemingly reach adolescence at an earlier

age than their fellow peers, they will have a patent athletic advantage in their middle school, and high school careers. Thus, these red-shirted, high school athletes, looking to play sports at the varsity level or even the collegiate level, will have an obvious competitive advantage as a result of red-shirting.

So here is the discernible question: does a student, leader, or athlete really gain an advantage from taking two years of kindergarten? Well, maybe look within yourself. If you are considered one of the older students, can you affiliate the roots of your success with your age? Or, look around you. Are the older students generally succeeding as we make the turn into college? Don’t ask me, I’m young.

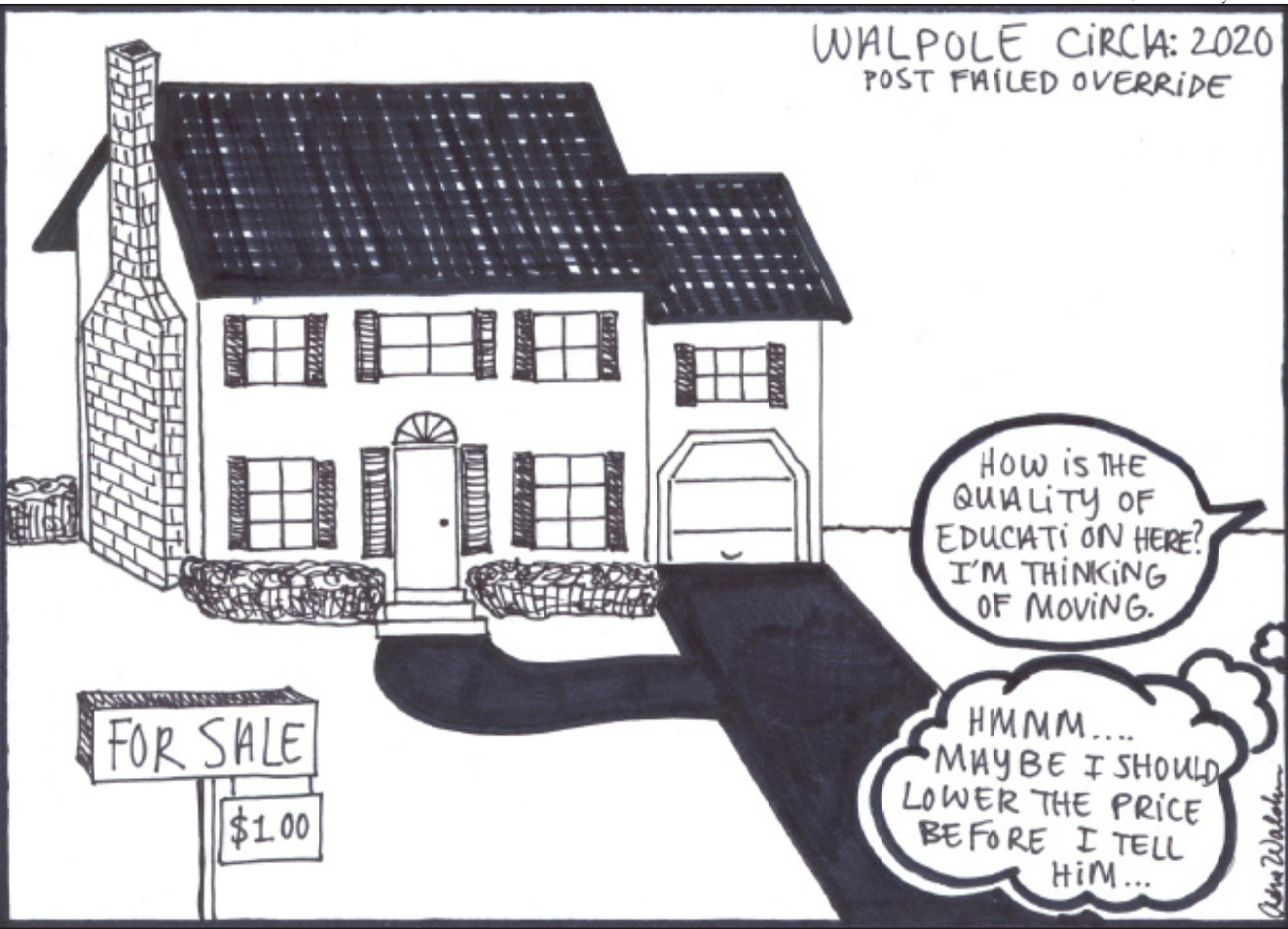
THE REBELLION

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.

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Override should pass to maintain Walpole home values



By Ashley Waldron
Class of 2014

A family from a nearby town is looking at moving to Walpole this summer before the school year starts up. The family really likes the southeast region of Massachusetts, and is looking at the towns of Westwood, Sharon, and Walpole. An important thing for a potential home buyer to think about is home values and the education system. The family heard that an override did not pass in Walpole recently, and they are worried that if they move there, there may be very cheap home values but a poor education system. In Walpole, you can get much land and space for a great value. Comparably, Westwood and Sharon are far more expensive to live

in, even though they have a good school system. However, if the override does not pass, home values would decrease because people would rather move to Westwood or Sharon for the education. A local realtor (who wanted to remain anonymous) simply put it, “All I can say is that one of the many things people look at when planning to buy a home is the quality of the school system. If the override does not pass, there will be people with children who will not consider Walpole as a town to live in.” Depreciating home value creates a depreciating town, and later everyone will wonder why they cannot sell their house, or why no one has moved to the town of Walpole. For those of you out there who have been in Walpole for a long time, and want to sell the house you have lived in for more than 30

years, this may not go as you had originally planned. The value of a house will be diminished if the town decides not to pass the override, therefore causing the quality of life and value of the town of Walpole to diminish. Parents debating whether to move or not now have a lot to worry about. One such person, a mother of two kids (who preferred to remain anonymous) said, “everyone is on the same page” in terms of the education in our town—as of now. She complemented on the town of Walpole that the last few years she can see that there is a sense of community in our town, and that the school system really values that aspect. For her, Walpole was a town that had a great price on homes that was right for her family, and the school system was really impressive.

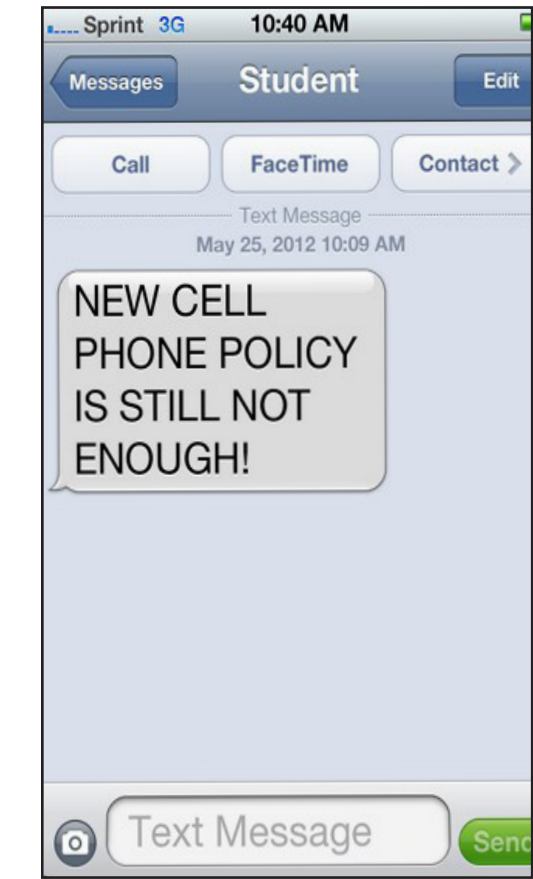
However, she also said, “I would pay more to live in a town that puts its money into their education system.” As a former teacher herself, she agreed that class sizes can be difficult if they become too large and hard to handle, and that class size indicates student success. Obviously, a major factor that homebuyers look at is the school system in the town. Do the math: if the override does not pass, people will not want to move to Walpole because the school system is lacking in many areas. When you have a quality school system, more people will want their children in our classes, and house values will increase. If the override does not pass, there will barely be enough funding for teachers and core classes, which will have a negative impact on the quality of our school. Without academic challenges and the strive for creativity, both of which will be at stake depending on the outcome of the override, the school atmosphere would be simply boring and unbearable. A major reason why you would not want to move here, and enroll your kids in public school at Walpole. Walpole right now is definitely a prime pick for people deciding to move for home values and education; however, if the override does not pass, these people are willing to pay more for the school system. Balance is an important quality to have. For Walpole, on June 2nd, the scale could tip drastically. The override effect will not happen right away; instead, the effects will sneak up on home owners later like an insidious disease that hits you like a brick wall. Basically, people who are planning on voting “no” need to know what effect it will have on their property. This override affects everything in the town, from education to athletics to home values. For those people that have their kids in private school and are planning to vote no, think again. Your house might lose its value in the next decade.

New Cell Phone Policy: Good but not good enough

By Michael Greulich
Class of 2014

It has been a long standing rule at Walpole High School that cell phones should be neither seen nor heard from during school hours. If they were, the student could be sure that some form of punishment would follow. But, starting next year, this rule is lined up to be done away with. At a recent meeting of the Student Handbook Committee, the idea to change the policy on cell phones was proposed by Vice Principal William Hahn, the man at the head of the student handbook committee. The concept was to allow cell phones during the 5 minute passing time between classes and during lunch. After surveying the faculty on what they thought the parameters of the rule should be, it was decided that next year cell phones will be allowed in lunch only. Although this is a big step in the right direction for the school as a whole, it is still not enough. If cell phones are going to be allowed in lunch there is no reason that phones should not also be allowed in the halls. Allowing cell phones in both lunch and the five minute passing times between classes would be extremely beneficial to both students and teachers, helping them both be more productive and efficient. The main concern with cell phone use is that students will be able to use their phone as a means of cheating, either looking the solutions up online or texting a friend for the answer during a test. However, if cell phones are only allowed in lunch and in the halls, students still

would not have the chance to cheat in their classes. This rule would appease both students, by giving them the chance to use their cell phones, and teachers by keeping the distraction out of the classroom. Students have been pushing for more leniency in the cell phone use policy for a while and the argument to allow cell phones in school is a strong one. If a student forgets something — whether it is a lunch, sports equipment, or homework — they need a way to get in contact with someone who could provide them with what they need. If cell phones are only to be allowed in lunch, it may be too late for a student to call a parent because either the time that they needed the item has come and gone or, in most cases, the parents are busy and cannot run something up to the high school. If cell phones are allowed in the five minute passing time between periods, students will still be able to get in contact with a parent before it is too late. Another reason that allowing cell phones in the hallways as well as the lunch room would be favorable is in case a parent needs to contact their child for any number of reasons. If students are not allowed to use their phones until lunch, they could miss what their parents had been trying to say, especially if the news is of any urgency. With the current no-cell phone policy, parents have to call the school, talk to the secretaries, who then have to get in contact with a teacher, who then has to tell the student the news — thus taking time away from teachers, secretaries, and students. Prohibiting cell phone use in school puts the school as a whole at a disadvantage. As technology progresses, it is important to keep up with the changes or get left behind. Allowing cell phones in the lunch room is a huge step for the school, but it is still not enough. It is only logical that they also be allowed in the hall. Cell phones would still neither distract students nor aid



Phones should be allowed in school at all times.

in cheating attempts because they would still have to be put away while in the classroom. The allowance of cell phone usage in both the hallways as well as during lunch would not remotely hinder the learning process and would greatly benefit the entire school.

