

Textbooks, Teachers, and Time Managing

BY: MACKENZIE HARTMAN

The 2012-2013 school year has arrived! Returning back to school after a nice, long summer is always stressful. Getting back to long practices for extracurricular activities, new morning routines, applying for colleges, and making sure you have everything to succeed can be difficult; however, that is why they call it school.

Regarding freshmen: you may have heard from friends or teachers that it is hard to get around the school, so if you need help, just ask! As you know, there are plenty of students in the halls, so getting directions should not be a problem.

Sophomores, you

know the drill by this point. Juniors, this will be your hardest academic year in your high school career. Make sure you stay on top of your game all year, and if you are struggling with a certain subject, ask someone who understands- teachers are always there for you when you need help, and if that particular teacher isn't available, try going to a different teacher who works with the same subject.

And to the seniors, it is time to start cracking down on your senior projects and college applications if you haven't already. Time will go by faster than we think. Although it's going to be a lot of work, let's try and make it the best school year yet!

New Faces

BY: RACHAEL KRIGER

Every school year, students see old teachers, old friends and old counselors. This year, students will be seeing some new teachers, too. Ms. Tranelli, Ms. Crossey and Mrs. Quigley are all new teachers ready to start the 2012-13 school year off with a bang. Some students might remember Ms. Crossey's face from last year. After Mrs. Zarembo went on leave, Ms. Crossey took over and finished the school year.

Ms. Crossey teaches Academic English 9 and says, "I love Hopewell! Everyone has been incredibly kind, especially the current sophomores I taught last year." Ms. Crossey went to Duquesne University for her undergraduate degree and Robert Morris University for her Master's degree. She was a student teacher at Cornell High School and has been a substitute teacher at Hampton and Quaker Valley.

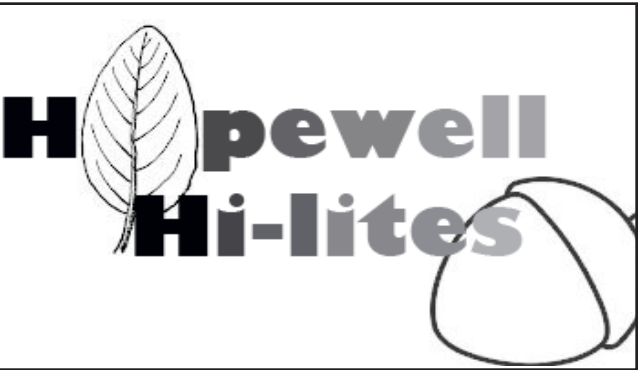
Ms. Tranelli, substitute for Mr. Tagg, teaches Geometry and Geometry Concepts. "I love Hopewell," she says, "It's my alma mater. It's nice to

see the familiar faces that once taught me. Now, I'm teaching beside them!" Ms. Tranelli graduated from Penn State University. She also has traveled to Italy to teach English in 2011 and tutored in Australia. She has substituted in the Bellefonte Area, State College Area and Penns Valley Area.

Mrs. Quigley teaches Learning Support English and is from Wexford. She received a Bachelor of Arts in English from Robert Morris University. She taught last year at Ambridge Junior High School. Commenting on being a new teacher at Hopewell, Mrs. Quigley says, "I love it! My students are wonderful and the faculty is all very helping and welcoming. I am so excited."



Ms. Crossey



September 2012 1215 Longvue Avenue Aliquippa, PA 15001

Top 10 Reasons You Know You Were a '90s Kid

BY: MACKENZIE HARTMAN

This is for the last batch of '90s kids to roam the halls of Hopewell High School. From now on, incoming freshmen probably won't know the joys of the following things:

5. You wished a Smart House was real.
6. The Baby Bottle Pop jingle was all you could sing when you were eating them.

1. You can still sing the "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" rap.

2. You dreamed of seeing the Backstreet Boys and N*SYNC in concert.

3. You ate Wonder Balls and chewed Fruit Stripe Zebra Gum.

4. You had to wait for the Internet to dial up and made sure no one was on the phone before you got on.

7. Your favorite TV shows were *Rollie Polie Olie*, *Rocket Power*, and *Even Stevens*.

8. You knew all the Spice Girls and their "Spice Names."

9. The best comebacks were "I know who you are, but what am I?" and "Talk to the hand."

10. You wished *Jumanji* was a real game.



Ms. Tranelli



Ms. Quigley



sports

Christa Harmotto's Olympic Journey

BY: MACKENZIE HARTMAN

Her journey to the Olympics started here at Hopewell High School, setting school records left and right. As a high school senior, Christa was named the Pennsylvania Gatorade Player of the Year and was also an All-American volleyball player.

During her junior year, she set the school record of 183 blocks in 2004-05, and in her senior year she set the school record for hitting percentage at .595. She led Hopewell to a No. 1 Pennsylvania ranking, and helped the team with a 59-0 record against WPIAL opponents. Harmotto then continued her career at Penn State, where she was named an AVCA Honorable Mention All-American for her efforts and contributions in the regular season. She was also named the Big Ten Player of the year in 2007, and was nominated for the Honda award in 2007 and 2008. Christa ended her Penn State career with a .433 career hitting percentage, which is second best in NCAA history. From Penn State, she was selected to the U.S. National team, and in May of 2009, Harmotto began to train with the U.S. volleyball team, where she would help them to the gold medal match. There, they lost to the World's No. 1-ranked team in Brazil in four sets. She's become such an inspiration to all students and athletes and is showing students that life will prosper after Hopewell.



