

The Patriot

Issue 1

Washington Township High School, Sewell, NJ

October 2007

Class of '08 measures up

Alyssa Figueroa '08

The Class of 2008 had a chance to make history this year! In 2007 Washington Township High School graduated 769 students - a high mark to beat. Starting the year with 772 students, this year's senior class would be the largest to graduate from WTHS.

The downside? The numbers have changed.

As freshmen, the Class of '08 entered the building as the largest in school history, with over 800 students. The numbers have gradually dwindled to equal last year's class size. Yet, the Class of '08 is still one of the largest to walk the halls of WTHS.

Despite its overwhelming size, many feel the Class of '08 has already developed a delightful character.

"I have watched the Class of '08 since they entered their freshmen year, and they are certainly the most polite, well-behaved, organized class I have seen in all my ten years as administrator; it's actually quite scary," stated 11-12 Administrator Mr. Edward Fields. "They do what they're supposed to do, when they're supposed to do it."

Executive Assistant Principal of the 11-12 wing, Mr. Joseph Bollendorf believes this class has gotten off to a great start. "The



Gina Parker '09/The Patriot

The Class of '08 gathers in the senior cafeteria excited about their upcoming year.

seniors seem very mature, respectful, and upbeat. . . I have a good feeling this will be a great year filled with spirit."

Indeed spirit is what runs through the Class of '08's veins. "I love being a part of our class," said Gina Turdo '08, who has been a member of Class Council for four years, and has seen the class progress. "Our class definitely has a lot of pride."

Though WTHS may seem overpowering to passers-by, those who are a part of the legacy know how such a large class contains such tremendous advantages.

"We can offer the best programs around," said Principal Mrs. Rosemarie Farrow, "with a

large amount of students, and a large amount of teachers, we are able to offer a large amount of choice."

Mr. Bollendorf felt similar. "The opportunities are so varied and large, students that want to excel, can excel," he said.

As for the disadvantages to such a large class, Farrow does "wish [she] could personally know each student."

Yet as for students, Mr. Bollendorf thinks that "it's neat when students meet other students from school that they have never met before when they attend senior trip or go on other outings."

Thus, the true difficulties rest in "the logistics," said Fields. "Sometimes it gets hard to manage

and organize so many students at prom, senior trip, and graduation."

One major inconvenience for the Class of '08 was when the school ran out of parking spots. "We were all shocked, since that has never happened before; although sadly there is nothing we can do," said Mr. Fields.

However, trivial aspects cannot block the way of an important year ahead.

"We have a lot of potential to leave a great mark at our high school," said Olivia Devine, another Class Council member for all four years.

Besides future marks they'll set, the Class of '08 has already stood out from the crowd. Farrow believes that this class has already shined in community service, whether it be at giving blood or participating in Monzo Madness. She stated, "Service will set this class apart from others."

Though the Class of '08 missed out on the title of "largest graduating class," the seniors surely have the opportunity to separate themselves from previous classes. Since in hindsight, "it's not the quantity of who's doing what that matters, it's the quality of what they are doing," stated Bollendorf.

Thus, the seniors should not worry too much about achieving largest class status.

"They should enjoy every moment of senior year," stated Farrow, "it is going to go very quickly."

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New dance replaces Twilight

A.J. Nisbet '08

Despite most of the upperclassmen looking forward to a classy night with the fish at The Camden Aquarium, this year, a new tradition will be born at Washington Township High School. On October 26, 2007 from 7:30 to 11:30P.M., Washington Township High School's 9/10 gym will be easily mistaken for

New York City, as it will be the location for this year's semi-formal dance.

On the night of the dance, professional decorators will change the scene for the night. Along with the walls and ceiling being draped with cloth, the dance floor will be outlined with streetlights. Also, there will be some kind of covering on the floor, which will take away

the lines on the gymnasium so it won't feel like you are dancing in gym class.

Last year students were haunted by waiting lists for Twilight. This year's Homecoming Dance allows 1,200 people to attend, where last year there were some incidents where people were turned away after purchasing a ticket because of

See HOMECOMING p.2

Interact builds on blood drive success

Margaret Bonanni '09

Washington Township High School is an institution that is not only known for its academic reputation, but also for its involvement in community service.

Last year the biannual blood drives held by Interact were recognized by the Red Cross as WTHS was the leading school donor in the Pennsylvania-New Jersey region. After collecting a combined total of 636 pints of blood, the school received an award to commemorate the achievement.

"It feels good to know that doing so little can help so much. It's just an awesome feeling. Also, attending the school with the highest amount donated gives you a sense of pride you know others don't have," said Auggy Kim '08.

Mrs. Tracy Naval, Interact Club advisor, didn't expect so many donors when the club assumed management of the blood drive. Originally, only 68 pints were collected. Numbers then started to rise to 102 pints, and in no time up to 300 pints were being donated per drive.

"Donating such amounts of

blood is impressive, and says a lot about the students," commented Naval.

After the blood is donated, it is separated into three different parts: plasma, red cells and albumen. The separated parts then go to the patients - cancer patients and patients that need transfusions being some of the biggest recipients. Because 636 pints of blood were collected, a little over 1900 people were be assisted.

As the years pass, the demand for blood rises. In hospitals anywhere from 600 to 700 pints are used per day, said Naval. To meet the growing demands Interact expects to reach as many people and welcome as many donors as they can to this fall's blood drive. They also anticipate that the school can cooperate and come together for such a worthy cause.

"I think it's great that people in our school are willing to do that for other people. Most schools don't have that type of enthusiasm," stated Jeffery Shute '08.

Although organizers think it would be nice to break the recently set record, it is not Interact's main



Gina Parker '09/ The Patriot

Interact officer Matt Gerber and advisor Ms. Tracy Naval were pleased with the turnout of the blood drive.

goal. Their main goal is for students to not only participate in the school's blood drive, but to donate in other blood drives as well. The more students participate, the more apt they are of becoming life long donors.

"I definitely plan on giving blood again this year; last year's blood drive was actually kind of fun, so I'm expecting the same for this year," declared Kim.

The need for blood is never ending, and the blood collected is greatly appreciated. If you're interested in becoming a donor, or volunteering during the blood drive, you can check out Interact's EBoard, or stop by I-103 to see Mrs. Naval.

"A lot of people think that a school blood drive will not be of any help, but you would be surprised. So many people need the blood that any effort can help," said Naval.

Homecoming, twilight undergo change

from HOMECOMING p. 1

maximum capacity rules at the Aquarium.

"The small dance floor was also a problem," stated Samantha Baranowski '08, the Student Council Public Relations Representative. "But our spacious gym floor will be able to accommodate a lot more people," she added.

However, the drawbacks of Twilight were not the only reasons for creating the new dance.

"We wanted to have a dance for the whole student body," said Christina Virgilio '08, the Student Council President.

"When you look at other high schools, most of them have homecoming dances. It is characteristic for high schools to have them and I think it's time to start the tradition," she said.

She asserted that having the dance at the high school does not mean money is the issue.



Gina Parker '09/ The Patriot

Ms. Francesca La Penta and Student Council sell tickets for the first Homecoming Dance.

"This year we are going over our budget," Virgilio stated. "The money is obtained from other events like previous dances, fund-raisers, and the budget that the school gives

us," said Baranowski.

Tickets for the homecoming dance are \$35 for individual tickets and \$70 per couple.

Along with the many perks of

the Homecoming Dance, student council has other tricks up their sleeves to make this event unlike any other.