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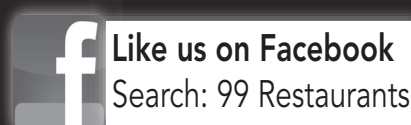
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Four WHS juniors accepted into National Political and Civics Program

By Phil Reidy
Class of 2013

Four Walpole High School students, two Junior boys and two Junior girls were recently selected to be part of the Boys and Girls State programs. These two programs were organized by the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, which instructs high school age boys and girls about the functions of local, county, and state government. The program puts the participants in a simulated political structure on a college campus where they form their own governments.

The website for the Boys State program describes the function of the program: "At Boys State, participants learn the rights, privileges and responsibilities of franchised citizens. The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county and state governments. Operated by students elected to various offices, Boys State activities include legislative sessions, court

proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, choruses and recreational programs." Girls State is a separate program from Boys State in that it is run by the American Legion Auxiliary, but operates in much the same manner as the other.

Jake Kelsey, Kevin Delaney, Vandana Apte, and Emma Comiskey, all in the Junior class, were the four students selected to participate in the programs. The chosen students were asked a series of questions concerning local government, such as the names of certain officials representing Walpole and Massachusetts, in addition to the structure of the local, state, and federal government, and the function of each. They were also quizzed on their knowledge of the detail of Walpole's town government, as well as the three branches of federal government and their individual functions. Each student was asked about a particular figure in history who has inspired them, with names like Ron Paul and Elizabeth Warren, among others be-

ing the responses. Jake Kelsey said about his answer to the question; "I think John McCain is a really great American having served in a foreign war and returning to America to make an effect on politics here, and I also agree with many of his political views."

The criteria for being accepted into the program are "respect for the flag, an above average scholastic standing, strong leadership capabilities, high moral character" (the listed criteria as stated by the Girls State program), as well as sharing an interest in government and current events. Students, if selected in their individual state, will become a delegate in Boys/Girls Nation, a larger program that encompasses all states except Hawaii, which does not have a Boys or Girls State program. Each student will be participating in the program at a college campus during the summer, most likely sponsored by a local business or other organization within town.

No-Voters defend rights of taxpayers

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Historically, public school teachers have long been defined by three traits: low-starting salaries (compared to private-sector jobs), occupational security, and longevity pay-increases. For instance, in Walpole, as long as teachers maintain positive evaluations and demonstrate their effectiveness, teachers receive tenure after their third year on staff. With tenure, teachers can maintain their position seemingly until retirement as long as they can remain effective (potentially at the detriment to younger teachers). While some private and charter schools have experimented with a rewards-based payment system, these types of payment systems have not been adopted by any public school in Massachusetts. Instead, Walpole — like all other towns in Massachusetts — has a payment scale that is structured on longevity of service to the community.

However, with the onset of the Recession, many individuals — both in Walpole and across the United States — have grown skeptical of these teachers who have been in the school system for a long time and who therefore receive high salaries. For instance, Sam Obar said, "We should eliminate the seniority provision in the teachers' contract which requires less expensive, younger, and better teachers to be laid off before the older, more expensive, and worse teachers."

This issue is one that three candidates for selectman who are opposed to the override intend to confront. Chris Donovan is a 22-year Walpole resident and has had two children graduate from Walpole High School. He is a veteran of the Gulf War, formerly ran a prison, currently owns a helicopter-leasing company, and is running for selectman in this year's upcoming election as one of the candidates against the proposed override.

Donovan believes that large sections of the Municipal and Education Department budget is mismanaged, and that this year's override is the result fiscal irresponsibility by town officials. According to Donovan, in 1995, 3557 students were enrolled in Walpole Public Schools (K-12), with 387 employees under the payroll of the Education Department. According to Donovan, even after the override in 2001 — and the failed one in 2007 — the ratio of expansion between the students and staff were far different, in that staff increased at a greater rate as compared to the slightly expanding student population, 387-580 as compared to 3577-3721 from 1995-2005, and 580 to 620 as compared to 3721-4185 from 2005-2010.

While these statistics suggest an excessive increase in the number of paid employees, the reality is that administrators are still cutting teachers and classes are still growing larger. So, one might ask the question: who are these extra 193 employees that were not on staff in 1995 and how are they benefitting students? The answer to this question is somewhat complicated.

A large portion of this additional staff is the Special Education Program, which has been a mandated section of the school budget since 1995 (the initial year cited in the statistics above). SPED en-

tails not only staff members assisting special needs children, but other specialists, like guidance counselors, problem counselors, and job coaches.

And if SPED programs were to be separated from the public school system, the cost of funding a mandated program separate from the one the public schools accommodate would be significantly more expensive for the tax payer. Since the Recession, the well of federal money used to alleviate these high costs has dried up — a paucity that has forced many towns such as Walpole to dig deep to fund these mandates or risk being sued for not providing these mandated accommodations for all students.

Donovan believes it is smarter to eliminate unnecessary administrative members or at least reduce their paychecks. In 2011, when 24 employees were fired, salaries were raised for other employees. "Why would you fire a teacher," Donovan said, "when the problem is the administration?" Donovan finds that useless spending and unneeded bonuses are problems not identified by those in charge of the Department of Education — oversights that are evidence of what he identifies as their fiscal irresponsibility.

In addition, Donovan also points to the large tax increase as a huge burden for residents. Although officially over, the 2008 recession caused many Walpole residents to rethink, if not, seriously compromise their personal budgets. Nationally, 5.6 million reported job losses as a result of the recession, 107,500 of which were found in Massachusetts, as the unemployment rate rose from 5.4% to 8%. The override proposed would place a \$330 mean increase in taxes — an increase which could seriously affect residents recovering from job-loss and other recession effects.

Hence, many taxpayers, beset by recession pressures, have felt that it is not their responsibility to give a considerable amount of money to the town, especially if they have no children enrolled in the school system. Since 2007, the only override to be passed was the Library override, proposed in 2009, and it was voted in by an extremely narrow .2%. On March 31, 2007, the Municipal and School Operational Override (\$3,900,000 — \$2.65 million for schools, \$1.3 million for municipal which was on average \$400 per family per year, forever) had a turnout of 48%; 2937 (39.2%) voted yes and 4550 (60.7%) voted no. Certain classes — like technology and shop programs within the middle school and high school, were removed because of the failure. Fees — athletic, extracurricular, and bus — subsequently were increased. Now, on June 2, 2012, the Municipal and School Operational Override (\$3 million — \$2.7 million for schools, \$300,000 for municipal which is on average \$330 per family per year, forever) is being debated throughout Walpole by candidates, citizens, and yard decorations.

The question remains though: are the "No" voters from 2007 still the 60.7% majority, and if so, will they vote on June 2? Whether residents choose to benefit the tax-payer or the education system, this upcoming election will certainly be a moment of definition for Walpole.

Walpole Pride campaigns to pass Override



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At the meeting, she said, "The goal of the meeting was to have folks in the neighborhood understand why we need an override and to give them a chance to ask questions so they could understand better," said Brown. Nancy Gallivan, a member of the school committee, attended this street meeting to give a presentation, hoping to promote further awareness about this essential override.

Gallivan's presentation outlined the many details about the override. She explained that of the \$3.1 million request, about \$300,000 will be used for town departments other than the school system. About \$1.3 million of the remaining money will be used to prevent further cuts in the school system and to partially restore services that have already been cut. If the override passes, taxes will rise about \$330 for the average homeowner; however, for families with several children in the school systems, this cost could double or even triple due to rising fees such as the bus and sports. In addition, Gallivan spoke about what has already been cut from the school budget in the last ten years, partly due to the decline in Federal and State funding. Another big issue that causes these cuts to take place is mandated costs — services the schools are required to provide by Federal and State regulations. The Federal and State governments do not provide money to help pay for these mandated services, which can make funding for other non-mandated costs difficult to obtain. One of the big mandate costs in Walpole is Special Education. If the override fails, there are many cuts and fee regulations that will be taking place. Gallivan explained how classroom sizes could rise to more than 30 children and foreign language will be eliminated from 6th and 7th grade. In addition, bus fees will rise to \$500 per student, and the athletic fee will rise to \$400 per student for each individual sport they play, with a family cap of \$1500 per year. If the override fails, Walpole High School will be threatened with losing its accreditation.

For families with children in the school system, this override is very important. Mary Abplanalp, a parent with multiple children attending Walpole Schools, supports this override. Although she does not want to see taxes rise, she believes that if the schools cannot be at their best due to a lack of money then there will be a number of consequences — students will be less competitive as they leave high school and the property values in town will be affected. "At the end of the day, whether a resident has kids in school or not, a bad school system reflects poorly on the whole town," said Abplanalp.

With children in school however, a major concern for parents is larger class sizes. "If there are larger class sizes because of less teachers, then there will be an increase in discipline and control issues, and with no one at the schools to address those needs learning becomes secondary," she said.

Street meetings help Walpole Pride's goal to spread the awareness at how essential this override is to Walpole schools' quality of education. "The people who attended the meeting listened with interest and asked some really good questions. I think most of them were convinced that something needs to be done," said Brown. With Walpole Pride doing everything in their power to gain support to pass the override, the outcome is not up to them. It is up to the citizens of Walpole. Brown said, "It is important that any high school student who has reached the age of 18, if they feel the cuts would be detrimental to the schools, should register to vote and help pass this override." As a community, the voters control the future of the school system—everyone should have their voices heard and vote for what they think is the best decision on this critical issue.

GSA Diversity Club fights discrimination with Day of Silence

By Dana Morrone
Class of 2013

The hallways of our school held only a quiet hum last week. Students were proud to show their support for the LGBT youth as they participated in a full school day of not speaking. They took a vow of silence for one whole day at school in honor of those who suffer everyday, more specifically members who are part of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth. The event was organized and established by the Gay-Straight Alliance club, led by science teachers Ms. Susan Wick and Ms. Lara Fasolino. Students were all quiet at Walpole High School for the second Day of Silence on Thursday, May 10.

