As we close the first decade of the second millennium, we celebrate with bittersweet remembrance the great achievements humanity has made, as well as the struggles and trials we have faced. Though the New Year brings a clean slate and an open window of opportunity to progress forward, it is important not to forget the events and milestones that have shaped our lives and defined our purpose. In this special New Year’s edition of The Dispatch, we have compiled a “Year in Review” timeline of 2009 as well as various lists of top-ranking pop culture, entertainment, and media. I hope you will view these as tokens of a monumental year, and forever keep the events and milestones that have shaped our hearts and minds.

Huntington High School has always been an academic institution that supports the arts. Whenever it is a performance, visual, or literary, HHS has always strived for excellence. This tradition is being upheld by the new choral teacher, Ms. Veronica Escamilla, who hopes to shake things up a bit by instituting a new musical group to the school’s already outstanding repertoire. This group will be an a cappella group, in which vocalists perform without accompaniment.

When asked what she hopes to achieve with the A cappella group, Ms. Escamilla responded, “I want to show students at HHS what was, and with hopes for what will be.” Ms. Escamilla expressed her sadness because of the fact that “Most students have a negative view of choirs and singing in general. It is often deemed as ‘un-cool’, but when you think about it, most artists and bands that people listen to utilize vocals in some way, shape, or form.” She hopes that modernized choral groups such as a capella “can create a bridge between the HHS music program and the rest of the school, as the music they will perform is really appealing and fun, and students need to see that singing is an enjoyable experience.”

The news of the up and coming a cappella ensemble was met with much excitement from musically-minded students at Huntington High School, but it seems that the new addition came at a cost- jazz choir no longer exists. However, there will be a musical focus for this A cappella group. “Most of the music will be in the popular genre- for example, I am currently finishing up Michael Jackson’s ‘Thriller’. Most music that people listen to is popular music, which again, encompasses rock, R&B, hip-hop, etc., and most people can relate to these types of music.”

Ms. Escamilla hopes to eventually take a back seat in the A cappella choir, and leave most of the creative control in the hands of students. This is why she has instituted a pre-requisite to joining the group which states that one must already be a member of a musical program here at Huntington High School. Ensembles such as band, orchestra, or choir ensure that the members will be able to read music and that they already have a strong background in musicality and musicianship.

The Video Club always has something for this A cappella group. In the hopes of uplifting Huntington High School leaders alike as she shared her inspirational true story, Ms. Murray came to Huntington High School in the hopes of uplifting the spirits of her audience and teaching that no “brick wall” is too strong to break. Students listened in awe as Ms. Murray narrated how she went from living on the “D” train and eating out of garbage cans, to sleeping in the dorms of the prestigious Harvard University.

Mrs. Swan informed me that the Video Club newscasts are a hit school frequently. He sure to check out these video boards, located in the cafeteria and the main office of school. They are more entertaining than the basic text announcements of years past and are sure to make students laugh!
2009: Year in Review
Anything and everything from the year that was

Jan. 22: President Obama orders the closure of the prison camp at Guantanamo Bay. He also orders a review of military trials for terror suspects and a ban on harsh interrogation methods.

Feb. 3: Hilary Clinton accepts the position of Secretary of State.

Mar. 18: Actress Natasha Richardson dies after head trauma resulting from a ski accident.

Mar. 26: Obama nominates Federal Judge Sonia Sotomayor for the United States Supreme Court.

May 21-25: The space shuttle Atlantis conducts the final servicing mission to the Hubble space telescope.

May 8: The release of the movie Star Trek, based on the classic television series, has “Trekkies” everywhere on the edges of their seats.

June 11: H1N1 (Swine Flu) is deemed a global pandemic.

June 12: Food Inc. is released.

June 26: S.C. Governor Mark Sanford admits to having an affair with Argentinian woman. He is later announced that his death was caused by a lethal dose of perscription drugs.

July 21: The U.S. Navy snipers kill 3 pirates holding an American ship hostage for 5 days.

July 30: King of Pop Michael Jackson is pronounced dead after collapsing in his home. It is later announced that his death was caused by a lethal dose of perscription drugs.

The Dispatch is Huntington High School’s official student publication. Written for the 1253 students attending HHS, The Dispatch is distributed to all students, staff and school community members at the school free of charge.

The Editorial Board is the newspaper’s decision-making body, organizing and directing its operation. The Dispatch staff has adopted the following editorial policy to express the rights, responsibilities and philosophy of the newspaper for the 2009-2010 school year.

The Dispatch of Huntington High School is a public forum, with its student editorial board making all decisions concerning its content. Unsigned editorials express the views of the majority of the editorial board.

Letters to the editors are welcomed and will be published as space allows. Letters are preferred signed, but may be published by request. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and clarity, and all letters are subject to laws governing obscenity, libel, privacy, and disruption of the school process, as are all contents of the paper. Questions, comments, and letters to the editor should be sent to hhsdispatch@gmail.com or submitted to The Dispatch mailbox in the main office.

Opinions in letters are not necessarily those of the staff, nor should any opinion expressed in a public forum be construed as the opinion of the administration, unless so attributed.

The Dispatch’s goal is to provide readers with interesting content in a wide variety of areas. Such areas include the news coverage of school and community events, as well as features on relevant topics. In addition, The Dispatch will provide op-posed editorial reviews and provide previews and reviews for upcoming school and professional sports seasons and other forms of entertainment.