Alongside the Homecoming Dance, the following day will continue with many Homecoming festivities. Since the Fourth of July parade was canceled due to inclement weather this summer, the businesses, companies, and sponsors gathered together in conjunction with the Spirit Parade, to have a spirit day at Washington Lake Park.

A few hours after that is the Homecoming football game, where Township is up against their rival, Cherokee. At halftime, the Homecoming tradition will be topped off as the Homecoming Queen is crowned. Following the game, there will be a fireworks show unlike any other here in Washington Township.

"We are really looking forward to starting a new tradition here at Washington Township," said Baranowski.

Commentary

Outside the Box by Alyssa Figueroa '08

Summer work doesn't work

After 10 months of school, the last thing any student should have to worry about in the summer is that awful, dreaded hassle known as homework. However, schools across the nation find it necessary to burden students with homework even when they are *out* of school.

It is a mystery to me how schools feel that giving students more work, after having just completed a school year, is justifiable.

The most common defense used by schools is the ridiculous "so they can keep their minds sharp" or sometimes even "so the class can get a head start." Yet, these lame explanations can easily be proved to be nothing other than nonsense.

First and foremost, summer is an extremely short time period - about only 2 and a half months. It is quite unlikely that students' minds would become blunt by September if they did not receive work to do over the summer.

It is also a foolish assumption to believe that students would not do anything educational at all if they

were not assigned to do it. This summer, in our high school alone, 6 students participated in Governor's School, 9 in RYLA, hundreds read the final Harry Potter book, and certainly a numerous amount of students read books of their own choice.

Yet, even if a student decided not to do anything educational with his or her summer, that is a personal choice. It's not like teens don't have anything else going on in their lives.

Between jobs, summer vacations, social outings, and parallel parking to practice, it really does become difficult, not to mention unexciting, to actually sit down and do school work.

As for getting that "head start," I believe that if the summer assignment cannot fit into the 180 days of school, then it should be removed from the agenda. It is simply too much to force on students.

It's also unfortunate that the students who work hard all year and challenge themselves by taking harder classes receive the most summer work. And the work is nowhere near quick and easy. We're talking several books to read, papers to write, and huge packets to complete. It is plainly overwhelming.

Summer is the time to relax after a chaotic year of school; not the time to stress over the first-day-of-school-deadline. Schools should rethink the presumed necessity of summer work, as well as set limits to how much, if any is deemed necessary, should be given to students. It would be interesting to see how school supervisors would deal with being assigned work during their vacations, as the weather outside is sunny and calling.

"Between jobs, summer vacations, social outings, and parallel parking to practice, it really does become difficult, not to mention unexciting, to actually sit down and do school work."



Alex Parkin '08

The Patriot

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***Have something
on your mind?***

Share it with WTHS!



**Write for the
Commentary Section of
*The Patriot***

Homecoming, a new tradition

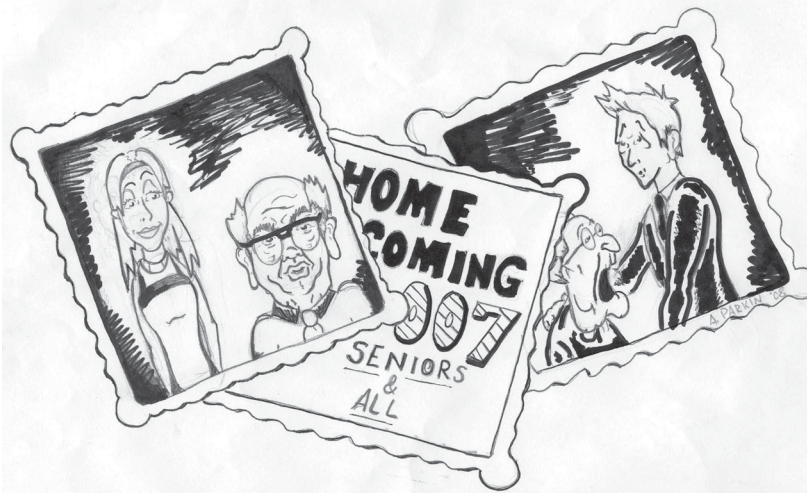
Mary Faralli '08

One of the greatest privileges of being an upperclassman is being able to participate in the exclusive, junior and senior only, Winter Twilight dance. This year, the school has decided to replace the Winter Twilight dance with a fresh, new dance that all students are eligible to attend-Homecoming.

When I first heard this decision, I was furious. As a freshman, I had longed to go to Winter Twilight. Last year, as a junior, I realized that it was an event no one should

miss. I felt that homecoming was a disastrous undertaking, considering the amount of students in our school, the drastic differences in the ages of the students, and the mere fact that it will be taking place in our school gym. As seniors, we have firmly convinced ourselves that we have graduated past dances in the school gym and the idea of wearing a dress to go walk around the gym seemed absurd to me.

On the contrary, along with Winter Twilight comes a surge of criticism from the students. The dance has been so inconsistent



Alex Parkin '08/The Patriot

In this year's new Homecoming Dance, seniors will be creating a tradition with the underclassmen.

because of the many complaints that it generates. There is always an issue with finding a location. There is never enough room, the number of people that can be accommodated has never been constant, and a lot of people that really want to go are placed on a waiting list. I think it's about time we tried something new.

I realized that as far as schools go, Washington Township High School has always had everything. We have clubs to fit the interests of

everyone, the grounds to accommodate any sport of interest, and more than enough teachers to suit the needs of any student. Washington Township High school has always offered *more*; yet, we are one of the only schools that does not have a Homecoming Dance.

Naturally, we can put the blame on our uniquely large student body and claim that there are just too many people to pull off a Homecoming Dance. But I think this

excuse should actually be the main reason that we should have previously urged the school to have a homecoming dance. Washington Township differs from most schools in the fact that our student body is literally divided. We are separated by buildings. This dance is a first attempt to encourage the sense of unity between the upperclassmen and the underclassmen, which our school is sorely lacking.

In other schools, Homecoming has come to represent the amount of school spirit and unity in the student body. I believe that this dance

will create a resurgence of school pride and will be very helpful in uniting our students. The seniors haven't been given much of a chance to interact with the freshman and this event will allow that to occur. My expectations for this dance are high. I feel that with enough participation, we have the ability to make this event better than Winter Twilight. We are able to have one of the largest Homecomings, so why not make it the best? We should be proud that we're the first class who has been given this chance. Let's make it a tradition.

Roving reporter

How do *you* feel about the new Homecoming Dance?



Leann Abrams '11

"I'm just disappointed that I won't get to experience Winter Twilight."



Mike Cedrone '10

"I think it's amazing how we can unify the whole school as one."



Brittany Tartaglia '09

"I don't understand why I should pay \$35 to be in the gym with underclassmen."



Jennifer Stowell '08

"I'm looking forward to having a dance that incorporates all levels."

Features

Chinese joins WTHS language family

Katie Mount '09

In today's society, it seems like many countries, including the United States, are turning towards China for aspects such as business. Because of this, it is very likely that the Chinese language will be more in demand in the future. Washington Township High School is aiming to meet this demand.

The 2007-2008 school year, is adding a new course to study: Chinese. For years now, the only languages students could choose from were Spanish, French, German, and American Sign Language.

The Board of Education was looking to add a non-Western language to the curriculum. Another language that was looked at as a possible option was Arabic. However, Chinese was chosen because Rutgers University had a teacher certification program.

Mr. Ronald Dempsey has been hired as the new Chinese teacher. Dempsey has studied Chinese for four and a half years. However, he has been speaking the language for



Kurt Pflugfelder '08

Mr. Dempsey brings a new language offering to the high school.

over twenty years. He understands that time is essential to learning a foreign language.