After the full day of not speaking, anyone who wanted to show up were invited to an after party in Ms. Fasolino's room. Snacks and refreshments were out for grabs. The room was filled with smiles after a long exhausting day of refraining their speech. Students were reluctant to no longer



The club showcases their Day of Silence tags they wore for the day.

need to use their hands to communicate with their peers. "I personally thought of it as a way to take a stand and get people to notice that this is a problem. I think by not talking, people really opened their eyes and took a second to pay attention," says senior Rebecca Goula, who participated in the Day of Silence for the second year in a row.

At what seemed like almost perfect timing, President Barack Obama proudly announced his stance on same sex marriage. On May 9, just hours before

our school's Day of Silence, Obama's Twitter account blew up as his team tweeted a quote directly from the president himself which said, "Same-sex couples should be able to get married." After North Carolina made it illegal for same-sex couples to get married, Obama made this announcement on a televised broadcast. The next day, he visited a George Clooney fundraiser where he explained to the crowd, that it was a "logical extension of what America is supposed to be. It grew directly

out of this difference in visions. Are we a country that includes everybody and gives everybody a shot and treats everybody fairly?"

Though many people are up in arms after Obama stated his stance and support for gay couples, it would be an understatement to say that the LGBT youth and members of the Gay Straight Alliance are ecstatic and proud. Hearing the main man behind the government say that he supports gay marriage brought a large sigh of relief among these individuals. This announcement potentially shows that the acceptance of gay couples and marriage is slowly but surely flourishing in our country. With the good turnout for the Day of Silence this year, the GSA Diversity Club hopes to continue the event every year. "Both LGBT students and the rest of the of the Walpole High School student population benefit from the Day of Silence" says group leader senior Jaquil Brooks. With President Obama's support and a huge chunk of Walpole High's support, the GSA Diversity club is growing into a very beneficial part of our school.

School's precautions for safe prom season prove beneficial

By Amanda McManus
Class of 2013

Prom season, as everyone knows, is a prevalent reminder of a few things for the school systems. Number one, above all else, adults take precaution against possible underage drinking that occurs before, during, or after the prom. Although they know they cannot completely prevent it, they try to mediate possible damage by informing kids of the dangers of binge-drinking. However, according to Assistant Principal Edward Connor, we should also worry about the dance moves of the students, who are in need of some serious improvement. Kids were in for a culture shock with his offer.

Mr. Connor held a Fox Trot and Waltzing dance class last week in order to teach kids alternative ways to dance this upcoming prom. A lighthearted get-together of about 10 kids followed his instruction, and quickly caught on to the simple four-step Waltz. After kids had clearly caught on, he moved on to the Fox Trot. Mr. Connor accompanied the dancing with classic instrumentals fit to Waltz to, but eventually switched to common songs played at prom, which made the style of dancing seem not-so-bad and highly adaptable.

As for the students' modern style of dancing, Mr. Connor says, "Oh, I know I can't stop it." His approach was most likely an attempt to gets kids in the spirit of prom

and have a fun ability to show off during the actual celebration, if they choose to do it. A majority of the people who attended were paired with their dates, so students attending prom were on the lookout for a few Waltzers.

But for the more crucial matter, underage drinking, the school held a meeting for the parents of children attending prom. They had the Assistant District Attorney of Norfolk County and the Police Chief for the Walpole Police Department speak to the parents and let them know kids will be looked after and kept safe on the night of the big event. The Assistant DA, usually dealing with vehicular homicides, sexual assaults, or other acts of violence, notices that underage drinking is often linked with the cases she prosecutes. She said, "I always see a look of shock in my defendant's face when they realize what's occurred and wish that they could take it back." She wants attendees of the prom not to have to experience that shock, and understand that mixing drugs and alcohol can still have consequences.

She described the act of drinking and driving by saying, "Sometimes kids think; You drink and drive one time, and you veer near the yellow lines. You drink and drive twice and you cross the yellow lines. You drink and drive a third time and you're on the left side of the road. It doesn't work that way. Drinking and driving has consequences the first time." She also touched on the subject of what is called "Social Host Liability."

This law states that liability is on the social hosts as a result of serving alcohol to minors. In other words, parents who allow drinking parties risk liability for any deaths, injuries, or other mishaps because of the underage drinking that took place in their home.

The Police Chief of Walpole also spoke to the parents, saying that underage drinking is a community problem. He said, "It's not about locking kids up. It's about keeping them safe. Kids need a consequence, not a record." The Police Department wants underage drinkers to understand the mistake of their actions, without ruining the rest of their lives.

Also, instead of the usual crashed car set up in the front of the school each year around prom season, in coordination with the Walpole Police Department, the school set up a simulation of two totaled cars with student actors playing injured or deceased victims, the drunk driver, friends, and family affected by it. They had the Walpole Police Department, fire department, and collision respond team come and do an official routine of how they would respond to an actual accident of this degree. The intention for this crash simulation was to bring awareness to the dangers of drinking and driving. The school and the community were glad to see that no kids got into danger from getting behind the wheel of a car after prom or after drinking.

School store forced to make changes due to new nutrition guidelines

By Bailey Tudor
Class of 2014

The Rebel Closet is known for its various clothing and treats that are sold after school from Monday to Thursday. Students who stay after school visit the store to purchase snacks to hold them over until dinner time or clothing for family members to support the school. But starting August 1, 2012, the school store will be forced to make some drastic changes that could affect both the students and the success of the store.

In August, the Massachusetts School Nutrition Bill will enforce specific guidelines that will change what food schools are able to sell as an attempt to fight the obesity epidemic that is affecting people across America. First, foods are to be 200 calories or less per item, have less than 200mg sodium per item, and be trans-fat free. The law affects beverages as well. Only eight ounce 1% or fat free regular milk, flavored milk with no more than 22 grams total sugar per eight ounces,

100% fruit and vegetable juice, and water will be provided. No artificial sweeteners and only trace amounts of naturally occurring caffeine are permitted. Moreover, all bread or grain-based products should be whole grain.

These standards will drastically limit what schools in Massachusetts will be allowed to sell. The Rebel Closet will no longer be permitted to sell the candy, chip bags, and power drinks that many of the students buy now. "We can't sell any Sour Patch, Swedish Fish, sugar drinks or chip bags without breaking the law," said Mrs. Mary Caine and Mrs. Pamela Divris, the special education teachers who run the Rebel Closet. Replacing the snacks offered to the students will be foods such as pretzels, baked chips, beef jerky, sunflower seeds, trail mix, Whole Wheat Goldfish, fruit bowls, apple sauce, yogurt, cereal bars, granola bars, 100% fruit juice, and fruit slushies. While healthier, these alternatives to the current selection of snacks could affect the store's financial bottom line.

Students who stay after for sports or for academic reasons often hit the Rebel Closet to purchase a candy bar, a bag of chips, or one of the other various treats that are sold there. But the changes in the types of food that are allowed to be sold could have a damaging effect on the success of the store. Sophomore Sara Murtagh said, "I don't think as many people will go to the school store if they change the food. People go there for the snacks." But even with some negative reactions, Mrs. Caine and Mrs. Divris stay positive. "We hope that the students are receptive to the store's changes and continue to come in," said Mrs. Divris.

The Rebel closet is not only a store for the students and staff to purchase items, but also an important learning experience for the special education students who work there. "It teaches them important social skills, as they do not interact with the other students often" said Mrs. Caine. By taking students' orders, giving them the items, and working the cash register they are forced to

hold a conversation with the customer. But if the school store becomes unsuccessful next year, these students may not find a similar experience to teach them these necessary skills.

In order for the School Store to stay in business and be successful, students need to visit the store and purchase merchandise. Mrs. Caine said, "If students do not come in and buy snacks then there will be no income to purchase clothing and the other items on sale here." But that may become difficult next year, if students do not come in to purchase these healthy alternative snacks. "Not a lot of people are going to buy these healthy snacks, they have that at home. The school store is an easy way for kids to buy different treats" said Sophomore Grace Uhlar.

The new eating regulations could have negative effects on the School Store and other events in school. But Mrs. Caine and Mrs. Divris are hoping that the students continue to support the School Store. They are open to any ideas regarding items that could be sold next year.

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And 1 Week Day Class – June 25th 8:45am-3:30pm
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Mrs. Pearson bids farewell to Walpole

Continued from page 1

Being a math teacher, getting the precise amount of each ingredient must be a piece of cake for her.

Mrs. Pearson's pursuit of a career as a teacher began at the young age of 12, and math seemed like the reasonable choice to teach because it was her best subject. She went to college at Framingham State College for her undergraduate degree and Worcester Polytechnic Institute for her masters. Both were logical choices for her so she could stay close to where she grew up, Worcester Massachusetts. Currently residing in Foxborough MA, Mrs. Pearson has remained true to her Massachusetts roots.

She has had many memorable experiences at Walpole High including when the basketball team won the State Championship, being the Freshmen field hockey coach, and above all—meeting her husband. Most people agree that when one finds true love in high school they are extremely lucky; to be able to share their undying feelings at a time of growth and new experiences is priceless, but what about when it happens to two high school faculty members? Well for Mr. and Mrs. Pearson, cupid must have

launched an arrow their way while striking other teenage lovebirds. He was the band director and she was the math teacher. It all began when the two met working on the school talent show years ago and since then the two have made a life for themselves with their two children.

When asked what she would miss most about teaching Mrs. Pearson said, "The kids, the other teachers and faculty, just everything." Technology/Engineering teacher Mrs. Paula Fontaine said "Her pinkness will definitely be missed. She has the best style and great outfits." Her students will also miss having the opportunity to be taught by Mrs. Pearson. Sophomore Meghan Dundon said, "Mrs. Pearson has really helped me learn algebra this year. She makes it easy to learn." And sophomore Jon Rockwood said, "She never fails to make the class laugh, whether its joking along with us or saying her legendary quote 'that junk squared, multiplied, divided...etc.'"

During the 2011-2012 school year, Mrs. Pearson taught algebra I and II cp1 and calculus honors. She said, "My favorite class to teach is algebra." It is evident to students that she very much enjoys teaching.



Mrs. Pearson poses during one of her last classes.

Sophomore Marisa Mansen said, "You can tell Mrs. Pearson loves what she does. I'll be sad to see her go."

Mrs. Pearson has experienced some of her greatest moments here. She said, "It's scary that it's ending, but I guess it's time for a new chapter in my life." Students and teachers alike will definitely suffer the loss of this memorable teacher.