Christa Harmotto celebrates during the 2012 London Olympics.

United States Dominates Olympics

BY: RACHAEL KRIGER

On July 27, music blared from stadiums, crowds wore their countries' colors, and the athletes came in style. The 30th Annual Olympiad, the Olympics, came to Great Britain with an exciting, and star studded, Opening Ceremony. The Olympics ended on August 12, with a closing ceremony as big and exciting as the opening. The United States lead the Olympic medal count with 104 medals, China was second with 88, and Russia came in

National Hockey Lockout

BY: SAMANTHA MARCKIONI

It's one of the few words that has been proven to bring a tear to a grown man's eye: "Lockout." In the sports world, this word has been thrown around a lot. The NHL has some obstacles to overcome if they plan to even have a 2012-13 season.

Both sides pose a good argument, and the biggest problem is money. On one hand, players complain that having signed for "X" amount of dollars, and then having owners to now expect them to take less is unfair. The league, on the other hand, argues that it isn't fair that owners end up with just 43 percent of what's currently defined as hockey-related revenue. Both sides can be argued; however, when it gets down to the point, it seems to be more about fairness than money, and could be otherwise defined as a union/employer negotiation.

Now, while it may

be hard to sympathize with giants fighting over who gets more millions, it's the little guys who thrive on hockey season for income. Employees who work the concession stands in the arenas, stores, both in the cities and online, who sell merchandise, Ice Crews, ushers, equipment crews; the list is endless! Because if there is no season, there are no fans, and if there are no fans, there is no merchandise to sell.

With athletes not playing, the commissioners at a stand still, and small business owners hurting, there's only one other group who will perhaps be hurting the most: the fans. They buy the \$200 jerseys, they pay months worth of gas money for a single ticket, and they don't complain about the arena's crazy prices for food. But yet, when a lockout is set in stone, coming home and watching some hockey will not be plausible.

a close third with 82.

Hopewell native Christa Harmotto, along with her teammates, won a silver medal in volleyball. The U.S. women's team played against Brazil, who beat them 11-25, 25-17, 25-20, and 25-17. "I'm very proud of this team," U.S. Olympic Women's Volleyball Team Head Coach Hugh McCutcheon said. "We didn't get the result we wanted. It's the way it goes. That's life. Kudos to Brazil, but I'm still proud of my team. You can't always get the gold, but you have to look at what you do to try and achieve it, we tried our best."

The Fierce Five U.S. women's gymnastics team-- Aly Raisman, Gabby Douglas, Kyla Ross, McK-

ayla Maroney, and Jordyn Weber-- won gold in their group event with a total score of 183.596. Russia took the silver with 178.530, and Romania, with 176.414, took the bronze.

The big shock of the Olympics came the day after the opening ceremony with the men's 400-meter individual medley. Michael Phelps, who dubbed London as his last Olympics, faced his rival, Ryan Lochte. Lochte upset Phelps by beating him by 4 seconds. However, Phelps came away with a different award, and became the most decorated Olympian of all time, with 22 medals on his mantle.



3...2...1... Self Destruct?

BY:LAUREN ZAWATSKI

The Pirates have been floating in strange tides. September was a rocky start for them, standing at 2-6 during the first week. Although they have been playing like winners, and looking for a playoff spot throughout this season, it seems they just haven't had their usual spark. They played a three-game series with the Chicago Cubs, all of which were losses.

September 7, the first night they took on the Cubs, proved to be fairly disastrous in a 12-2 loss. Manager Clint Hurdle commented, "Our worst game of the season; we stunk tonight. There's always a sense of pride you take out on the field to play your best every night you go out there. Sometimes your best stinks. That's where we were tonight." Hurdle also was booted from the game for the fourth time this season for disputing a close play at third base.

In the first inning, Chicago took a 1-0 lead, and the Bucs never recovered. The 1-0 turned to 4-0 by the third inning. Unfortunately, left fielder Starling Marte was not of any assistance. He mishandled a single by



Soriano with one on base and two outs. Soon after, he made an error on a ball hit by the Cubs' Starlin Castro. At the end of the game, the Pirates had acquired seven errors, the most they had since 1985. Despite their crushing loss, the Pirates tried to be resilient.

The next day proved to be no better, as they faced another loss to the Cubs (4-3), and were passed up by Los Angeles for third place in the wild card standings. Pittsburgh played pitcher James McDonald for a 2-0 lead in the first inning, but he failed to add anything more to the game.

The game became 3-3 in the bottom of the seventh, but Chicago's David DeJesus broke the tie with a single off of Jason Grilli in the eighth. As if things could not get any worse, the Pirates lost for a third consecutive time against the Cubs on September 9. Despite their unsuccessful weekend, the Bucs are still confident that a playoff spot is imminent. Hitter Garrett Jones stated, "We know we're still in it; our confidence is still high."