"The earlier, the better," he said. "I'm really hoping Chinese transfers to the middle schools, and maybe even younger."

Because Chinese is just being introduced, some students are ap-

prehensive to sign up for the course. Some even decided against it.

"I wish they added Chinese earlier," Lisa Mudrowsky '09 said. "I was too far into my language studies to just turn around and try something completely new."

Dempsey admits that starting a brand new language is difficult.

But, he has big plans and expectations for his students.

By the end of the year, he would like them to be able to introduce themselves, describe various objects and hold simple conversations.

They should also be able to speak several hundred words, and be able to recognize about one hundred characters. In Chinese, the oral and written languages are different. Instead of simply reading what is written in words, students must memorize symbols.

"Like many of my classmates, I came into the class thinking that I was about to attempt to learn the hardest language ever," Sara Masculli '10 said. "However, as we actually began our lessons, I started to realize it wasn't as hard as it seemed."

Hopefully, once students start to see that the language is not as intimidating as it seems, more will sign up to take the course.

"It was something new and different," William Baker '09 said. "It's one of the few classes I look forward to attending every day."

Not-so-new girl makes her mark

Lauren Finneran '08

Last year, Alyssa Figueroa '08 wrote a story entitled "The New Girl" for the first issue of *The Patriot*. The article was about her move to Township and what it was like to be the new girl in our school.

Figueroa used to live in urban area of North Jersey, a land without Wawa, a place where walking was the first means of transportation.

However, she did not let the differences discourage her. She quickly jumped right into the Township scene and got involved.

Last year, she joined the Journalism 2 class and became Commentary Editor of the school paper. This year, she moved up the ladder and is now Editor-in-Chief. She has big plans for *The Patriot*. Figueroa hopes to make some definite changes to better the paper.

"I would just like it to be the

best it can be. I hope to encourage more people to get involved with the paper, and just make *The Patriot* more well-known organization in the school."

Figueroa also got very involved with Interact, and was inducted into the National Honors Society last year. This year, she has added Monthly Rewind to her activities.

In addition to these time consuming extracurriculars, Figueroa has taken on a difficult class load and holds a part-time job after school. She says that the key to managing all of her activities and her schoolwork is "really just having good time management skills, and keeping your priorities straight."

In her short time here, Figueroa has also received the People's Choice Award, was selected to participate in RYLA, and has made the Principal's List for four marking periods in a row.

Figueroa's favorite aspect of this school has been the large number of people. Many people think that is a disadvantage, but she believes that the great number of students provides the opportunity to meet many different people. Her old high school had 480 students and although WTHS is much larger, she is getting along just fine.

"I love the sense of pride this town brings. For three letters "T-W-P" to mean so much not only to this community, but to South Jersey in general just amazes me" said Figueroa.

Figueroa hopes that she will have a very successful senior year. She wants to have a fun year and most importantly, she hopes to make the right choice when it comes to college.

She does miss some aspects of where she used to live.

"I mostly miss my friends, being able to walk everywhere, the



Alyssa Figueroa edits the paper after school with a Wawa drink.

New York City Skyline, and White Castle," explained Figueroa.

As the "not so new girl", Figueroa urges other "new kids" to "get involved in what you love to do and not to be intimidated by the size of our school." After all, it worked for her.

RYLA Conference trains leaders

Nicole G. Heath '10

The Rotary Youth Leadership Association, known as RYLA, held its 28th annual Rotary Youth Leadership Conference at Richard Stockton University. On June 24 through 28, 150 students from counties all over South Jersey attended the conference.

Washington Township's Rotary sent 11 Juniors to the conference; Jim Tumolo, Alyssa Figueroa, Craig Hobbins, Alexa Gabrieli, Kristen Abdallah, Cristina Virgilio, Howie Smith, Victoria Garner, Jeffrey Salkowski, Vicki Chen, and Gia Mazzella.

50 students were nominated to attend the conference by the staff at Washington Township. The nominated students had an interview with a local Rotary member and business member and eleven were then selected. The selected few students enjoyed a free trip to Stockton.

At the conference, students were lectured by motivational

leaders such as Dr. Richard Gilbert, Major John Hunt, and Nashad Warfield.

Students also participated in activities centered on leadership and succeeding in life. The activities taught them how to work together to reach their goals. The students stayed on campus in the Stockton dormitories. The entire trip was sponsored by business owners from Washington Township.

Principal Rosemarie Farrow is a member of the town's local Rotary club. The local Rotary club sponsored students in hope that they will become better leaders at WTHS. Principal Farrow supports her club's mission.

"Some are already leaders," she said, "but RYLA is all about leadership and developing better leadership skills." Farrow joined the Rotary Club five years ago when she became principal to set an example for the school.

"As principal it's important to model what we want are students to be," she stated.

The RYLA conference not only

taught students how to be better leaders, but also helped them set goals for the future. During the Career Night, students learned about many occupational options that they could take, like pharmacy, psychology, and entrepreneurship. They were given an opportunity to speak to workers in each of the professions.

The students also had a chance to show off their own skills in a Talent Show. During the course of the conference, they were able to socialize and have fun with students from other schools, especially during the RYLA Dance.

The RYLA Conference had a huge impact on all the students that attended.

"What I learned from RYLA will probably change my life forever," Alyssa Figueroa, '08 said, "Hearing that you can be whatever you want and whatever you set your mind to repeatedly, really enforced the concept."

Though only 11 students were selected to go to RYLA, it is having a

major effect on our student body. "[Students] come back in the building," Farrow said, "and display their leadership in the school." Because of RYLA, WTHS's senior class of '08' will be well equipped with student leaders.

Frosh thoughts on High School

Nicole G. Heath '10

Do you remember your first thoughts about WTHS when you were just a freshmen? Well just in case you forgot, we've asked some to share their thoughts on the best and worst things about being a freshmen.



Mona Singh

Best: "It's just a lot better than the middle school."

Worst: "We're on the bottom, like sixth grade again"



Bill Cumming

Best: "All the new girls"

Worst: "All the new boys"

Gov school, great experience

Mary Faralli '08

Some people don't even do their summer homework. But then there are others who go beyond the papers and the summer reading. The Governor's School of New Jersey is a four week summer program that offers students the chance to study advanced material on many subjects, free of cost.

The program is highly selective and this past summer, Washington Township High School was represented by six current seniors, Victoria Garner, Matthew Gerber, Elliot Moreno, Allison Murawski, Jillian Rucker, and Melissa van Twuyver.

The competition for acceptance is rigorous. Typically, the admissions office receives around 3,000 applicants and only accepts about 600 students. To make the final cut, the students have to prove their interest and earn their right to study there. It's a bit like applying for college; applicants send a school transcript, recommendation letters,

essays, SAT scores, and any information about volunteer work or extracurricular activities in which they participate. A number of subjects are offered to applicants such as Environmental studies, Public Issues, Engineering and Technology, International studies, and study of the Arts.

Depending on their subject, students studied at Richard Stockton College, Monmouth University, The College of New Jersey, Drew University, Ramapo College, or the Busch campus at Rutgers. The students lived on campus and were given a taste of college life. They were placed in rooms with three other students from different schools around New Jersey.

"It was a really great experience," Rucker says, "We basically learned a lot, met new people, and participated in things we never have been able to do otherwise."

Rucker said that Governor's School varies from whichever subject one chose to study. A typical week

would include team projects, field trips, seminars, and community service.

The team projects were very hands on and interesting. The projects ranged from making their own ice cream to spending three days on an island in Barnegat bay without electricity or running water.