Barry Greener leaves behind legacy in Walpole Schools

Continued from page 1

This remains true to this day, as Greener has instituted a new policy in the Rebel football locker room; at approximately three week intervals during the fall, Greener disseminates academic check sheets to every member of the football team. His expectations? Not only must they be returned in a timely manner, but they must also include passing grades and satisfactory conduct and effort.

"That's how Coach Greener has been since taking over the program," said Rebel football captain Craig Hanley. "He understands the importance of getting good grades. He doesn't just push us to become better athletes. He pushes us to become better students."

Hanley, who first met Greener as a sixth grader at Johnson, typifies the average students' reverence towards Greener: "On one hand, you have this legendary sports figure who could definitely be considered intimidating. But on the other, you have one of the most friendly, most helpful teachers you'll ever have. He always made gym class fun—even for the kids who weren't into sports." Whether it be allowing students to walk laps around the back field rather than participate in softball or simply accepting feedback from students regarding gym activities, Barry Greener always provided a comfortable and flexible environment, without lessening the demands of a traditional physical education class.

Though Greener noted that JMS was a great environment for the past 25 years and that he will greatly miss Joanna Madge, his teaching partner, he appears to look back most fondly upon his years at Walpole High. When asked how he would describe his tenure at WHS, Greener said simply, "I had fifteen great years



Mr. Greener poses on Lower Turco Field during a Track practice.

in the History Department at Walpole High School." Said Greener, "The high school was very social. Whether it be within the faculty or the athletic department, we were always socializing together. I would always be with Terri Thornton, Billy Tompkins, my colleagues in the history wing[...]. It was a great time. While Johnson was full of great people as well, I didn't socialize as much because I was always sort of hiding away in the gym."

When asked to share some of their favorite memories of their time working together, both Morris and Greener pointed to an ironic moment in history. "Anyone who knows Barry knows how much he loves Richard Nixon," said Morris. "During the summer of '72, when Watergate originally broke, I can remember working on the next year's curriculum with Barry and noticing him getting progressively further away from

the radio as we listened to the news. I kept turning it up until he was almost out of the room."

Greener also fondly recalled this event, saying, "I loved Nixon. I had to hear about Watergate every day during our 1972 summer workshop. One of my colleagues at the time, a great friend of mine, was the first person to sport the famous 'Don't Blame Me. I'm from Massachusetts' bumper sticker." This was exactly the type of playful banter that made the History Department so close said Greener.

Morris also reminisced about Greener's unique teaching methods, saying, "Barry was very passionate about politics. I remember him teaching a U.S. History course backwards. He started with the Cold War and worked his way back from there. He wanted to put emphasis on current events, which was an idea ahead of its time in many ways."

"I don't know how Tom remembers these things," joked Greener. "I did try that method once. Did it work? I don't know. It was an interesting way to look at things though. I think the students found it more entertaining than the average note-taking course. The Vietnam War and all of the other Cold War issues were of such great importance at the time that I just thought the kids should be informed for future elections."

This is a prime example of what made Barry Greener such a valuable educator. Not only did he provide students with knowledge, but he also focused on assisting their development. For this reason, one would be hard-pressed to find a former student or player that would not credit Barry Greener as being a positive influence in their life. After forty years of utter dedication to the town of Walpole, all of Greener's grateful students bid their beloved teacher the best of luck in his well-deserved retirement.

Walpole's Class of 2012 improves percentage of acceptance into prestigious colleges

By Deirdra Chapman
Class of 2013

As the academic calendar draws to a close, the 138th class of Walpole High School prepares for graduation on June 3, 2012. With graduation less than a week away, valedictorians and salutarians and administrators are attempting to grapple with speeches that describe the unique characteristics of the 2012 Walpole Class. While these speeches will undoubtedly focus on fond memories and distinctive personalities, one other thing should also be considered: the impressive number of students who will be going to top-tier colleges next Fall.

According to Guidance Department Head Jennifer Dolan, "More students in the top ten are getting into higher level schools" than in previous years. While some top school — such as Boston College and Villanova — have become regular destinations for Walpole graduates, other more prestigious school — Yale, Massachusetts Institute Technology, Harvard, and Georgetown — have only rarely accepted Walpole graduates.

Until this year.

This year, many of the top students were accepted into many of the top schools in the country: Kiera Street and Emily Rose were accepted into MIT; John Griffin, Harvard; Meghan Murphy and Peter Bruen, Georgetown; Emily Davis, Tufts; Emily Rose, Yale; Suzy Gallivan, Boston College (Just to name some).

The Guidance Department does not take full responsibility for the increased number of acceptances

into top-tier schools. Rather, Mrs. Dolan said, "This year's senior class in particular is a rarity. The individuals have gone above and beyond in terms of academic sequences and extra-curricular realms."

Also recognizing the academic achievements of the Senior Class, Principal Stephen Imbusch said, "I think what impresses me most about this class is their focus. Since they arrived at Walpole High, they have never lost their focus on doing their very best academically or socially." He further complimented their work ethic: "They have worked exceptionally hard throughout their four years."

Similar to the Guidance Department, the Seniors themselves also showed humility by attributing their success to others. Attending Boston College in the fall, senior Suzy Gallivan said, "A lot of the teachers really try to teach you to be independent in order to simulate what it will be like in college. They care a lot about the students and are eager to help if you need it."

Senior Emily Rose, who has decided to attend Yale University next year, said, "Walpole High School gave me the opportunity to demonstrate my academic ability. Walpole High School is supportive about allowing students to demonstrate their self-motivation."

Many in the Senior Class have not been afraid to challenge themselves by take more difficult classes at the AP or Honors level. Gallivan said, "I would say that Walpole High has pushed me to my potential because of the classes I've been able to take. Although the workload can be tough

at times, it definitely prepares us for the future."

In terms of preparation for college, Walpole High School was recognized this year by the College Board on the 2011 Advanced Placement Honor Roll — an accolade reserved for schools who have tested extremely well on their Advanced Placement tests. This accolade mostly recognized the impressive AP test scores of the 2011 Class; however, if this 2012 college acceptances are any suggestion, Walpole High School should expect more impressive scores in the upcoming months.

Along with strong academic abilities, the Senior Class has also excelled in extracurricular activities. Thrilled to be attending her dream school of Georgetown University next year, senior Meghan Murphy said, "I think Walpole High did really well preparing me for college, but it was truly the extra-curricular activities that made me explore who I am as a person and gave me a better sense of myself—a huge aspect in being 'ready' for college in my opinion." Murphy, who was voted Most Valuable Player on the field hockey team, has also participated in lacrosse, softball, basketball, and Latin Club.

Throughout all interviews, the Seniors felt satisfied that when they walk across Turco Field in their cap and gown to receive their diploma, they will be ready for college. And as for Walpole High School itself, with its rising MCAS scores and with its Advanced Placement accolades and with its removal from the NEASC warning list, this impressive level of acceptance for the Class of 2012 may become less of an impressive abnormality and more a new precedent of things to come.



Red Carpet Photos/ Jacqui Conley and Amanda McManus

The Cranberry crew poses for a picture on the red carpet.



Seniors Rebecca Goula and Gabriela Dirino strut down the red carpet.



Seniors Hope Kelley and CJ Tempesta pose for a photo.



The Mulberry crew smiles for a group picture.



Senior Luke Witherell rocks the red carpet.



Junior Andrea Lee and Senior Emma Batting pose for a photo.



Seniors Kayla Sweeney and Jenny Landon escort Matthew St. Martin.



Patrick Maloney steals the spotlight on the red carpet.

“A Serious Student” steals the spotlight at 10th Annual Film Festival

By James Cullinane
Class of 2012

When English teacher Michael Alan conjured up the initial plan to host a student-run film festival at Walpole High School a decade ago, it is hard to imagine that he could have foreseen the success that lay ahead. Who could have predicted that this young upstart's vision would not only come to fruition but withstand the test of time? By building the Film Festival into one of the high school's most exciting annual events, Mr. Alan set himself apart from the average idealistic visionary. After all, anyone can have an idea; the hard part is the execution and fulfillment. All in attendance at the 10th Annual Film Festival Award Show — or “Thursday Night” as it is affectionately known by Alan's clan of filmmakers — witnessed the near flawless execution of Alan's plan. The spectacle that is Thursday Night brings about a transformation of Walpole High School; the front walk way, lobby, staircases, science wing lobby, and auditorium — all things associated by students with the mundane nature of everyday life are renovated to resemble a venue similar to the iconic Kodak theater. Alan masterfully creates an utterly captivating atmosphere at the annual pre-show red carpet; he does so by not only draping the front walk way with the aforementioned red carpet, but also by having those involved in the film be dropped off by local limo services. Awaiting their arrival is the paparazzi comprised of journalism students from the high school. To even further convince those walking the red carpet of their celebrity status, Alan employed senior journalism student Christina Freiburger to do her best Joan Rivers impersonation, doing on-screen interviews with each film's cast and crew. This hoopla — combined with velvet ropes, constant flash bulbs, and fancy clothing — made the 2012 red carpet event one of the most exciting in recent memory. As the last film crew finished their walk down the red carpet, the pre-show spectacle began to give way to the awards night itself. Following the playing of the four best picture nominated films, emcee Dan Mullaney, who is another mainstay of the event, passed podium duties over to Mr. Alan, who delivered the opening remarks. Alan reflected on the strides made by the film program over the past decade before the revelation of the inaugural Tom Brown Lifetime Achievement Award. The first ever recipient of the Tom Brown award was Mr. Chris Jean, a history teacher and seasoned actor in the Film Festival. In his acceptance speech, with his trademarked eccentric hilarity, Jean joked, “I don't know who St. Martin slept with [...] More power to him, the Superintendent is an attractive man.” This remark (and most likely the award itself) was the product of Jean's inability to bring home the coveted Best Faculty Performance award, which Mr. David St. Martin captured last year. However, in a more serious tone, Jean later added that his support of the Film Festival was never driven by the prospects of winning an award, saying, “the process is the privilege” when it comes to the film festival. Following Jean's charismatic acceptance speech, the award for Best Editing was given out to senior Dan Meyers and juniors Erin Batchelder and Ryan Erwin for their work on “A Serious Student.” This trio would be no stranger to the acceptance podium, bringing home four trophies, or “Alans” as they have become known. One of the areas in which the film festival has made the longest leaps over the past ten years is music. Soundtracks to movies and trailers are supplied by film students who specialize in musical production. Competition was stiff in this category, and most expected senior Pat Maloney, who had already won the award for Achievement in Music in past festivals, to take home the Alan. However, it was junior Chris Nee who heard his name called. Following the show, Nee said, “It was cool getting up there. I didn't expect to

win, so I had nothing to say.