Kicking off the New Season

BY:MACKENZIE HARTMAN

The season of hoodies, boots, hot chocolate and cheering on our boys has finally kicked off. With high expectations, the 2012-2013 Vikings are ready for a new season. With nerves soaring, the boys started off the season with a 35-8 loss against Montour High School.

In their second game against Chartiers Valley, the Vikings finished with a close game of 34-33.

They went on to defeat their nemesis, Blackhawk, 7-6.

Confidence will be key this year along with a "team" outlook on all games.

A good luck goes out to our seniors Adam Murray, Arion Sepp, Acantay Patton, Bryce Smith, Darrious Harvey, Dallas Hey, Logan Johnston, Mike Tempalski, Nate Bowden, Sammy Swan, Stefan Mrkonja and the rest of the Hopewell Vikings. Let's make this an exciting year and cheer our Vikings on until the very end!

Steelers' Injury Update

BY: RACHAEL KRIGER



David DeCastro,
Offensive Linemen –
Torn MCL

Troy Polamalu,
Safety – Calf

James Harrison,
Linebacker – Knee

Marcus Gilbert,
Offensive Lineman –
Groin

Mike Adams,
Offensive Linemen –
Back

Stevenson Sylvester,
Linebacker – Knee

Bryon Leftwich,
Quarterback - Illness





Senior Spotlights

BY: KRISTEN SPEZIALETTI

Joseph McFarland was chosen for this month's Senior Spotlight because of his academic achievements, dedication to making the community a better place, and his willingness to keep the environment beautiful. Joe is the president of the Conservation, Fishing, and Hunting Club (CFH), an organization that gives back to the community by fixing the trails, cleaning around the lake, renting paddle boats for Park Fest, and performing other services at Hopewell Community Park. He has been in Latin Club for 4 years and has participated in the Envirothon at Brady's Run for 5 years. The Envirothon tests the participating teams' knowledge about animals, plants, and other outdoor concepts. This past year, Joe's team won first place. Academically, Joe has proven to be an advanced student. He is currently taking CADD/Drafting IV, Latin IV, Advanced Social Studies, Advanced Placement Calculus, and Biology II. Keep up the good work, Joe!



No More Viking Vault

BY: BRIAN ZAHN

As the school year began, many students found a big surprise: the Viking Vault had closed. This is a result of a new guideline enacted by the state. As a requirement of the Pennsylvania Food Service Standards, schools are not permitted to sell anything deemed "competitive foods" until at least 30 minutes after the last lunch period of the day. As a result of this, the Viking Vault was forced to cease operation as it was in violation of these new guidelines. In addition to the Vault, other sales of food within the school are going to have to stop. This includes but is not limited to: the language clubs candy bar sale, Mrs. Signorelli's candy bars and drinks, and any other food that is sold in competition to the school's food service. The intentioned result of these new guidelines is to improve the nutritional value of food offered within the school and increase revenue for the district's food service.



Principal's Corner: Mind the TNT's

BY: MR. DOUGLASS ROWE

Hopewell swelled with pride this past summer as Christa Harmotto helped propel the U.S. Olympic Women's Volleyball team to a silver medal at the London Summer Games. Hometown pride and patriotism abounded as hundreds of people turned out at Tony Dorsett Stadium to give her a rousing sendoff and an emotional homecoming.

Anyone who has ever stood next to Christa knows that she is tall; any person who can look Mr. Allison in the eye could be described that way. Watching her play in the Olympics would also lead one to deduce that she has a natural, innate athletic talent. Size and athleticism are two important factors to consider when pursuing a career in athletics. But what sets Christa apart from her peers is her dedication to her sport, the passion with which she plays the game, and her unflinching discipline and work ethic. In short, the things that Take No Talent, or the TNT's.

The beginning of another school year might be a good time for students to consider how to apply the TNT's to their personal success. Someone may not naturally be good working with numbers, but it Takes No Talent to be on time to class and prepared when the teacher begins the lesson. Hamlet's soliloquy in Act III may not make total sense, but it Takes No Talent to ask the teacher for help with the assignment based on it. A student may

not know the difference between the Marshall Plan and the Marshall Thundering Herd, but it Takes No Talent to be polite and respectful toward the teachers and students in the class. There may be some confusion as to whether or not Jonas Salk legitimately was the fourth Jonas Brother or not, but it Takes No Talent to turn homework in on time. It Takes No Talent for students to put earnest effort into everything they do, even if they can't paint like Pollock or bend it like Beckham.

Four time Super Bowl Champion and Hall of Fame former coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers, Chuck Noll, had a simple driving principle as a coach: "We will do the little things better than everyone else." In other words, we will mind the TNT's. Although taking care of the little things (TNT's) might not seem glorious, celebrating a championship is. Hard to argue with Coach Noll's results.

Mind the TNT's in 2012-13. I hope that all students and staff have a great school year!

REMINDERS:

School Picture Day
October 10th

Jamison Memorial Hospital School of Nursing Open House:

October 17, 6:30 PM

Visit www.jamison-health.org/school for additional information.