Since the school offers no academic credit for its courses, the main reason for going is experience. "I heard stuff from kids who did it last year, and they said it was the best experience they have had," Gerber said, "And I've always had an interest in science, so I decided to give it a try and see if it's really a field that I want to get into".

The Governor's School of New Jersey gives students an opportunity to apply their strengths and see what comes of it. It forces students into unfamiliar situations and manages to evoke creative expression and leadership abilities from them. The participants felt it was a great experience for those who want to explore what college life is really like.

Odds & Ends

Opinion

Gimme More, or Not?

Taylor Cohen '08

You've seen the videos, you've read the articles, you've dropped jaws at the pictures, and you've heard her single on the radio. Miss Britney Spears is back at it with a new album anticipated to drop Nov. 13, 2007. There are many things people are expecting from Spears within the next two months. Some have to do with her music and others deal with her social life and behavior. The real question on everyone's mind is what is *really* going on?

Britney's 5th CD is calling a lot of attention and could make or break Spears' career.

The tracks that have leaked onto the internet are sultry and sexy like the usual Britney sound, but with an extra kick. Most of them make you want to dance, while others are deep and emotional. "Gimme More" is the first single of the supposed album title, *Pieces of Me*. Listen to the song, and you'll see Britney still has *it*. Spears starts off her song with an upbeat tempo that you can't resist to dance to. Although it hasn't gotten a lot of radio time, it's definitely worth listening to.

"Pieces of Me" is expected to be Spears' second single. With usual Britney lines like "I'm Miss



Image by Google

Oops...she did it again!

American Dream, since I was seventeen." The song then turns to a darker path. "I'm Miss Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous. I'm Miss 'Oh my God that Britney's shameless.' I'm Miss EXTRA, EXTRA, this just in! I'm Miss She's too fat, She's too thin." Britney ends the song with a strong point, "Another day, another drama. I can't see the harm in working hard and being a mama." The other two expected singles are "Break the Ice" and "Heaven on Earth" (both are currently available on the internet).

By now, everybody has heard

of Britney's indescribable Video Music Award performance on MTV that aired early Sept. Spears was expected to give the world the "comeback of all comebacks," but ended up disappointing us all. Britney opened up the show quoting Elvis Presley, "If you're looking for trouble, you came to the right place. If you're looking for trouble, look right into my face." From there, it just went downhill. Reports

circulating these past few weeks discussed what actually went wrong. Britney was said to have taken anti-depressants before the show, which made her tired and drowsy. Others accuse her of drinking frozen margaritas all afternoon and well into the night right before the performance. Another source said that there was also a supposed fight between Britney and her hair stylist before she went on stage. Britney forgot her words, laughed at herself, tripped, and then ran off stage. Nobody knows for sure, but what we all know is that we didn't get what we expected.

Let's support Britney in her time of need. She is trying to just do what she loves and people are criticizing her to the extreme. Yes, we can all say she's made some bad mistakes within the past year, but everybody makes mistakes. This talk was around last time her CD was about to drop and she showed us just what she was made of, so lets not speak to soon. Who knows? Britney might just be about to make the comeback of the comebacks.

Solve the Maze!



Riddles of the Issue

~A girl who was just learning to drive went down a one-way street in the wrong direction, but didn't break the law. How come?

~Each letter below stands for the name of something. What should the last three letters be?
M V E M J S ? ? ?

-Look for answers in next issue!!

Game industry preps for holiday season

Matt Neuteboom '08

The Fall/Winter season is usually the busiest time of the year for video game developers. This year is no different, and the approaching season is sure to drop some mind-blowing games into our hands.

September 4 and 12 saw the respective release of two major PS3 games: *Lair*, and *Heavenly Sword*. The latter is an action sword-fighting game similar to the *God of War* games, and scored well with the critics. On the other hand, the former is a dragon-flying game which received much more mediocre reviews.

On September 25, gaming history was once again made with the much anticipated *Halo 3* launch for the Xbox360. Stores fronts were lined with campers, and some students even skipped school to play the final game in the first person shooter (FPS) series. By the end of the month, blogs and game sites were filled with nothing but *Halo 3* news and reviews.

October brings many long awaited sequels to classic games. October 1 is the release of *The Legend of Zelda: The Phantom Hourglass* for the Nintendo DS. However, the title many have been



The Orange Box-October 10

waiting for comes out on October 10. That day, the second episode of the Half-Life 2 series comes out on the PC packaged in what is simply called *The Orange Box*. It includes *Half-Life 2*, *HL2: Episode One*, *HL2: Episode Two* and a mind-boggling puzzle game *Portal*.

Finally, the third installation of the *Guitar Hero* series will release October 28 for the PS2, PS3, 360, and Wii. It is sure to attract a couple of gamers wanting to try their hand at the new Dragon Force song.

November is packed with nothing but big time games. *Company of Heroes: Opposing*



Guitar Hero 3-October 28

Fronts and the *Gears of War* re-release on the PC, and *Call of Duty 4: Modern Combat* and *Assassin's Creed* for the 360, PS3, and PC all release within the first week. On November 12, *Super Mario Galaxy* is set to release for the Wii. Just three days later, *Crysis* will blow away FPS fans with its high-end graphics and open-ended game play. November 20, *Mass Effect*, the epic space exploration game for the 360, will launch the same day as *Rock Band*, the garage band simulator for the PS3 and 360.

However, the finishing touch comes at the beginning of December,



Google Images

Smash Bros Brawl-December 3

with the launch of *Super Smash Bros.: Brawl* on December 3. Fans have been waiting years for the sequel to the 2001 game, which still remains one of the most top selling games to date. The launch for the sequel is sure to draw monumental crowds.

While these are some amazing games, they are just a few of the many games set to release in the next couple of months. Save up your money and be sure to be on the lookout for your favorite games, since they are sure to fly off the shelves.

iPhone rings in the school year

Sarah Kurtz '10

Today the world of technology is a wonder and far more advanced than we've ever imagined it to be. Forty years ago, people marveled over the sight of words appearing on a screen in-front of them. Now technology has become so advanced that there are such inventions as high definition televisions and cars that can actually parallel park themselves. What would we do without our portable laptops and cell-phones that can do anything within reason? They give us access to immediate information and communication throughout the world.

Apple is a giant part of this

techno boom. It has recently released a new line of products that will amaze anyone who dares to try and master them. The iPhone is one of these innovations.

Initially the iPhone was sold for \$600. Now Apple has actually slashed the price down to \$399. Apple was selling nearly 9,000 iPhones a day, but now with the reduced price, the number has tripled in sales. Imagine that 27,000 iPhones are sold everyday for the cost of \$399. But what makes the iPhone such an amazing product?

The iPhone is a touch-screen

phone. Simply tap a name and you're dialing your desired call. It also has an internet access as many phones do, but this internet service is more advanced than most phones. It also has all the features of an iPod such as a media player.

Although the iPhone seems much more advanced than most phones, it's also missing quite a few features that people should be getting for spending \$300 on it. The T-mobile Sidekick is mostly known for its instant messaging feature, which the iPhone



Google Image

lacks. The iPhone is also incapable of voice dialing, voice recording, and video recording. Also, buyers are locked in to using AT&T as their phone service, and cannot use any other provider.

In my personal opinion, if you're interested in buying an extremely advanced phone, do your homework before you put money down for anything. The iPhone is an incredible product, but just be aware that just like every other mechanical device in this world this phone has some problems of its own. It also may not contain everything you desire, and may not meet your needs. Today's technology is a wonder, but it certainly isn't perfected.