The next group of winners to grace the podium was certainly not at a loss for words. Awarded for their efforts put into the Art Direction of “Adorn: The Final Chapter,” senior Kim Ciardiello, senior CJ Tempesta and junior Steph Barmakian gave a heartfelt speech regarding Ms. Laura Kerr, an English teacher who donates countless hours to oversee the Art Direction of every film.

One of the most under publicized and under appreciated aspects of the filmmaking process, those in charge of art direction handle the burden of assuring that the set, costumes, and props are ready to shoot. Another aspect of the films that is often overlooked is screenplay writing; though it is arguably the most important step in producing a quality film, the attention tends to fall more on actors. The aforementioned Meyers made his second trip to the podium after receiving the award for Best Screenplay for A Serious Student, a film he wrote, co-directed, and starred. The star of the show in terms of acting was senior Justin Connolly, who impressively won the awards for both Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor. Being in two movies is impressive enough when considering the time taken to complete each film, but Connolly truly stole the show by excelling in both “Triple Dog Dare” and “The Full Windsor.” In his acceptance speech, Connolly credited Film Festival alum Matt Landry for molding him into the actor he is today. Landry, who is pursuing a career in acting, returned to the Film Festival to give acting lessons to the major actors in each movie. Furthermore, Connolly gave one of the most entertaining speeches of the night, joking towards director Jen Sifferlen from the podium: “Jenny Siff, I love you. Even though at times you probably wanted to step on me.” When the laughter stemming from Connolly's speech finally came to a halt, the award for Best Director was handed out. The theme of the night continued, with Meyers, Batchelder, and Erwin returning to the stage to claim “A Serious Student's” third award of the night.

Many in the audience believed the time may have come for Mr. Jean to finally win the award for Best Faculty Performance as he, along with Mr. Fiske, Mr. Connor, Mr. Ferro, Mr. O'Malley, Mr. Balkus, and Mr. Hahn all received nominations; however, these theorists would prove incorrect, as Mr. Connor was rewarded for his performance alongside Connolly in “The Full Windsor.” After jumping onto the stage and cart-wheeling to the podium, Mr. Connor delivered the longest speech of the night. Mr. Connor described his attitude towards Film Festival by saying, “I love being in movies. I'll say almost anything. I'll do almost anything.” Furthermore, he also joked that he was “glad Justin Connolly wasn't nominated for this award.” While Connolly certainly stood center stage in “The Full Windsor,” Mr. Connor was duly recognized for his performance. In the category that catapults certain films into the realm of Film Festival immortality — Best Picture — the four nominated films were “Adorn: The Final Chapter,” “The Weaver Report,” “The Full Windsor,” and “A Serious Student.” To nobody's surprise, the award was once again given to Meyers, Batchelder, Erwin, and company for “A Serious Student,” a dark comedy that delves into the realities of high school rules and regulations.

While what occurred in the auditorium on this mid-May Thursday Night was certainly a time of great jubilation and excitement for those involved, the true accomplishment of the Film Festival is its longevity. Its blueprint was born out of a dream. The likelihood of its success must have seemed bleak in many regards. However, all of these doubts were officially hurled aside at the 10th Annual Film Festival; it is here to stay, as the support of students and teachers has bestowed upon Alan's program an air of immortality.



Mr. Alan announces the Lifetime Achievement Award.



Chris Nee receives the award for “Best Music”.



Senior Kim Ciardiello makes a speech after receiving Best Art Direction.



Mr. Connor celebrates his award for Best Faculty Performance.



Senior CJ Tempesta hugs Mrs. Kerr while accepting his award.



Justin Connolly receives the award of “Best Actor” for his role in “The Full Windsor.”



Ryan Erwin makes a speech about winning Best Editing.



Junior Erin Batchelder accepts her award for Best Director.

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The Rebellion

From the Vault

Rebellion shines light on old favorites

By Luke Witherell
Class of 2012

Welcome to The Vault, the Rebellion's quantum portal, its rear-view mirror, its journalistic time machine. The Vault is a place where Rebellion writers get to explore old entertainment-- movies, music, television, and books-- about which they are passionate and, in so doing, entertain their readers. This will not be instead of regular, more timely entertainment features and reviews, but will provide a supplement on the website in the form of a clickable tab.

The benefit of The Vault is two-fold. First, it gives the Rebellion's writers an outlet where there would otherwise be none: in today's fast-moving, forward-thinking world, there is seldom time for a nostalgic teen to glance at the past. The irony of this mindset is that, due to forward-thinking technologies like the Internet, accessibility to bygone worlds is greater than ever, via Pandora, iTunes, Youtube, Grooveshark. Therefore, the same thing that makes the world want

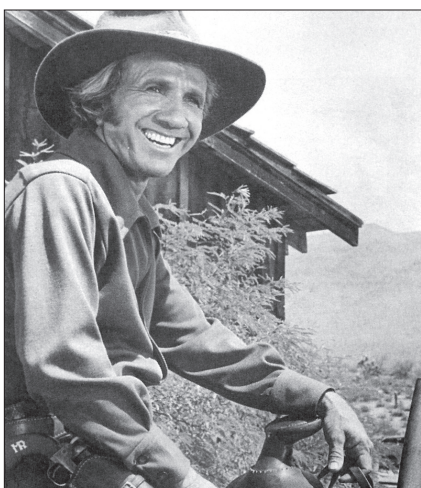
to move forward gives everyone the opportunity to look back. The Rebellion is using The Vault to take full advantage of this opportunity, allowing high school students to write about those things which inspire them that are ignored by contemporary media.

The second benefit is that this idea is a relatively unique one. Rolling Stone does occasional nostalgic features, and Pitchfork nostalgically covers re-releases, but no big-name publication has a full section devoted to nostalgia. The Rebellion may gain some form of creative prominence in the creation of this tab, or will, at least, avoid being overly redundant.

If all goes well, the Rebellion editors will publish the first Vault article tonight, Wednesday, April 11, and will publish articles from that point on with intermittent consistency. The Rebellion's hope is that readers will enjoy this section and will, also, discover new forms of entertainment-- or, rather, old ones.



Western ballads bring back memories of cowboy days



Country ballad singer, Marty Robbins.

By Bill Rockwood
Class of 2013

Nowadays, country lacks the intangibles found in old western country,

otherwise known as cowboy ballads. Pop country demeans the work of some of the fathers of the genre (Johnny Cash, Hank Williams, Waylon Jennings) and overall puts a foul taste in the mouth of those who are fans of old country. Cowboy ballads are by far the most interesting sub-genre of country, chronicling the life of some of the most infamous gunslingers. Not only do they narrate the lives of infamous cowboys, but the artists create entertaining stories using wild west settings.

A prime example of this kind of music is Marty Robbins, a song writer who reached stardom after World War II. Robbins played in local venues in the Southwest, gaining popularity for his enchanting tales of cowboys and maidens. His album, "Gunfighter Ballads and Trail Songs," chronicles life

in the old days, a life full of love and gunfights. Robbins' song "Billy the Kid" puts a spin on the notorious life of the outlaw by adding an emotional appeal to the story. The song "El Paso" depicts a cowboy who commits a heinous crime in the name of love, and willingly gives his life just to see his "Mexican maiden Feleena."

Not all of these songs are cheerful and full of love. Country legend Johnny Cash has also dabbled in the art of cowboy ballads numerous times, all of which deal with death and the futility of life. In the song, "I Hung my Head," Cash tells the story of a man who accidentally shoots a man riding through the plains. The man goes to court and feels remorse saying, "all for no reason, I wish I was dead." Cash effectively uses the solace of the

man to portray the bad side of being a cowboy and living out on the plains.

Cowboy ballads are not yet a dying art, and have proven to be relevant today. Cash's last album, "The American IV," puts a melancholy spin on classic songs. Also, Hank Williams III tries his hand at the old western sound with his song "Whiskey, Weed & Women." Williams III sings about his own destruction caused by these three devices, a common theme in many great western songs. Hands down the most intriguing part of western ballads is the search for a quality song or artist. There is no better feeling than discovering a ballad that captivates the listener. Western country ballads are arguably the purest form of music; however, there is no argument about whether or not they are entertaining.

Nintendo 64's "Mario Party 2" unlocks first place in video game genre



"Mario Party 2" title screen attracts and invites players to the franchise.

By Laura Drinan
Class of 2013

It's hard to believe that about 15 years ago, the Nintendo 64 was the leading video game console in America. It seems like century-old technology, considering the elite platforms around today, like xBox 360, PlayStation 3, and Wii. Not only have N64 games been considered classics, but they're even being rereleased on the Nintendo Wii's "Virtual Console". Although gamers today are able to play many of the re-releases on a 50 inch HDTV with the Wii's 'classic controller', nothing beats using the bulky three pronged controller with its multicolored buttons (that occasionally stick after pressing them down too hard) on a wood paneled television. Despite some of the N64's lesser appreciated titles, like "Bomberman 64," "Perfect Dark," and "Rayman 2: The Great Es-

cape," the console does hold records for some of the greatest games of all time. "The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time" and its sequel "Majora's Mask" became instant favorites on the platform, along with "Banjo-Kazooie" and naturally, the star of Nintendo, the "Super Mario" games. While "Super Mario 64" was the console's best selling game, "Mario Party 2," released in January of 2000, easily ranked among the favorites

and won over the hearts of its thousands of players. "Mario Party 2" has the same concept of its predecessor, in which it's basically a virtual board game. Players can customize the settings of the game, such as how many turns they will play, bonuses, and difficulty. The player will also choose his or her own character: Mario, Luigi, Yoshi, Princess Peach, Wario, and Donkey Kong. The object of the game is to collect the most stars and become the "Superstar", who will beat Bowser in a CGI cutscene. One star is located on a random spot on the map, and costs 20 coins to buy. In order to earn coins, players take turns rolling on-screen dice and moving a particular number of spaces, collecting coins along the way. Players can also earn coins by winning minigames, stealing them with the aid of the non-playable character, Boo, or simply by moving throughout the board. After each round, a minigame is randomly selected, and the

players are segregated into either 4 versus 4, 2 versus 2, 1 versus 3, or battle games. Teams are determined by landing on common map spaces or randomly. The game's 65 minigames and 6 maps give the game great replay value and keeps its players entertained. One of the easier maps to play on is "Pirate Land," where the characters will dress up as pirates, duel each other in a coin-driven sword fight, avoid getting hit by cannonballs, and ride sharks to different areas of the map. There's also "Western Land," where the players will venture the wild west, train-hopping their way to the star, and celebrate hoote-nannies when the time arises. "Mystery Land" is one of the most irritating maps; the characters are transported by UFOs and magic beams to other parts of the map as they scour the map's ancient ruins, looking for stars. "Black Hole Bowser" takes control of "Space Land," where characters play at a space station and avoid the treacherous "Bowser Beam," which takes all of the affected player's coins and gives them to Bowser. "Horror Land" sets a spooky mood on the map as the wizard-dressed characters work around ghosts and magic eyeballs in order to become the Superstar. After completing all of these maps at least once, "Bowser Land" is unlocked, and the players must deal with the wacky and backwards rules of this unconventional map.