Hopewell Adopts New Grading Scale

BY: BRIAN ZAHN

As students return to school this year, several important changes occurred regarding the grading scale that students should be aware of. In July, the school board adopted a policy that changed the grading scale to a standard 10 point per grade letter scale. This means an "A" is from 90-100, "B" is from 80-89, "C" from 70-79, D from 60-69, and "E" from 0-59. Additionally, students

now have the opportunity to earn either an "A" plus or minus in each of the grades. The change also included giving a half weight to honors courses in ninth, tenth and eleventh grade. In August, the school board changed the grading scale even more. All students in tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade will have all of the grading scale changes applied retroactively to all grades earned in high school. This will, more than likely, raise GPAs and impact class rank of all students in grades 10, 11 and 12.

Hopewell High School Grading Scale/GPA Conversion Table						
	Percent	4.0 scale	Honors weight	4.5 scale	AP/Adv weight	5.0 scale
A+	100	4.0	0.5	4.5	1.0	5.0
	99	4.0	0.5	4.5	1.0	5.0
	98	4.0	0.5	4.5	1.0	5.0
A	97	3.8	0.5	4.3	1.0	4.8
	96	3.8	0.5	4.3	1.0	4.8
	95	3.8	0.5	4.3	1.0	4.8
	94	3.8	0.5	4.3	1.0	4.8
	93	3.8	0.5	4.3	1.0	4.8
A-	92	3.6	0.5	4.1	1.0	4.6
	91	3.6	0.5	4.1	1.0	4.6
	90	3.6	0.5	4.1	1.0	4.6
B+	89	3.4	0.5	3.9	1.0	4.4
	88	3.4	0.5	3.9	1.0	4.4
	87	3.4	0.5	3.9	1.0	4.4
B	86	3.0	0.5	3.5	1.0	4.0
	85	3.0	0.5	3.5	1.0	4.0
	84	3.0	0.5	3.5	1.0	4.0
	83	3.0	0.5	3.5	1.0	4.0
B-	82	2.6	0.5	3.1	1.0	3.6
	81	2.6	0.5	3.1	1.0	3.6
	80	2.6	0.5	3.1	1.0	3.6
	79	2.4	0.5	2.9	1.0	3.4
C+	78	2.4	0.5	2.9	1.0	3.4
	77	2.4	0.5	2.9	1.0	3.4
	76	2.0	0.5	2.5	1.0	3.0
C	75	2.0	0.5	2.5	1.0	3.0
	74	2.0	0.5	2.5	1.0	3.0
	73	2.0	0.5	2.5	1.0	3.0
	72	1.6	0.5	2.1	1.0	2.6
C-	71	1.6	0.5	2.1	1.0	2.6
	70	1.6	0.5	2.1	1.0	2.6
	69	1.4				
D+	68	1.4				
	67	1.4				
	66	1.0				
D	65	1.0				
	64	1.0				
	63	1.0				
	62	0.6				
	61	0.6				
D-	60	0.6				
	59	0.4				
	58	0.4				
	57	0.4				
	56	0.4				
	55	0.4				
	54	0.2				
	53	0.2				
	52	0.2				
	51	0.2				
50	0.2					

This chart shows the Hopewell High School Grading Scale and conversions for calculating grade point averages.

For the purposes of calculating Grade Point Average (GPA), percentage grades will be converted to GPA using the chart provided.

Weighted courses will be assigned additional GPA of either 0.5 or 1.0 specific to the course.

For weighted course information, please see the next page.

Students are advised that this grade scale, conversion chart and weighted course list will be applied retroactively to their course history to calculate their GPA and class rank.

NOTE: All grades below 50% will be assigned a GPA of [0.0].



Athlete Profile: Liana Muia

BY: STEFANIE JOHNDROW

Playing tennis for the past seven years, Hopewell Junior Liana Muia is well known on the tennis courts. Beginning her second year as a starter and third year on varsity, Muia defeated Sewickley Academy's top tennis player, junior Sydney Miggantz, in a 7-6 match on August 29. Starting the tennis season off with five wins and two losses, many high school tennis spectators are anticipating the rest of Muia's season.

Antonio Muia, for tennis lessons seven years ago. Muia's brother has gone on to play varsity tennis for Hopewell and win an M.A.C. championship. This, Muia says, is her goal for the next two years. "[I] definitely want to bring home a M.A.C. or W.P.I.A.L. championship. My brother did, so I have to."

Currently, Muia is focusing on beating Rochester this season in order to make it into the playoffs. While Rochester is the more important opponent, Muia is looking forward to facing Central Valley more. "When we played them last they were really rude, and we beat them. So I'm looking forward to that."