Halo 3 finishes the fight

Randall Beatrice '08

It's no denying that the *Halo* series has become one of the most successful and profitable franchises in all of video gaming.

With millions of followers and dozens of sponsors, it's hard to avoid the hype of the most anticipated game of 2007 so far.

Released at midnight on September 25, it's already grossed more than \$175 million in the United States alone and has set the record for the largest grossing entertainment product within 24 hours of a release. The best selling Xbox 360 game worldwide, *Halo 3* closes the trilogy.

It's time to finish the fight.

Despite critical acclaim from reviews all over the industry, I feel that the game is a bit of a hit-and-miss. However, it is completely worth the \$60 price tag. First person shooters are becoming common-place in gaming, but it is still a very competitive field with games ranging from groundbreaking and incredible to dull and abysmal.



Image by Google

An intense gunfight ensues online between two rival players.

Being released so closely to the debut of other extremely successful and popular shooters, such as *Bioshock* and *Metriod Prime 3: Corruption*, it can be difficult for some games to make the splash in the market that they promised. *Halo 3* does not disappoint, nor does it do anything new for the overused genre.

The campaign is very entertaining and fun to play through, especially with friends, but

unfortunately it doesn't last too long.

On the plus side, the environments are varied and the enemy AI is brilliant during some of the intense fights. It looks and sounds good, but not great. Being in development by a huge team for several years, it should look top of the line. You will easily overlook this flaw though, since it plays and controls perfectly while still having the same *Halo* feel to it.

On the negative side, it doesn't do much for innovation. We have all played games like this before and the lack of more options makes the game feel a little linear and limited.

But, it is a sequel and it acts like one. The addition of new modes, power-ups, weapons, and vehicles is happily welcomed with open arms.

The multiplayer, what everyone really wants, is better than ever. With an easy interface and great service from Xbox Live, this feature is worth the purchase by itself. The game comes packaged with an insane amount of replay value, with fans clearing their calendars and missing days of school and work just to play and rank up.

It is hard to be bored with so many modes to try online: Co-Op Campaign, Ranked, Unranked, LAN, and Forge. You can even play split screen with three other friends and play online with up to sixteen players at the same time.

Halo 3 is a fantastic game but not epic. It's no *Goldeneye 007* or *Half-Life 2*. It was made for hours of fun with friends and that's what it does.

So if you're looking for an awe inspiring single player experience, go with *Bioshock* or *Metriod*. But if you're searching for that next online sensation, put this one at the top of your list. A solid 8.5 out of 10.

Virtual world aids 9/11 trauma victims

Katie Mount '09

September 11, 2001 is a day that will not be forgotten. People all over the world watched from their television screens as the city of New York was under terrorist attack. As graphic as it was for those at home, imagine how it was for the millions of New Yorkers that had to stand by and watch.

There are certain aspects of that day that have never been shown on television, such as the dismembered bodies of the victims who jumped from the burning buildings. Only eye witnesses could tell you how truly horrific the scene was.

Since that day, many of the victims and witnesses have been diagnosed with Posttraumatic Stress Disorders. PTSD is a condition that causes extreme emotional distress in response to a traumatic event. For those who were at Ground Zero, they relive 9/11 almost everyday.

There are many triggers that can cause an episode of PTSD. Any sound, any touch, any smell could put the person into panic mode. Some of the most common symptoms are nightmares and flashbacks. It is reported that those from 9/11 see visions of burning buildings and planes crashing when they experience an episode. In many cases, sufferers attempt to ignore the problem. This causes the problem to intensify.

However, there may be hope. In a recent experiment, a Weill Cornell Medical College therapist and a virtual researcher from the University of Washington HIT Lab have discovered a possible solution. They believe that by using virtual reality to recreate the events of September 11, patients can overcome PTSD. In many cases, sufferers attempt to avoid the problem. Some patients are apprehensive to begin this treatment.

Some believe it could make the problem worse.

"I believe it could be effective," Mrs. Megan Foster, a psychology teacher at Washington Township High School, said. "It forces the patient to deal with what they've been suppressing."

During the virtual reality session, the patient is shown a series of scenes. They may start off simple, such as the Twin Towers on a sunny day. From there, they show images of planes flying. It's a gradual progression that eventually leads to the planes crashing.

"Rarely would it have a negative effect," Foster claims. "Not if the virtual reality is paired with other forms of help, such as medication and other therapy sessions."

The first patient the researchers in the Weill Cornell experiment tested showed a ninety percent reduction in symptoms after only

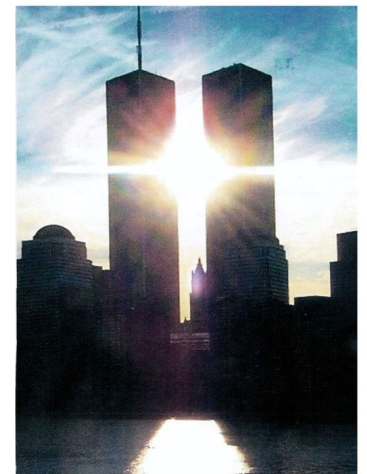


Image by Google

six sessions. When her sessions were completed, she no longer met the standards of a victim of PTSD.

This type of treatment is still in its early stages, and research is still being done. At the rate that patients have been improving, therapists hope this form of therapy becomes more widely practiced.

Fall Fashion 2007

Back to basics

Taylor Cohen '08

A little dash of the 1920's, some cool accessories, plus a nice fitted look, and you're ready for this upcoming season!

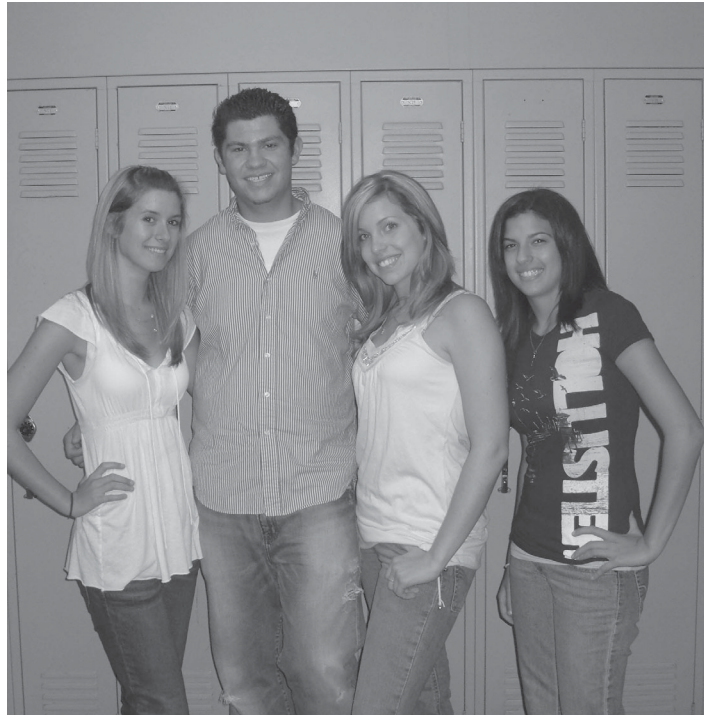
It looks like a little purple, some dark blues, a few metallics, and a lot of gray are in the fall fashion forecast! Chanel, Prada, Christian Dior, and Dolce & Gabbana have strutted their stuff down the catwalks earlier this year to show us just what we're in for this upcoming fall.

Not much has changed since 2006, but some eye catching tweaks have been made to some "plain Jane looks."