As most "Mario Party" players would agree, the game suffers on single player. The multiplayer mode of up to 4 people may take over an hour to play, but it certainly isn't boring. The game's quirky and goofy features (like talking skeleton keys, dancing with ghosts, and getting caught in a parade) make it addictive and popular on the nearly outdated (but legendary) Nintendo 64.

Entertainment

Horse Feathers' "Cynic's New Year" showcases new folk genre

By Daria Grady
Class of 2013

Since 2004, Portland, Oregon local artist, Justin Ringle, has been trying to make it from the underground, unknown scene full of folky soul, banjos galore and raspy voices. Ringle gathered many local instrumentalists that have been in a constantly changing lineup to form the band Horse Feathers. After eight years, Horse Feathers released their fourth album, "Cynic's New Year," showcasing the crafts of the Portland based group that brags about its sassy Americana style with success. "Cynic's New Year" debuted on April 17 and started where the band's last album left off. Horse Feathers brings their distinctive sound to the forefront of the album with Ringle's high, chilling voice, along with the large band backing him that includes a variety of strings, banjo tunes, dramatic horns, and a soft, seldom piano piece. This time around, Ringle wrangled Portland's finest instrument virtuosos to create his very own textured version of folk music that perfectly shows off their unique, moody, and solemn sound.

The album opens with the subtle melody, "A Heart Arcane." The first track establishes the tone for the rest of "Cynic's New Year." Throughout the album, Ringle flaunts his voice along with the peppering of instruments that clearly highlights Horse Feathers' eclectic mix of folk and country. Not only is the band's musical talent duly noticed, but Ringle's lyrics flow through each song fighting between despair and hope. The Ringle jingle flourishes on "Better Company" and "Pacific Bray" with his voice pushing its own raspy limits, but making the songs come alive — even if the instrumental accompaniment was not present.

Though Ringle's voice is what defines Horse Feathers, it still seems to be their limit. For every song, even if beautifully played and perfectly sung, the same mundane pace is kept, with no extreme shocks which is keeping them from really expanding and reaching to a wider-based audience. The lyrics are profound, the instruments are graceful, and the voice is unique, yet the band cannot transgress the confines of the folk music genre.

The album in its entirety is seamless-

ly played, but in a damaging way. Like their previous albums, Horse Feathers sticks to one tune, then runs with it. Each album is indistinguishable from one another because of the constant mood that is not dark enough to de-

spair, yet still not bright enough to shine. Horse Feathers has mastered all the pieces necessary for an album, but Ringle is so strict to sticking with their outlined genre that "Cynic's New Year" cannot be a masterpiece on its own.



"Cynic's New Year" album cover featuring the newest band members

One Direction brings back lost art of boy bands

By Hannah McLaughlin
Class of 2014

Through the years, the ever popular "boy band" classification has evolved, changing with every passing decade as a result of the infamously fickle and unpredictable music industry. However, there is one thing boy bands never fail to succeed in—attracting slews of teenage girls with love songs infused with poppy beats and melodies. Emerging as a whole new kind of music in the 1980s and 1990s, American boy bands swept the globe by topping charts and taking the music industry by storm. Enjoying massive success in the '80s and '90s, bands like New Kids on the Block, Backstreet Boys, and *NSYNC produced iconic singles and albums, proving there was more to them than matching leather jackets and synchronized dance steps. Of course, a band's popularity doesn't last forever, and each group's popularity has depreciated significantly over the years. Yet, with up and coming stars like the British band One Direction gaining increasing popularity today, it makes one wonder if boy bands are making a comeback.

New Kids on the Block was formed in 1984 in Boston; this local Massachusetts band consisted of brothers Jonathan and Jordan Knight, Joey McIntyre, Danny Wood, and Donnie Wahlberg. The group is considered one of the first of its kind, setting the stage for future boy bands. Their debut album, "New Kids on the Block", was released in 1986 and featured their first single "Be my Girl" and other tracks that had a bubblegum pop sound. The album proved to be unpopular, but despite the lack of attention they received, NKOTB tried again with their second album, "Hangin' Tough." This album, which was much more profitable than the first, helped the group get to the top with songs like "You Got It (The Right Stuff)" and "I'll be Loving You (Forever)." However, no album made NKOTB more famous than their third—"Step by Step"—which was released in the early 1990s. The single "Step by Step" climbed the charts to number one on the Hot 100 Singles Chart and quickly became their best selling single. Other songs from the album like "Tonight" and "Let's Try It Again" proved successful as well, making the group more popular than ever before. The album marked the group's last moments of stardom, however, as their next album, "Face the Music," did not sell as well as the ones that preceded it. New Kids on the Block broke up in 1994, but reunited in 2008, releasing a new single called "Summertime" in hopes of putting the band back into the public eye. Though



the song did not fully revitalize their career, "Summertime" did manage to reach slot 35 on the Billboard Hot 100, marking NKOTB's first top 40 hit since 1992.

Backstreet Boys, another infamous boy band, brought more pop hits to the music scene after being formed in 1993. Members Brian Littrell, A.J. McLean, Howie Dorough, and Kevin Richardson released their debut album "Backstreet Boys" in 1996, which became very popular thanks to several tracks, namely "We've Got It Goin' On", "Everybody", and "As Long as You Love Me". Next came their second album, "Backstreet's Back," which contained hits "If you Stay" and "Quit Playing Games (With My Heart)". Most of their fame can be attributed to "Millennium"—their third album—which contained worldwide hit singles "I Want It That Way" and "Larger Than Life". In the U.S., "Millennium" became the best-selling album of 1999, selling close to 9.5 million albums total. Being the apex of their career, the only thing left for Backstreet Boys to do was to fade slowly into oblivion. Despite several more album releases, the band never gained as much hype as they had earlier in their career. Kevin Richardson left the group in 2006, and the rest of the boys recently reunited to do a joint tour with New Kids on the Block. The new supergroup, "NKOTBSB" recently released their comeback song, "Don't Turn Out the Lights."

A third band to bring forth poppy beats and smash hits was *NSYNC, formed by bandmates Lance Bass, JC Chasez, Chris Kirkpatrick, Joey Fatone, and of course, lead singer Justin Timberlake. Assembled in Orlando, FL in 1995, *NSYNC soon became one of the most famous names in the music business thanks to a large fan base, catchy beats, and collaborations with other stars. Throughout the late 1990s and early 2000s *NSYNC

released hit after teen pop hit. The songs had a sound that can only be described as a perfect combination of pop, R&B, dance, and soul. Their self-titled debut album, released in 1997, peaked at number one just two weeks after its release. In January 2000, the band released arguably its most famous single, "Bye Bye Bye", which brought massive success to the group along with their third album called "No Strings Attached." The album also brought well known tracks like "It's Gonna Be Me" and "This I Promise You", making "No Strings Attached" not only the top selling album of 2000, but also the best selling album of the decade. Throughout their seemingly endless stretch of popularity, *NSYNC sang or recorded with artists like Britney Spears, Elton John, Michael Jackson, Phil Collins, Stevie Wonder, and more. Not long after releasing their third and final album in 2001, called "Celebrity," the boy band called it quits, allowing Justin Timberlake to focus on his solo career as not only a singer, but an actor. Since then he has released his own singles, voiced a character for Shrek the Third, assumed the role of Sean Parker in The Social Network, etc. However, he and the other members of *NSYNC have yet to reunite.

Today, solo artists like Taylor Swift and Bruno Mars dominate the American Top 40 and other charts, and songs by rising stars such as Carly Rae Jepsen and Karmin only add to the music industry that is lacking vitality and adversity. In recent years, boy bands have seemingly become extinct—absent from all music charts, their poppy beats and songs of love forgotten and left in the distant abyss of the 1990s. The truth is, the title of "boy band" has only been dormant for a few decades, as the UK is now introducing One Direction, a band composed of Liam Payne, Harry Styles, Zayn Maik, Louis Tomlinson, and Niall Horan. Formed by Simon Cowell in 2010 on hit show "The X Factor", the group finished as a third place finalist in the competition, but has gained global attention even without the title. Their first album, called "Up All Night," was released in November 2011. The album made One Direction the first UK group in history to debut at number one on the American charts, in March 2012. The band's popularity increases day by day, causing one to wonder exactly what this means for boy bands in the future. Although the boys do not embody the boy band stereotype of the 80s and 90s—for instance, the perfectly synchronized dance moves like the New Kids on the Block or Backstreet Boys—One Direction seems to be bringing back a much needed and long forgotten aspect of pop music—the boy band.

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Sports

P.J. Hayes: all-time fastest athlete at Walpole High

Photo/Bill Rockwood



PJ Hayes pulling ahead in a league race.

By William Rockwood
Class of 2013

Throughout his life PJ Hayes has been defined one way: fast. Stemming from his appearance in the 2007 Little League World Series, Hayes has always been the fastest kid on the field, in the playground, and on the track. One of the most memorable soundbites from the Walpole introductions, PJ “favorite player Ryan Howard” Hayes quickly emerged as an elite ath-

lete through his electric speed on the basepaths, scoring the winning run of the opening William-sport game. During the fall, PJ is known for his superb 4.3 second time in the 40-yard dash. Recently, Hayes competed in the Coaches Invite Meet, placing first in the 100m dash with a blazing time of 10.73 seconds—the fastest in Massachusetts so far this year. The time was good enough to break the Walpole High School record for that event. This is not the first record Hayes has broken, he holds the fastest times in the 55m dash(6.45), 200m(22.04), and is second for the 300m(36.27). Hayes has not only competed by himself, but also led the 200m relay team this winter to the New Balance Indoor Nationals.

Coming into the winter season, people did not know what to expect from Hayes, even though his speed came heralded from the football field. All the doubters were quickly silenced after his first meet, when Hayes ran an impressive time of 6.71 in the 55-meter dash, just a few tenths of a second off of the record. Hayes quickly took over the record, assuring everyone that he was worth the hype. When spring season came along, Hayes arrived with even more hype, coming from everyone including himself. He knew he would have to prove himself to veterans of the track, since he was starting to compete in his junior year.