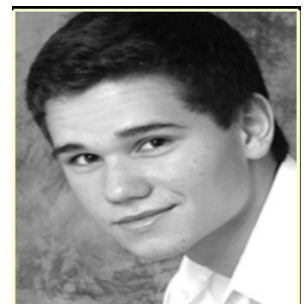
Having an obvious talent in the sport, it was Muia's mother who signed up both Liana and her brother, Hopewell senior

Making His Debut

BY: KRISTEN SPEZIALETTI

From a nationwide casting call of more than 50,000 high school students, only 60 high school musical theater performers have this opportunity. The students who made the cut came together for one week to participate in the National High School Musical. Theater Awards competition in New York One of Hopewell High School's own alumni, Ryan Vander Wagen, had the privilege of working with professional choreographers, Broadway vocal coaches and other talented students that also made it to this level. Ryan and the other performers' journey was documented and aired on

a 3 part mini-television series called "Broadway or Bust" made by PBS. "My favorite part would have to had to have been the last night when I got the chance to perform on a Broadway stage," explained Ryan. He is currently majoring in marketing and minoring in voice at the Community College of Beaver County. Congratulations to Ryan and all the other performers.





Hacked!

BY: LAUREN ZAWATSKI

You win some and you lose some. Multibillion dollar company Apple knows this quite well. Their latest was a loss, as a hacker group named AntiSec published 1 million Apple device IDs, which were claimed to have been snatched from an FBI agent's laptop. The FBI has since made a statement that dismissed the accusation of having any involvement with the stolen IDs. They declared, "There is no evidence indicating that an FBI laptop was compromised, or that the FBI either sought or obtained this data." The hackers released the information they attained as a political statement. The group decided not to publish all 12 million of the IDs that were retrieved. The AntiSec group, however, is no amateur when it comes to hacking.

People may be asking, Are the IDs really that important? The answer is a definite yes! The IDs are connected to every iOS device, including iPhones and iPads. They are linked to more personal information that, if in the wrong hands, could wind up in identity theft for the owner. Luckily, there are a few websites that allow for any owner of an iPhone, iPad etc., to be checked if their ID was released, specifically, thenextweb.com. If you are an owner of one of these products, then you may want to take a few minutes to be sure your personal information is safe!

Hurricane Isaac Wreaks Havoc

BY: REBECCA HADDIX

Late at night on Tuesday, September 4, Hurricane Isaac landed on the southern coast of Louisiana, almost exactly 7 years after Hurricane Katrina. The Category-1 storm dumped over a foot of water in many places along the Gulf Coast, leaving thousands and thousands of homes flooded, forcing a mandatory evacuation of many Louisiana towns and cities, reports The Weather Channel's website. Mississippi and Alabama face similar issues.

According to The Weather Channel's most recent report, experts say that things are not as bad as they could have been. The major levies did manage to handle all the water. This was due to the improvements that the federal government made after Hurricane Katrina. The National Guard, along with other rescue workers, made evacuation much safer.

Local parishes are working round the clock to help those whose homes and belongings have been washed away. Since the disaster, most of the Amtrak services in and out of New Orleans have been restored; and barge restrictions now have been eased along the lower Mississippi River. Although repair of the Gulf Coast states could take a while, people have already begun working on rebuilding what they have lost.

"We Must Choose Forward"

BY: LAUREN ZAWATSKI

With fall comes politics, especially this fall with the 2012 presidential election looming closer each day. Most recently, the Republican and Democratic National Conventions were held to bring forth the presidential nominees. First to occur was the Republican Convention, which was held in Tampa Bay, Florida. Despite the one day delay as a precaution due to Hurricane Isaac blowing through Tampa, the convention continued on as planned from August 27-30. The opening task of the RC was to approve the party



rules and platform. The main points of the platform were banning all abortions, as well as gay marriage, remodeling Medicare, and rejecting federal spending to fix the job market. Usually, most details of a party's platform end up overlooked, but a new poll from the Pew Research Center discovered that more people are expressing interest in the platform rather than upcoming acceptance speeches by presidential candidates. Along with the platform and party rules, many speakers took part in the convention. Attendees such as New Jersey governor Chris Christie, Condoleezza Rice, Ann Romney, Susana Martinez, and Mitt Romney all gave unique speeches. In addition, actor Clint Eastwood tried to supply some comedic relief as he used improvisation with an empty chair meant for

President Obama. Overall, an estimated 40,000-50,000 people attended the convention.

One week later, from September 4-6, the Democratic Convention was held in Charlotte, North Carolina. The Democratic platform included points such as marriage equality, middle class opportunity and abortion rights. Many prevalent speakers took the stage at the DNC as well. Former Arizona Representative Gabby Giffords, who was shot nearly two years ago, made a touching appearance when she led the Pledge of Allegiance. People such as former president Bill Clinton, actress Eva Longoria, Vice President Joe Biden, First Lady Michelle Obama, and the president himself also spoke. In his speech, President Obama declared, "Our problems can be solved. Our challenges can be met. The path we offer may be harder, but it leads to a better place. And I'm asking you to choose that future." In another notable speech, Newark, N.J. Mayor Julian Castro stated, "Our platform is about moving America and our economy forward. We must choose forward. We must be inclusive. We must choose growing together." An estimated count of 50,000 people attended the DNC. Since both conventions were completed, it is shown that President Obama surfaced from the convention with a 6 percent point lead over Mitt Romney. The week before the conventions, they had been tied. So who will really win the election? Only time will tell who the nation's new leader will be.