Girls, get ready for simple yet glamorous look for fall. The denim jean is part of our everyday wardrobe and for now, it's here to stay. The new look that everybody is becoming more familiar with is the skinny jean.

Although many of us have decided from back-to-school shopping that this look may not work for us. Don't worry, because many of the models on the cat-walk have been seen wearing the destroyed flare jeans as well.

"I can't wait to wear my new destroyed California Flare jeans from Hollister. They're so comfortable, but cute at the same time," said



Taylor Cohen '08/The Patriot

Christie Garcia, Howie Smith, Rebecca Kilborn, Lauren Abruzzi show off the latest fashion trends at WTHS.

Ashley Damore '09.

This still seems to be the more popular look for WTHS students.

The prep look has been coming back and is full swing this year. With khaki pants, plaids, vests, and bows, you can't help but loving this look.

The bows are very glamorous and girlie. They show a more

feminine side to fall fashion this season. Bows are everywhere on high-neck three quarter satin blouses. Fur-vests and metallic jackets are the new denim jacket.

As for shirts, everything from screen t-shirts to chunky knits are what you'll be seeing. The fashion world can't emphasize enough that

layering is the "thing" for fall. Heavy long sleeved sweaters in lots of pinks and grays, with wool or cashmere fabrics, on top of a "Little Miss Chatterbox" t-shirt are what will be worn by the fashion conscious.

Accessories this fall are the normal. Instead

of big chunky belts, skinny belts are being shown more with baggy oversized shirts. Lots of large bags without shoulder straps are also "in".

Pumps and flats are back for fall and of course everybody can't wait to wear their favorite Uggs. "My chocolate Ugg shoes are the best! I can't wait to wear them again!" Gianna Dipietro '11. Girls, get your paychecks (Or your Dad's credit card), head up to the mall, and get shopping!

Now guys, get rid of your baggy jeans, air force ones, and fitted hats. Grab a sweater, some pinstripe or fitted jeans, a sports jacket, and a nice watch and you're good to go!

Look for wool or cashmere sweaters with a double zipper. A nice thin cardigan to wear over your screen t-shirts is the number one thing for fall. Many of the more expensive designer cardigans have leather patches on the elbows as well. This is a good item to buy for school, since the temperature in school varies from class to class.

Pinstripe pants are popular this year in stores like Pac Sun. It's a casual look, but also can be a more formal look on occasions.

As for jeans, the slimmer straight leg jeans are in. The washed out destroyed look is "it" this year, and it's actually a lot more appealing than jeans that don't fit.

Hollister's Boomer Destroyed jeans are a perfect example, as well as Levi's Matchstick Jean which is shown in many of the fashion magazines this season. Your usual t-shirt is being replaced by v-necks, scoops, and the occasional turtle neck. Lots of the fall shirts have wider neck lines topped off with a neutral colored sports jacket. Finally, guys get rid of your chains and "diamond" earrings. The new accessories are some nice sneakers like the new Vans sk8-Hi and a serious watch. To top it all off get yourself a knitted scarf and just maybe...you can get that girl.



Models are shown wearing large bows, shiny metallics, and fitted jackets.

What's Happening

Got school spirit!?

Try out for our
champion cheer team!

6:00PM-9:00PM
11/12 New Gym

October 29-31

Let us know
what's
happening.

List your event
in a future
edition of
The Patriot

DECA

Sarah Kurtz 10'

Deca is starting off the year with a membership drive on September 24th by visiting all the Business Education classes.

The \$20.00 membership fee is due by October 5th. The induction ceremony is on November 13th during 2nd period.

They will be visiting a Senior Care Center in October for Halloween activities and in December for other activities.

In the beginning of November they will be cleaning up Veteran's Park.

**Band State
Championship**

**November 3
at the stadium**

12PM - 11PM

The Atlantic

Support a
local band.

October 30th
6pm at Skaters Choice
Just 10 dollars for a night
worth remembering!

Homecoming Game

Saturday,
October 27th
Vs. Cherokee

Cheer the
Minutemen as
they take on their
conference rival

Homecoming Dance

Friday, October 26th
Theme: New York, New York
Dress to impress!

Join the Game Club!

Build vast
financial
empires.



Engage in
fantastic
duels.

Conquer
the world.



illustrations by Cassy Matos '07

... and still make the 3:30 bus.

The game club meets every Thursday
at 2:20 in cafeteria B.

Check out our e-board on the WTHS web site.

Atreyu album disappoints fans

Stephanie Foran '08

With the debut of their fourth album *Lead Sails Paper Anchor*, Atreyu fails to captivate their targeted audience by finally giving in to the alternative metal craze. The album itself is good for a person who has never listened to Atreyu before, but it is quite disappointing to their old fans. It lacks the screaming that vocalist Alex Varkatzas became famous for, with hits such as "The Crimson" and "Bleeding Mascara." At the same time, the band shows a more mature side, by experimenting with new melodies and using new instruments.

The new album starts off strong with "Doomsday" and "Honor," which features fast-paced beats and heartfelt lyrics sung by Varkatzas and drummer Brandon Saller on back up. Yet as the album progressed, I found myself slightly disappointed.



Victory Records 2007

Atreyu stands tough in their promotional picture (from left, Marc, Alex, Travis, Dan, and Brandon.)

Some of the tracks are slower and I can actually understand what Varkatzas and Saller are saying (and every fan knows Atreyu growls, not sings). However, the rest of the songs, especially "Becoming the Bull" and "Blow" resemble Atreyu

in their earlier albums, with the same mind-blowing guitar solos and loud, racing drum performances.

Atreyu formed in 1998 in Orange County, California and took the metalcore scene by storm. Their first CD, *Suicide Notes and Butterfly*

Kisses, featured the hits "Lip Gloss and Black" and "Ain't Love Grand."

Perhaps their best known CD, *The Curse*, came next with hard-hitting singles such as "The Crimson" and "Right Side of the Bed." After their third CD (*A Deathgrip on Yesterday*) debuted in 2006, Atreyu took a turn towards a more alternative sound that appealed to a wider audience.

I would give this album a three out of five stars. It was good, but not great. The slower songs irked me because I'm used to listening to their heavier songs, but the rest of the tracks made me want to get up and rock. Although this may not be Atreyu's best album, returning fans can still appreciate what the band has become and will stick with them.

If Atreyu is new to you, this would be an opportune time to start and experience one of the best metalcore bands out there.

Fans are McLovin' *Superbad*

Matt Neuteboom '08

You have to hand it to Seth Rogen. Just a few months ago he introduced us with his character Ben Stone from Jud Apatow's smash hit *Knocked Up*, a raunchy yet surprisingly touching story of a man's one night stand. Now writing his own film, he once again explores the subject of sexuality through the eyes of teenagers.

Superbad is a twisted comedy about three sexually frustrated teens who are just trying to lose their virginity before they go off to college. It's two weeks before graduation, and three friends Seth, Evan, and Fogell finally get the chance they've been waiting for when they're invited to a girl named Jules' party. Jumping at the invitation, they offer to bring the alcohol using Fogell's new fake ID.

Things go from bad to worse in one night as Fogell is taken to a bar by two cops, who are seemingly fooled by the phony ID (and actually call him McLovin, the fake name on his ID). Evan and Seth are



Image by Google

Best friends Seth and Evan have one wild night in *Superbad*.

left to wander town looking for sources of liquor, because without it, they think they have no chances with the girls they like.

Superbad is the type of movie that makes going to the movies worth it. There is absolutely nothing like laughing aside everyone else at the jokes this movie throws at you. It's

the experience of seeing it with a huge crowd that makes this movie so insanely funny.