“It was a tough decision not play baseball this year and do track instead,” explained Hayes. “I knew I could do well in both sports, but I had more of a chance to win and make an impact in track.” The decision worked well for Hayes, because he is now the fastest athlete in the 100m dash.

Hayes is used to success on the track, but his work ethic off the track is what separates him from all athletes. After Hayes goes to track practice, you can find him lifting either at the high school or in his basement. Even after meets, Hayes lifts aggressively with his uncle .

“PJ works hard everyday, and he gets results,” said senior teammate Joey Petruziello. “His speed is a result of the effort he puts in daily”.

All the effort is not for nothing, Hayes is one of the most competitive athletes you will ever meet. The only thing Hayes dislikes about track, is the fact that it is possible that he might lose. PJ Hayes hates losing. In one meet during the winter, Hayes faced one of the fastest competitors from Newton North. The race came down to wire, ending with the opposing runner laying on the track, rubbing his burns after he came into contact with Hayes at the finish line. When asked about what happened Hayes will always take the diplomatic way out saying, “I don’t know what happened, it was a good race.” Realistically, everyone knew that PJ was not losing that race. During race day, you will see no emotion on Hayes’ face, except for a deep focus on his incoming race, transforming into a metaphorical brick wall. Along with his Dre Beats headphones, Hayes gets himself into the zone. “It’s impossible to talk to him during these meets.”, said Petruziello, “He only likes to think about the race.”

However, Hayes cannot walk around a track meet without getting recognized by at least a few other sprinters. This recognition comes from the respect Hayes has earned from not only winning, but dominating races. Top athletes from around the state show respect to PJ, a testament to his success. Walking around the field with PJ at a track meet is similar to being part of a celebrity’s entourage, heads turn, and people whisper. Even before the race, athletes that have never seen the blur that is PJ Hayes stand around wondering, hoping that they do not get placed into the same heat as him. Reaching an almost mythical status, its hard for PJ not to acknowledge the attention.

“Everyone knows me,” said Hayes, “whenever I go to a meet people are talking about me. They are surprised when I tell them who I am, because most people don’t expect me to look like I do”.

No matter what he looks like or how inexperienced he may appear, nobody can deny that Hayes has made a huge impact on Massachusetts high school track. Only a junior, people expect a big impact from Hayes this year in the post-season and an even bigger impact next year with two seasons of experience.

Monahan and Desantis shatter school records

Photo/Mackenzie Wilson



Michelle Monahan, on left, and Steph DeSantis, on the right, pose at practice.

By Mackenzie Wilson
Class of 2014

In a town like Walpole, sports are a big deal. Students donate nearly their entire school year to practicing, playing, and cheering on their teams as well as others. Out of these students, the best players and teams will always covet school records. The greatest honor for any athlete is breaking the record and having their name etched into school history. In this past spring track season, both junior Michelle Mo-

hanan and senior Steph Desantis have become two of these lucky athletes.

With a throw of 104’ 4”, Michelle broke the previous discus record from 1977, and with a throw of 113’0”, Steph Desantis broke the previous javelin record of Kristan Papirio from 2009.

This is not the first time that Monahan has broken the school record; however, the first time was under major speculation. The speculation came during a track meet versus Milton last year, when the officials missed her longest throw of the season. The official erroneously mea-

sured a discus previously thrown by a junior varsity athlete from a previous flight. When the angry spectators loudly complained, the official corrected himself by marking her throw at an estimated distance. Unfortunately, the official’s uncertainty cast doubt upon Monahan’s previous record 99’11”. Until she threw her 104’4”, she had been throwing in the shadow of this official’s folly, but now, she has been overjoyed with the certainty that she is the official school record holder.

Monahan said, “It’s great to know that my hard work has paid off and I hope to keep breaking my records.”

Steph DeSantis was also very thrilled by the fact that she has been able to break the school record. After Papirio set the record in 2009, when DeSantis was a sophomore, she has been giving it her all to break the old record. Her

work payed off, at the BSC Championship DeSantis threw 113’0”. When asked if she had a chance at PR-ing again the Division II Meet, DeSantis was slightly hesitant, saying: “We’ll see.” But, she is still hopeful that she will beat it.

Michelle Monahan can definitely be described as a sporty girl. She is constantly involved in sports - playing field hockey in the fall and basketball in the winter. With such a busy sports schedule, Monahan describes herself as being in constant training. Monahan is also an active

member of the National Honor Society and takes AP and Honors classes. She is highly involved in other school activities including prom committee and is the current Junior Class President. “Being class president is a big responsibility,” said Monahan, “It has definitely taught me great leadership skills.” This is her third year as class president and Monahan hopes for reelection this fall.

DeSantis, much like Monahan, is a huge sports enthusiast. In fact, she was recently voted “Most Athletic” in her senior class. She is also a three-season athlete—playing soccer in fall and joining Monahan on the basketball court in winter. Out of soccer, basketball, and track DeSantis’ favorite is soccer. Since sophomore year, DeSantis has been a varsity player as a striker and has also spent time playing midfield. She always finds a way to overcome new challenges with the support of her teammates and coaches. Each has helped her grow into the excellent athlete and person she is today.

Both Monahan and DeSantis are skilled students who have earned their spots in school history as athletes. Their impressive efforts have let them qualify for the Division II Meet on May 26th. Both athletes are ranked high at Division II, so they hope to make the All-State Meet. DeSantis will take her skills to Bridgewater this fall and hopes to join their soccer team; while, Monahan will return to Walpole High as a senior. The girls have left behind impressive legacies in their wake, meaning that they will not soon be forgotten.

Rebels Softball falters against rivals Dedham and Norwood

Photos/Kristen O'Leary



Lauren Regan attempts to outrun throw to first base



Dedham pitcher throws an inside pitch to Jenelle Caskie

By Kristen O'Leary
Class of 2013

After suffering two heartbreaking losses to both Dedham and Norwood a couple of weeks ago, the Rebels Softball team was determined to bring their "A game" this week and show both teams how well they can actually play together. After Senior Katie Cavaca made the switch back to playing the catcher position, and Junior Lauren Bodin was back to center field, the girls have not lost a game. On April 27th, Dedham dominated the Rebels with an 11-2 win on their own field, but the Rebels were intent on showing their skill the second time around. Unfortunately for Walpole, Dedham once again played extremely well together as a team, and came out with the victory over Walpole. In the top of the first inning alone, the Marauders scored two runs quickly on Walpole's Junior Marissa Ryan. Walpole retaliated with Sophomore Lauren Regan hitting a single, and the next Rebel batter grounding out bringing Regan to second base. Junior Lauren Bodin stepped up to the plate, and crushed the ball into center field. Bodin sprinted to third base and brought Regan home to put the Rebels on the board. After Cavaca strikes out, Junior Sam McChesney hits a single to bring Bodin home to tie the game at two.

The top of the second inning was a quick and efficient one for the Rebels, the first batter hitting a fly ball to Bodin in center field for the first out, the second batter grounding back to Ryan at the mound who then threw it to Junior Jenelle Caskie at first base for the second out, and the final batter of the inning grounding to Sophomore Mehron Hoag, again throwing it back to Caskie for the last out. The Rebels started off the inning with Junior Jess Cochrane striking out, but both Hoag and Caskie came up strong with long singles, however Hoag was called out on Caskie's hit because she interfered with the Dedham second baseman. The interference killed Walpole's momentum as

junior Bridget Nicholson grounded out to end the inning.

In the third inning, Dedham picked up their game and scored 4 quick runs. The clean-up hitter stepped up to the plate with two girls on base, and hit a bomb over the left-fielders head for a triple. Both players on base scored, putting Dedham ahead of Walpole 4-2. During the next at bat, the Dedham player on third base successfully stole home to make the score 5-2 Dedham. The next batter grounded to Caskie making the second out, but Dedham scores yet again to put them on top 6-2. A fly ball to Cavaca behind the plate ended the top of the third inning, but the damage had been done. Bodin started off the bottom of the third inning for Walpole with a single, as did Cavaca who hit a single, but was called out on a very controversial play. The home plate umpire reversed the umpire in the infield's call, and needless to say, Rebel fans were furious. This was the second time this game the home plate umpire had reversed a call in Dedham's favor. The rest of the game was quick, with numerous 1 2 3 innings on both sides, and no runs being scored. Although the Rebels each put in a solid effort, a few errors and a struggle to play together as a whole lost the girls the game.

On April 30, the Rebels fell to the Norwood Mustangs 10-0. This was a tough loss to their arch rivals, and the girls very much wanted to redeem themselves. Norwood put themselves on the board in the first inning, with pitcher Sophomore Steph Sem allowing two singles, and then a double to bring in a run and make the score 1-0 Norwood. The bottom of the first was a quick one for Walpole with singles only by Regan and Cavaca, and Regan ending the inning being called out at home plate on a steal attempt. The second inning was a quick one on both sides, both the Mustangs and Rebels allowing only one hit.

Norwood picked up their game in the third inning starting with two singles right off the bat and the lead runner then stealing third base. Sem struck out the third batter, but the runner on first base safely stole second base. Bo-

din then caught a fly ball in center field, but the runner on third base made it home to make the score 2-0 Norwood. Walpole then allowed another single, bringing another Norwood base runner home to make the score 3-0 Norwood. The Rebels concluded the inning by making the out on Norwood's attempted bunt. Senior Jill Songin hit a single into center field, and Regan walked to begin the inning for Walpole. Nicholson followed with a single, but Songin was called out at third base, and Bodin hit a single into right field but Regan was called out at third base. Caskie grounded out to end the inning for Walpole.

In the fifth inning, the first batter hit a single, but was called out in an attempt to steal second base. The next Norwood batter hits a single, but takes second base as the throw to Caskie was overthrown. Two singles followed for Norwood, bringing home the lead base runner and pulling Norwood ahead 4-0. Two more stolen bases, and two singles made Rebels fans nervous about not being able to get back in the game, but the inning concluded with a fly ball to Hoag at second base. There were no more runs scored in the game, but the final call of the game was a controversial one. Cavaca hit a single with the Norwood first baseman blocking the first base line and having to run around her, made it to the bag, and had the Norwood player been on the base when she caught the ball, Cavaca would have been out. This call caused much controversy on both sides whether the Norwood first baseman was actually touching the bag before Cavaca made it there. Nevertheless, the umpire called Cavaca out, and the game was over for the Rebels.

Walpole never gave up during either loss, and held their heads high even as they fell behind. Their tendency to leave runners on base at the end is something the girls struggle with, because there was opportunity for the Rebels to be tough contenders in both games. As the girls regroup from the difficult losses, they look hopefully to tournament and begin to prepare and use these losses as lessons learned.