Voices



Dear Dr. Stef,

Dear Dr. Stef,

I haven't been in high school for a week, and I am already overwhelmed. As a freshman I am taking all honors classes and trying to get involved with extracurriculars. While the coursework doesn't seem to be too difficult, I am nervous about trying to make new friends. The people I hung out with in middle school weren't my type, and I'd like to meet new people to spend my high school years with. Problem is, I'm kind of shy about it. My question is: How can I meet new people and not come off as "weird"?

Thanks,

Fresh out of water

Dear Out of Water,

First of all, welcome to Hopewell High School! In regards to your friend-making issue, definitely get involved with extracurricular activities! That way, you'll be sure to meet new people that share your same interests. Attending club meetings is an automatic ice breaker—there will always be something for you to make conversation about. (And as a bonus, you'll get a head start on a stellar college resume!) Furthermore, don't be afraid to approach people you have never really spoken to before. Learning from experience this is the best way for you to make new friends. Talk to them and get to know them, then exchange phone numbers. Also, you can always ask someone in one of your classes if they would like to do homework/study together. Never hesitate to approach someone first. Being shy should never be an excuse. Yes, shyness is

difficult to overcome, but you don't want to be the person who lets their fear get in the way of what they want. It'll lead to a miserable four years. As for the being "weird" part, just don't be clingy. This tends to turn people off. But most off all, be friendly, be confident, and be yourself! Now go out there and find yourself a few new best friends to spend these next four years with! Good luck with the rest of your time here at Hopewell, and be sure to enjoy it! Sincerely, Dr. Stef

Make an Effort

BY: SAMANTHA MARCKIONI & TAYLOR SKELTON

Returning to school, all students have the idea of being the model student, but after the first nine weeks, they lose sight of their original plan. At first, students are excited and stretch themselves too thin, only to realize the extent of work they are committing themselves to.

One tip to keep in mind over the course of the school year is to pace yourself. Don't procrastinate until the last minute, and use your planner to keep yourself organized with upcoming due dates. All-nighters are pointless because you often fail to obtain any information. Another way to steer you toward success this year is to only join the clubs and sports teams you know you can hold your commitment too while also avidly participating.



Television is Going Downhill

BY: EMILY SERETTI & STEFANIE JOHNDROW

Ask anyone born in the 1990s what some of their favorite TV shows were as a kid, and you're sure to receive a colorful variety of answers. As we reflect on some of the older shows from the blissful '90s, and compare them to what Disney Channel and Nickelodeon are showing the young minds of today, it makes you stop and think, "Where did they go wrong?"

Today, I like to refer to kids' TV as "cookie cutter" shows. After the premiere of *Hannah Montana*, it was hard to turn on the TV and not find a show without talented singing and dancing kids on it. Whether it's a high school for musically gifted teens, or a boy band balancing a recording contract and a

life of "normalcy," you can't get through a show without sitting through a song and dance. Additionally, almost every current TV show is incredibly unrealistic. Seriously, how many teenage girls go to New York City and become a nanny for a famous director? I'm not saying shows in the '90s accurately depicted real life, but they at least provided viewers with relatable situations.

Remember that episode of *Boy Meets World* when Cory and Topanga struggled with the realization that they were meant for each other? Perhaps you'll remember the episode of *Growing Pains* when Carol Seaver's boyfriend dies drinking and driving. Or how about that episode of *Full House* when Stephanie Tanner refused the pressure to smoke a cigarette? Each of these classic '90s shows gave kids a look at reality. Life isn't musicals and it isn't always fun, and maybe the biggest difference between TV in the '90s and TV today, is that adults are afraid to show kids the truth.

Students of the Month



Jimmy McCracken



Stefanie Johndrow

Voices



Driving Safe Can Save Lives

BY: REBECCA HADDIX

For most students, summer is a fun time of swimming, hanging out with friends, and just generally having a great time. However, for the family and friends of those youth who have been injured or even killed in automobile accidents, this summer was anything but fun. Most of these accidents have been linked to nothing but driver carelessness.

In 2010, The United States Department of Transportation reported 419,092 separate incidents of accidents caused by distractions, such as texting, eating, adjusting the radio, or doing their makeup while driving. I even saw someone trying to finish the next chapter of their favorite novel, and another teenager attempting to drive with her teeth. These actions are not only careless and reckless, but they are selfish: endangering the health and welfare of others, simply because drivers don't like the song on the radio or didn't have breakfast before leaving the house in the morning.

The saddest part, though, is how easily these horrific accidents could be prevented. Simple changes to routine can make all the difference. For those who text while driving, it is much safer to either turn the cell phone on silent or give it to a passenger to read texts aloud and text back. Don't attempt to show off. If you need to eat or do your makeup and hair, wake up five minutes earlier or

do it while stopped, not while going down the interstate.

The Department of Transportation reported that 3,029 lives were lost due to such accidents in 2010. If we as drivers can put away our momentary convenience to protect the safety of others, we can save 3,029 people annually. We can make a difference in the lives of our fellow drivers so that they can also have a summer of safety and fun.