Having seen the movie twice, I can safely say that *Superbad* easily remains one of the most quotable movies of all time. If you and your friends aren't repeating the lines a week after you've seen it, you should

demand your money back.

The highlights of the movie, in my opinion, are any scenes containing the trio of McLovin' and the two officers, Officer Chad and Michaels, played by Seth Rogen and Bill Hader themselves. All three offer some of the best lines in the movie.

Still, some of the good scenes are hampered down with a lot of cursing and bad sex jokes. According to IMDB, the movie contains 186 F-bombs, which can get annoying in scenes where characters are just screaming at each other. In contrast to *Knocked Up*, *Superbad* has less touching moments and is way more crude and offensive.

Nonetheless, *Superbad* really says something about teenage misconceptions of going to parties and having sex. It demonstrates how pressure can make people do irrational things for the sake of fitting in.

If you still haven't seen *Superbad*, make sure you go to see it before it leaves theaters for good. This movie is likely to be the best teen comedy for the rest of the year.

Yea, I'm McLovin' it.

Common's new album sooo not common

Nicole Heath '10

Rap artist Common is making a big mark on the hip-hop scene. With in depth lyrics and fresh new beats, *Finding Forever*, Common's latest album, landed the #1 spot on Billboard's 200 chart. The album features collaborations with artists such as Lily Allen, D'Angelo, and Bilal. *Finding Forever* is also Common's second album under Kanye West's GOOD Music record label. West is one of the co-producers of this album along with will.i.am, Karriem Riggins, and Devo Springsten.

Common's last album, *Be*, made him a familiar name in the Rap genre, but Common has been an artist for over ten years, mainly as a neo-soul rapper. Now he has attracted audiences from all different genres.

His latest albums became hits not only on soul charts, but rap and R&B charts as well. Collaborations with John Legend and Kanye West have boosted his fame and broadened his fan base. But before signing with GOOD record label, Common already had an extensive career.

Common's debut album in 1992, *Can I Borrow a Dollar*, was an underground Chicago hit. He made the song under his original stage name, Common Sense. After his second album, *Resurrection* in 1994,

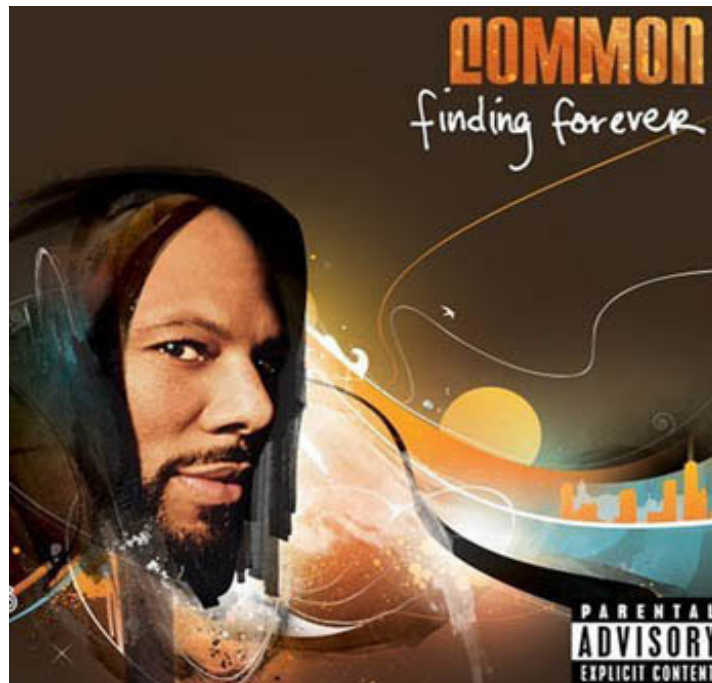


Image by Google

Common's new album sold over 150,000 albums in the first week.

Common Sense was sued and forced to shorten his name to Common. This album was more success and gave Common a neo-soul audience.

It criticized west coast gangsta rap which sparked a feud between Common and rap artist Ice Cube. After a couple of personal attacks at each other in songs, the beef ended when the two had finally confronted each other. Common remained

underground until his next album *One Day It Will All Make Sense*.

Common signed with MCA record label in 1999 and started working as a Soulquarian. The Soulquarians were neo-soul artists like Erykah Badu, Mos Def, D'Angelo and Talib Kweli. Common collaborated with this group when he released his fourth album in 2000, *Like Water for Chocolate*. This album

was a major success for Common with a popular love song titled, "The Light". The second single "The 6th Sense" gave Common a wider audience. This earned Common his first gold record selling over 700,000 copies.

Common's next album, *Electric Circus* did not do as well. The album strayed from neo-soul and had more techno beats. Many old neo-soul fans did not like the new direction the album took.

But in 2003 Common won his first Grammy for his collaboration with Erykah Badu in the song "Love of My Life." After this, Common left MCA records and the public eye. He returned soon after and signed with GOOD Music record label in 2004.

After signing to GOOD Music, he began working on his next album, *Be*, which gained Common popularity and earned him another Gold record.

The hit singles, "Go" and "Testify" were played on BET and were even featured on MTV's TRL. Still staying soulful, Common is reaching an audience of hip-hop, R&B, and even pop followers.

From Lonnie Rashid Lynn Jr. to Common Sense to Common, this neo-soul rapper is gaining more and more fans with hot beats and lyrics that are just common sense.

Commerce Bank Arts Centre upcoming events

Event	Date	Ticket Prices
Tegan & Sara Opening: Northern State	Friday, Nov. 23 7:00 pm	\$27.50
Dave Coz & Friends Smooth Jazz Christmas with Wayman Tisdale, Jonathan Butler and Kimberley Locke	Tuesday, Nov. 29 8:00 pm	\$37 - \$70
Moiseyev Dance Company	Tuesday, Jan. 15 8:00 pm	\$27 - \$52
Sweet Honey In The Rock	Friday, Mar. 28 8:00 pm	\$27 - \$52

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about new
bands, television
shows, and
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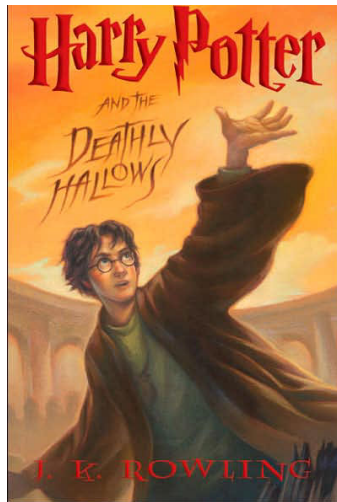
Seventh *Potter* lives up to hype

Lauren Finneran '08

For die-hard Harry Potter fans, this summer was incredibly exciting. On July 21st, the much-anticipated seventh and final book, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, was finally released. Potter's creator, J.K. Rowling, first published this popular series in 1997. There have been six books, released periodically over the last ten years, ending with the *Deathly Hallows* this past summer. Those addicted to the Harry Potter series preordered the novel, and some even waited for hours in line at bookstores prior to its release.

The seventh installment of Harry Potter is a story loaded with information and small, but incredibly important details. Even things that may seem miniscule or unimportant will resurface at the end of the story. Remembering those details will make the ending of the novel that much more exciting.

The adventure begins like all the others, with the summer before another year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. This year however, Harry, Ron, and Hermione are not turning to the school, which is now under the new headmaster,



Google Images

In the U.S., the final book sold 8.3 million copies in the first 24 hours.