Boys Lacrosse fights way to playoff berth

By Russell Ollis
Class of 2012

In the past seven years, one of the most successful spring sports teams at the high school has been the boys lacrosse team. Every year since 2005, the team has qualified for postseason play, won a few Bay State Titles, and even a State Championship. The 2012 Boys Lacrosse Team is different from years past in that qualifying for the playoffs has come down to the wire.

The 2012 Boys Lacrosse Team is different from past Walpole teams. Usually, the Rebels are led by a strong core of upperclassmen who play most of the game and throughout the season aid the younger players in the process of acclimating to varsity level play. This team dynamic changed this spring because Walpole has very few upperclassmen to lead, and most rely on the efforts put forth by many talented underclassmen. Not only is the team young and inexperienced, but because of the success of past teams, the Rebels have a grueling schedule that puts them up against some of the best opponents in Eastern Massachusetts.

The Rebels started off the year against Dover-Sherborn - one of the favorites to win the Division 3 title. Walpole lost the game 7-2, as the game exposed their lackluster offensive power. In their

next game, the Rebels suffered an upset as Franklin defeated Walpole by a score of 11-7. Walpole reworked their offense and came back in the next week with two wins to even out their record. Going into April vacation week, the Rebels stood at 2-2 and at a crossroads in their season.

First up for the Rebels was the red-hot Scituate Sailors. Walpole got outworked and the final score - 8-2 in Scituate's favor - reflected this. Walpole needed a quick turnaround as they traveled up to Danvers to face St. John's Prep. The Rebels hung with the Eagles, but their inexperience showed at times and ended up in an 8-4 Prep victory. To add insult to injury, the Boys Lacrosse Team lost 8-6 to King Philip in their next game - a team that was 0-6 entering the game.

Following the loss to King Philip, Walpole went to work to try and get back to their old winning ways. Despite losing their next two games against Newton North and Wellesley - two teams that are vying for the Bay State Conference title - the Rebels cleared up some of their issues and started playing solid, fundamental lacrosse. Flashes of great lacrosse were present in the early season, but only temporary - lasting for only a quarter or less. Recently, the team has been playing solid for longer stretches during the games which has

resulted in more wins - over Brookline and Dedham - and closer contests.

Saturday, May 5, the team played arguably their best game all season. Walpole hosted Xaverian in what turned out to be a great high school lacrosse game between two evenly matched teams. Xaverian ended up winning the game 4-3, but Walpole was pleased with their long offensive possessions and rigid defense. "In the Xaverian game everyone played great," said senior Captain Bryan Rockwood, "it was the first full game that this team has put together and it showed."

On Monday, May 7, the Rebels traveled to Needham and ran with a top 10 team in the state. "Although we lost 8-1, we showed that we can run with the best," said junior midfielder Steve Thulin after the game. The Rebels seemed to have found a playmaker in junior midfielder Steve Thulin. Not only is Thulin extremely successful at the face-off x but has a cannon of a shot. In the Xaverian and Needham games, all of Walpole's goals came from Thulin. "Coach [Jason] Andalo always says we need a player to step up in the offensive end," said Thulin, "I try to do that so we can have a chance to win."

Walpole hosted Milton next on Wednesday, May 9, and earned a convincing 14-2 win. The Rebels lost their next game to Hopkinton by a score of 9-7.

With this loss, the Rebels were seemingly out of playoff contention; however, due to the "Sullivan Rule" the Rebels would still qualify for postseason play. The "Sullivan Rule" is that any team that finishes second in its division qualifies for playoffs. Both Norwood and Walpole were 3-1 in the Herget Division and the game on Monday, May 21 would determine whether or not the Rebels would continue their season.

In an instant classic, Walpole battled through hard against a tough Norwood squad. The Rebels and Mustangs went blow-for-blow in the game, but the Mustangs were ahead 8-7 with a minute left. Rockwood sniped a shot past Norwood's goalie to even up the game with a little under 45 seconds remaining in the game. In a stunning series of plays, senior defenseman and Captain Russ Ollis stripped the ball from a Norwood midfielder and then threw a 50 yard pass cross-field to junior attackman Chris Frye, who scored to get the win with five seconds left on the clock. "It was surreal," said Frye, who scored five times in the contest, "Russ threw the pass and the Norwood defenseman missed picking it off . . . I knew I had to finish it."

With the 9-8 win, the Rebels are now 7-11 and playoff-bound. With a reenergized team and the return of stud Frye, Walpole could make a postseason run and surprise many.

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Cofsky leads Girls Lacrosse into postseason



Photo/ Adam Fratassio

Junior Seana Cofsky goes for a goal.

Photo/ Caroline Feeley

Junior Michaela Tosone steals the ball from a Natick opponent.

By Michele Lucas
Class of 2014

The Walpole Girls Lacrosse Team has qualified for the tournament with an impressive 11-7-1 regular season record. Undoubtedly, they have had a good season with many hard fought wins and a few close losses against a schedule that is the tenth hardest in the league (according to laxpower.com). Although the team has a plethora of great talent, according to Head Coach Mike Tosone, one of the players that has excelled and "really become a star" is junior phenom Seana Cofsky.

Cofsky has been an outstanding midfielder throughout the year with multiple goals in every game and has also showcased outstanding skills as a defender for the team, so it is to no one's surprise that she has been chosen to be on the Bay-State All-Star team along with fellow junior midfielder Michaela Tosone and senior defender Adrianna Fratassio.

The two junior midfielders (Cofsky and Tosone) have created a proverbial two-headed mon-

ster, something that is almost impossible for the opposition to defend. The two all-stars have been main catalysts for the Rebels, both offensively and defensively, having huge impacts on the field. "It's fun to play with good players like her", said Cofsky about playing with Tosone, "she allows me to play better and be successful".

The team has shown that they go as Cofsky goes, because on March 25, the Rebels lost to Newton North 16-12. Cofsky, normally a key contributor to many of the Rebels' victories, was held to only 2 goals during this game. Coach Tosone described the game with the following: "It was the only real upset of the season for us. We are a good team but if we do not play our best these things can unfortunately happen."

For their rematch on May 4 against Newton North, the result was totally different. Powered by five goals from Cofsky, the Rebels took their revenge on Newton North by winning a close game, 16-13. Similarly, when the Rebels took on King Philip (a team that is ranked higher than Newton North) on May 11, Cofsky added another five goal performance, helping the team get the

14-10 win they needed to qualify for a tournament berth.

On senior night, May 20, Cofsky once again stepped up when needed when Walpole faced their cross-town rivals the Norwood Mustangs, a team that had much improved since the Rebels beat them 18-6 in the earlier in the season. However, they were still no match for this Walpole team. With Cofsky emerging as a leader on both sides of the field and getting 2 goals, the Rebels beat the Mustangs 15-10, allowing more seniors who usually do not play to get valuable time during their last game on Turco Field.

Cofsky is not only becoming a leader offensively, but also a key defensive midfielder. The Rebels will head into the tournament relying on key players and superstars, such as Cofsky, as well. Last year, the Rebels made an early exit from the tournament when they lost to Westwood in the second round. Behind Cofsky, the Rebels look to make a deep run into the postseason starting with a third bout with King Philip on Tuesday May, 29. The Rebels are hopeful this first round match up will be favorable for them, because of the success they had from earlier in the season.

Baryski hurls no hitter in 10-0 victory over Milton

By James Cullinane
Class of 2012

During a spring marked by excellence on the diamond, Rebel senior hurler Mike Baryski etched his name into Walpole baseball history books with a performance for the ages. On a warm mid-May afternoon, Baryski took the mound for the sixth time this season, squaring off against the Milton Wildcats. What would subsequently occur was one of the brightest moments of the Rebels' impressive 16-1 campaign, as Baryski dazzled the Wildcats with a no-hit shutout.

Behind the plate for the Rebels was senior Dan King, a three year starter for Coach Bill Tompkins. King, who has been catching Baryski for over a decade, commented on his battery mate's performance: "I knew from the start that he was on. He's always good but his control was off the charts. He could throw any of his pitches for a strike on every count."

Baryski's elite command of his pitches produced remarkable results, as Milton batters futilely flailed at pitch-after-pitch. When asked what gave Baryski the ability endure so many consecutive outs, King said, "He pounded the strike zone from start to finish. He mixed his pitches well and painted corners. He was completely unpredictable." Because of his masterful control and King's nearly perfect game plan, Baryski consistently kept Milton batters off



Photo/ James Cullinane

Senior Mike Baryski delivers a pitch against Norwood.

balance throughout the game, picking up five strikeouts along the way.

As Baryski continued to roll on the mound, the relentless Rebel offensive attack began to do some damage of their own. With the Rebel lead building, the attention of those in the stands and on the bench turned toward Baryski's quest for the ever-elusive no hitter.

"For me, it was about the fourth inning that I started to catch on," said senior outfielder Mike Demers. "People started talking a little bit about it on the bench, but nobody wanted to be the guy who jinxed it."

For Baryski however, the fear of jinxing his performance never crossed his mind: "Up until the sixth inning,

I never really thought that the game could get called off early. That took a lot of pressure off because I thought I had three more innings to go." Behind the high powered offense, Walpole took a 10-0 lead in the sixth that put the slaughter rule into effect, leaving only one more inning between Baryski and baseball royalty.

As most would assume, having two outs in the last inning of a no hitter is one of the most mentally demanding circumstances that sports has to offer. According to Baryski however, past experiences assisted him in remaining calm and collected in this high pressure situation: "I had pitched a no hitter for my AAU team when I was thir-

teen, so I had an idea of what would be going through my head. At that point in time, I was actually more focused on getting that out to end the game, rather than finishing off the no-no."

Remaining composed, with two outs in the top of the seventh inning, Baryski induced a lazy fly ball to junior center fielder Mike Rando. What ensued was a scene of utter jubilation. As Baryski was mobbed by his teammates, the crowd arose to give the senior hurler a fitting ovation. Demers, one of the most gregarious characters in the Rebel clubhouse, fulfilled the obligation of one of sports' greatest traditions, dousing Baryski with the team's Gatorade cooler.

When asked what he will remember most about his phenomenal performance, Baryski said, "Definitely celebrating with my teammates. Every team says it but we really are like a family. They were all just as happy as I was." Any spectator who sits behind the Rebels' bench on the third base line at Eldracher Field understands this sentiment, as cheers erupt from the bench frequently during every game.

Baryski, the Rebels' most experienced varsity starting pitcher, thrives in big games; for this reason, he will be getting the nod against Norwood in the annual battle of the Bay State at Balch School. The Rebels, behind Baryski's 3-0 record and 2.57 ERA, will rely heavily on their senior ace come playoff time.