"Grind My Gears"

BY: TAYLOR SKELTON

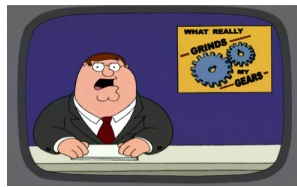
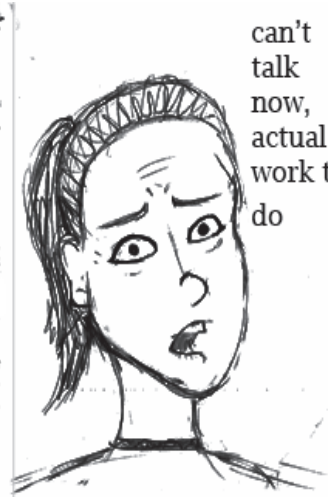
Annoying mall employees

You know what grinds my gears, Hopewell? Annoying mall workers. Have you ever been strolling through the mall with family or friends when you are disrupted by some foreign kiosk worker pestering to straighten or curl your hair? I can't understand what they say, and I really would prefer strange men and women to leave me alone and stay far away from my face and head. I am trying to walk through the mall, not get my hair done. Another favorite of mine is being interrupted when I am talking to whomever I may be talking with, to be asked what cell phone service I use. This could go one of two ways: I'm either going to ignore you, or tell you it's none of your business.

After battling your way through the kiosks and cellphone stores, you finally reach your shopping destination. You walk in and are immediately not only greeted, but simply attacked by the first worker you see,

Before
School
Starts....

...Now



rambling on about sales and discounts, or what not. After talking with them, they might feel the need to follow you around the store. But, after a while, they disappear; and just when you need to know where something is, an employee is either no where to be found, or clueless of their own work place. I will never grasp the concept of people who work in stores that know nothing about their store's layout and merchandise. If you can't help a customer, then what are you really doing there? And an even better question is: how did you get hired? Then, after you wander around for a bit, you will either find the item yourself, or, if you're lucky, receive some assistance. But, as a customer, you still face that chance of getting that one young adult with a serious attitude problem that is going to take their own emotional issues out on you. I did nothing to you, so please don't lash out at me. Please and thank you!

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2Chainz Album Review

BY TY RICHARDSON



“TRUUUUUUUU.” Those who listen to 2Chainz know exactly when he enters the lyrics in a song. Tauheed Epps is known as 2Chainz, for his outrageous verses, and his yelling of “2CHAINZ” and “TRU” in the verses of his songs. He has been part of popular music since the nineties when he performed with

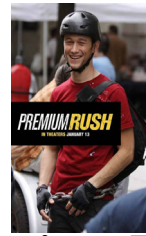
Playaz Circle. His newest CD, “Based on a T.R.U. Story,” is his first CD under the moniker of 2Chainz. The CD boasts great singles such as “No Lie (feat. Drake)” and “Birthday Song (feat. Kanye West).” Even though 2Chainz is not a lyrical genius, his lyrics are funny and do make sense in the end. The CD also features famous rappers such as Lil Wayne on the opening track “Yuck,” Drake, Kanye West, Nicki Minaj, and Mike Posner. If you need a good warm up CD for a game or something along those lines, then “Based on a T.R.U. Story” is the CD to motivate the team. The hard bass and repeating snare drums get an athlete’s body moving and ready for the big game. This album earns 3 out of 4 stars.

Upcoming games

BY BRI MILLER

This fall can be expected to be a great gaming season. With the recent releases of Madden 13 and Hearthfire DLC for Skyrim, gamers are sure to be busy; not to mention, some of the most talked about games of the year are coming out in the next few months. The long awaited Borderlands 2 is available for pre-order, but doesn’t officially release until September 18. The sequel offers four new

characters, and another 840 million guns at the player’s pleasure. On October 2, Resident Evil 6 comes out. In a first for the franchise, it sees the series favorite characters Leon and Chris come together (along with new characters) to face the unrelenting threat of a bioterrorist. Assassins Creed 3 will also be released late October. Although the main portion of the game takes place during the American Revolutionary War, it will also offer a modern day setting where Desmond must prevent the 2012 apocalypse. Halo 4, the eighth installment of the



Premium Rush speeds into theaters

BY ZOE CARR

Rating: Four Stars

Hold onto your seats, because *Premium Rush* will take you for the ride of your life. The movie, led by an all-star cast including Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Michael Shannon is filmed in modern day New York City, it tells the story of a Wilee, a bike messenger (Gordon-Levitt), who picks up an envelope that attracts the attention of a cop (Shannon) who chases Wilee throughout the city as he tries to deliver the envelope. Throughout the movie, the point of view changes from Wilee’s to the cop’s, and even to the girl who needs the envelope delivered. It sounds like it might be silly to do so, but all the changes in point of views really tie in together and give the movie a plot line. All in all, *Premium Rush* was a good, exciting movie!

Major Emmys 2012



Drama Series – “Homeland” (Showtime)

Drama actress – Claire Danes, “Homeland”

Drama Actor – Damian Lewis, “Homeland”

Supporting drama actress – Maggie Smith, “Downton Abbey” (PBS)

Comedy Series – “Modern Family” (ABC)

Comedy actor – Jon Cryer, “Two and a Half Men” (CBS)

Comedy actress – Julia Louis-Dreyfus, “Veep” (Showtime)

Supporting comedy actor – Eric Stonestreet, “Modern Family”

Supporting comedy actress – Julie Bowen, “Modern Family”

Reality-competition program – “The Amazing Race” (CBS)

Variety series – “The Daily Show With Jon Stewart” (Comedy Central)

Host for a reality or reality-competition program – Tom Bergeron, “Dancing With the Stars” (ABC)

player’s choice affects both the current mission and the overall course of the story.