Severus Snape. They set off instead in search of the remaining Horcruxes. Although I was slightly unhappy when I first found out that the trio

would not be returning to school on the Hogwarts Express, after experiencing their adventures and being with them while they apparated and disappeared to different forests around England, I realized that they were better off traveling around; I fell in love with their tent and Hermione's never-ending bag.

Through all of the ups and downs, successes and failures, I felt as though I was a part of this book. I could relate to everything that happened in some shape or form. There were times when the trio was going strong and there were times when they fell to pieces, but that is the reality of life. Sometimes you are part of a team and sometimes you stand alone. I felt a special connection to these characters and I

would get lost in the pages for hours at a time.

Harry Potter has without a doubt swept through our nation, affecting and changing all who have picked it up. People of all ages can appreciate the Harry-Ron-Hermione team, which has continuously attracted people to this series, and keeps

us all coming back for more.

I would definitely recommend reading this book, however, I would not suggest just picking up this last installment and expecting to understand it. Read the entire series and I can guarantee that you will not be sorry. It is a quick read and you will love every minute of the whirlwind adventure, and by the end of the epilogue you will be craving for more.

Eclipse shines among top sellers

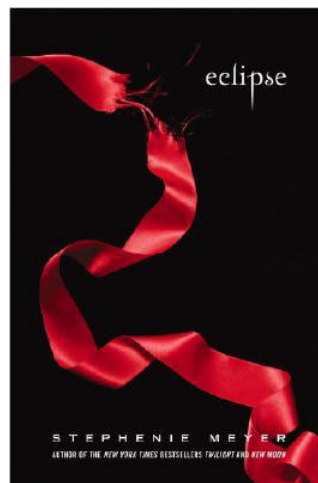
Stephanie Foran '08

In the thriving metropolis of Seattle, someone has unleashed a new threat—a newborn vampire who kills as many as two humans a day. Throw in a few fights with werewolves and villains and delightfully unexpected plot twists, and you have *Eclipse*, Stephenie Meyer's third novel of the ever-popular *Twilight* series.

As her high school graduation date approaches, the heroine of the series, Bella, is faced with acknowledging that her human life is coming to an end and her vampiric life with Edward is just beginning. She has to choose between her friendship with Jacob and having a normal life or her relationship with Edward and the rest of eternity.

What a dilemma.

Like *Twilight* and *New Moon*, *Eclipse* revolves around the star-crossed lovers Edward and Bella and their struggle to keep their love alive, despite the conflicts they face



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Eclipse knocked *Harry Potter* and the *Deathly Hallows* out of the top seller spot on the USA today list.

(Charlie's adversity to Edward, Sam and the "pack", and the very elusive Victoria). If you have read the series before, you will not be disappointed. Out of the three novels, *Eclipse* has the most comic relief. Meyer stated

on her website that it was "the most fun to write."

Perhaps my only objection would be that towards the middle of the book, the plot seems to drag. I found myself wondering when a scene would be done and something exciting would happen. But do not fear, it *does* pick up. One thing I enjoyed is that we find out more about the Cullens and their lives as humans. However, I will state that these chapters contain fairly mature themes, so readers beware.

Returning fans will love the third novel in this already fantastic series because of its interesting twists and turns, the intriguing characters we've all come to love, and the way Meyer allows the reader to step into Bella's shoes. Meyer is currently writing the fourth book of the series, titled *Breaking Dawn*. As stated on her official website (www.stepheniemeyer.com), if everything goes according to plan, it will be released on August 10, 2008. Happy reading!

Come to the Student Book Club!

Next meeting:
Tuesday, October
30, at 2:20 in the
IMC.

Book Club will be
discussing the novel
*The Christopher
Killer: A Forensic
Mystery* by Alane
Ferguson.

Sports

A View from the Stands by Rich Elles '08

Phillies finally reach October

As each Major League Baseball season draws to a close, the same dreary feeling settles over the city of Philadelphia.

An October without the Phillies has become routine since the early 1990's, leaving younger fans without a taste of postseason baseball at any point in their lives. However, the 2007 version of the storied franchise displayed a much more optimistic aura around the team that delivered a September to remember for all Philadelphia sports fans.

After sweeping the New York Mets in a four-game series at Citizens Bank Park in the last few games of August and pulling themselves back to within two games back of the division lead, the Phillies had struggled and dropped to all the way back to seven back of the Mets with seventeen games to play.

With the fans beginning to lose faith, the players continued to step onto the field, never losing hope of a comeback.

The Fightin' Phils began by defeating the Wild Card-leading Padres before rolling into Shea Stadium to sweep the Mets yet again. Before the fans could even begin the phrase, "We'll get them next year," the Phillies were right back in the race, trailing the Mets by only two and a half games heading into the final week of the season.

On the final Friday of the regular season, the Phillies overtook



The Phillies celebrate after making the playoffs for the first time in fourteen years.

the Mets for first place in the National League East, but gave the Mets another chance when they lost on Saturday to fall back into a share for the division title. However, the final day of the season was an occasion for all Phillies fans that will never be forgotten.

With the Mets giving up seven

runs in the first inning in their final game, the Philadelphia ball club would only need to win its final game to secure a spot in the postseason. And after the offense did its part in securing a five-run advantage, closer Brett Myers was called in to throw the final pitches.

With two outs in a ninth inning

which had truly captured the wild passion of the Philadelphia sports fans, Myers struck out Wily Mo Pena with a curveball to wrap up the Phillies' first division title since 1993.

Pandemonium ensued on the field as the players partied in the stands with the crowd, popped the corks off celebratory bottles of champagne, and donned their division championship hats.

Now, after watching the Phillies struggle against the Colorado Rockies in the National League Division Series, I can't help but feel as though this year's ball club has already given fans their money's worth. It's crucial that the squad's accomplishments over the long season are not overlooked after a dismal playoff effort, as an entire season of memories cannot be erased in a few short games.

Whether you choose to remember the Phillies scoring five runs in the ninth to tie the Brewers, Ryan Howard's walk-off blast to beat the Mets, or Jimmy Rollins' prophecy of being the division's best team finally being fulfilled, the team's '07 season was one of the most exciting runs in recent history.

All Philadelphia sports fans, young and old, can finally breathe a sigh of relief.

The Phillies have finally broken through and become one of the league's elite.

Girls Soccer

11-0-1

1st in South Jersey

Football

4-1

8th in South Jersey

Girls XC

0-3

17th in South Jersey

Fall Sports Records

As of: October 10, 2007

Girls Tennis

11-1

4th in South Jersey

Qualified for South Jersey Group IV Finals

Boys XC

1-2

Won South Jersey Hall of Fame Meet

Boys Soccer

10-0-1

4th in South Jersey

Field Hockey

6-3-1

11th in South Jersey

Girls Volleyball

4-8



Steve Graziano '08 heads to the sideline after completing a touch-down pass to Matt Boznajek '08 against Woodrow Wilson. The Minutemen are currently 4-1.

Fall Sports Action

Photos by A.J. Nisbet '08



Sheri Fort '08 (above), Michelle Martin '08 (left), and Justine Hunsicker '08 (below) all have vital roles as captains on the Minutemaids field hockey team



Amanda Cole '08 (Left) and Kristen Abdallah '08 (Right) switch sides after a set. Cole and Abdallah make up this years top doubles team for the Minutemaids.



Renee Steranko '08, one of the senior leaders on this year's girls volleyball team gets ready for an oncoming ball.



Katie Margiotta '08, one of the Minutemaids top scoring threats, fights off a Cherokee defender in their 2-1 victory.



Christina Caltabiano '08 escapes from Cherokee defenders.