Halo series is set to release on November 6. The first episode in the new trilogy was not developed by Bungie, but instead by 343 Industries who will be focused less on the Halo series’ traditional straightforward first-person shooter genre, instead relying more on mystery, exploration and discovery elements. On November 13, Call of Duty: Black ops 2 will be released; it is also the first game in the Call of Duty franchise to have a completely futuristic setting and feature future warfare technology, as well as being the first CoD video game to feature branching storylines, in which the



How to make “Aut-yum Leaves”

BY JENNIFER CRANMER

Ingredients

- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon of water
- Prepared pie crust
- Mini chocolate chips
- Peanut Butter chips
- Raw Sugar
- Flour for work surface

Instructions

1. Heat the oven to 375°. Whisk one egg with a teaspoon of water; set it aside.
2. On a floured surface, roll out a prepared pie crust so it's about 1/8-inch thick. Use a large leaf shaped cookie cutter to make as many dough leaf pairs as possible.
3. For each pocket, spread about 4 teaspoons of mini chocolate chips and peanut butter chips on a leaf, leaving a 1/2-inch margin at the edge. Brush egg wash onto the edge, place a second leaf on top, and press the edges to seal.
4. Brush the top with egg wash and sprinkle it generously with raw sugar. Bake the leaves on a parchment-covered cookie sheet until their edges are just beginning to brown, about 12 minutes. Let them rest on the sheet a few minutes before moving them to a cooling rack.



Fall Concerts

BY STEFANIE JOHNDROW

Fall is the time of year when the leaves change, people begin to dress warmer, and awesome bands come to Pittsburgh. Wanna take a break from homework? Check out these performers coming to Pittsburgh this fall. The genres range from country to pop to rock to electronic, surely there will be something for everyone.

The alternative rock band 3 Doors Down will be performing their new album *Time of My Life* on September 20 at Stage AE. Nine days later, *Glee*'s Matthew Morrison will perform at Heinz Hall on both September 29 and 30. Also performing September 30 is folk group *Celtic Thunder* at the Benedum Center.

On October 27, rocker Bruce Springsteen will be singing at the Consol Energy Center. Entering November, on the sixth, pop phenomenon Madonna will also be performing at the Consol Energy Center. Five days later, hard rock band The WHO will take over Consol Energy Center. On November 17, pop singer LIGHTS will be perform at Mr. Smalls Theater. Then, pop vocalists Justin Bieber and Carly Rae Jepsen will perform at the Consol Energy Center on November 20.

Jazz and blues legend BB King will be coming to Pittsburgh on November 21, and will perform at the Benedum Center. And coming to Pittsburgh the last few days of fall is country singer Carrie Underwood. She'll be performing with newcomer Hunter Hayes at the Consol Energy Center on November 27.

Sweethearts

By: Sara Zarr

Rating: Five Stars

BY ZOE CARR

Sure, you have friends, even best friends, but what Cameron Quick and Jennifer Harris had wasn't just a friendship, it was a connection. As children, Jennifer and Cameron were best friends, bonding over the fact that they were both outcasts. Because they saw each other every day, and played at each other's houses, Jennifer became suspicious when Cameron didn't show up at school. As days passed, and Cameron still hadn't come back to school, Jennifer knew something was definitely wrong. Deciding to ask her mom, Jennifer learned that Cameron had tragically passed.

Fast forward a few years, and you come to find that the old Jennifer no longer exists. The once outcast girl had transformed into Jenna Vaughn. Jenna is now happy, popular, and dating. Everything is going seemingly well in Jenna's world, until Cameron Quick appears just as mysteriously as he disappeared, thus unfoiling her mother's deception. Cameron and Jenna go on and adventure through their memories as they both confront their troubled pasts.

This book is worth the read. Every page takes you on an adventure and leaves you wanting more. *Sweethearts* will show you to never doubt the friendships that you have.



Upcoming Artists: Imagine Dragons

BY TY RICHARDSON

Indie-rock has been taking the world by storm. One of the newer bands of this genre is Imagine Dragons. They're a four-piece band hailing from Las Vegas, Nevada. Imagine Dragons consists of Dan Reynolds (vocals), D. Wayne Sermon (guitar), Daniel "Z" Platzman (drums), and Ben McKee (bass). The band's sound is distinct, but very soft and relaxing. Their newest album, "Night Visions," was released on Sept. 4, 2012. A single from the album, "It's Time," has been featured on the "Perks of being a Wallflower" trailer and was covered on "Glee." They were recently nominated at the MTV Video Music Awards for "Best Rock Video," but did not win. Billboard has them listed as one of "2012's Brightest Stars." Imagine Dragons also has a song on the soundtrack for the new Tim Burton film "Frankenweenie." Check this band out while they're on tour this fall with AWOLNATION, and give the song "It's Time" a listen. I give the band 4 out of 5 stars.