The Dispatch accepts advertisements from local businesses and student organizations. Requests for specific pricing, and examples of past advertising may be requested via e-mail through hhsdispatch@gmail.com.

The Editorial Board reserves the right to refuse any advertisement deemed inappropriate.

The Dispatch would like to extend a special thanks to Ms. Kelly Quintero-Lashley and Mr. James Graber for their help with this issue.
### Funniest & Most Bizarre Headlines of 2009:

- “Michelle Obama Wore Clothes to Light the Christmas Tree”
- “Pittsburgh Police Want To See Junk In Your Trunk”
- “Police use Taser on fake cougar”
- “Chance of rain today depends on where you live”
- “Spokane parks to detonate squirrels”
- “Shoplifter stole lingerie and bacon”
- “Boise boy licks pole, gets stuck”
- “Speeding bullet stopped by hair weave”
- “Woman steals $650 in gum from hospital gift shop”
- “Missing baby found in sandwich”
- “Pet dog’s underwater fetish almost proves fatal”
- “Miss. Police Use Taser, Handcuffs On Wayward Emu”
- “Church Kids Raid Pantries For Foodbank Supplies”
- “Gold tooth missing after crutch attack”

Compiled from www.cafeterra.info

### Top Five Lists: The Best in 2009 Entertainment

#### Fashion Trends:
1. Leather jackets
2. Wayfarers
3. Floral patterns
4. Textured tights
5. Boots

#### Songs:
1. Single Ladies (Beyoncé)
2. Poker Face (Lady Gaga)
3. Blame It (Jaime Foxx / T-Pain)
4. Empire State of Mind (J. Cole - Z / Alicia Keys)
5. Love Story (Taylor Swift)

#### Musicals:
1. Hair
2. Wicked
3. Avenue Q
4. Jersey Boys
5. Billy Elliot

#### Movies:
1. Star Trek
2. Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince
3. New Moon
4. The Hangover
5. Paranormal Activity

#### TV Shows:
1. Glee
2. The Office
3. 30 Rock
4. Mad Men
5. Tie between: Big Bang Theory and True Blood
TEACHER FEATURE: Mrs. Jasinki

New social studies teacher is a young and fun American girl

by Samuel Sainthil

Q: Where are you from and how does it compare to Huntington?
A: My hometown is Westville, located in upstate New York. How does it compare to Huntington? Well, it has more cows than people, so you can imagine! Now I live in Hampton Bays which is very different from Huntington.

Q: What kind of music do you like to listen to and why?
A: I listen to everything, but if I have to pick a favorite genre, then I’d have to say country. I think I like it because I grew up in the “country” and I like the “simple life” and feel of that type of music. I really can’t relate to songs that talk about “hanging out in the club!”

Q: What is your biggest pet peeve about students?
A: I’d have to say that I hate when students don’t take their homework seriously because if they don’t do the work at home, then they make it that much harder for themselves to understand the material.

Q: What are your favorite and least favorite foods and why?
A: I like everything, that’s my problem! My favorite would have to be fruit. My least favorites are brussel sprouts or onions.

Q: What do you like to do in your free time?
A: I like to hang out with my three-year-old daughter; just spend time with her, you know? We go to the beach, the aquarium, the park, and animal farms. I also like to rule motorcycles with my husband. Yeah, I’m a biker chick!

Q: What is your biggest pet peeve about Huntington High School?
A: I think everybody is really helpful. From students to staff, everyone’s been going out of their way to help. It’s hard to stand out in a new school and I really appreciate all the friendliness.

Q: What was your most embarrassing moment?
A: My most embarrassing moment: I was a cheerleader in high school and I was sitting on the floor during a basketball game, and another cheerleader was stepping on my skirt. I wasn’t aware of it, so when I stood up to cheer, my skirt stayed on the floor. I was wearing bloomers, but everyone saw what happened. You’re always going back bad memories for me, man!

SPOTLIGHT: Brilliant Books

by Emily McGoldrick

Out of all the books I’ve read, one of my favorites is A Great and Terrible Beauty by Libba Bray. The story is set in the late 1800s, but isn’t like the average histori- cal fiction. The story starts off with a bang when Gemma, the main character, sees her mother commit suicide. The twist is, she’s already had a vision of it happen- ing. Devastated and confused, Gemma is sent to the Spence Academy for Young Ladies, where at first she has trouble fitting in with other “proper” girls. Mean- while, her visions continue, leaving her full of questions and without any answers. Through her talents, Gemma learns of an ancient so- ciety called The Order, and is drawn to the similarities between her and itself. The story continues in a trilogy, including Rebel Angels and The Sweet Far Thing. All of these books are very detailed and well written, and the best part of reading them is hav- ing no clue about what is going to happen next. Also, the story never gets stale since it alternates between the real world and one very different from everything main knows, resulting in many different sub-plots.

Finally, a book that both guys and girls can en- joy! Looking for Alaska by John Green is an extremely compelling read relatable to all walks and aspects of life. Similarly to A Great and Terrible Beauty, the protagonist leaving home for boarding school, the main character is Miles. He never really had any friends, but finds a whole new perspective on life when he meets his roommate, who insists on being called “the Coto- ral,” and introduces him to the intriguing Alaska Young. Miles quickly becomes smitten by her, and before he knows it he is sucked into their world of pranks and weirdness and is hav- ing the time of his life. The book is broken up into two halves: “before” and “after” the most significant event in the story. This creates curi- osity and anticipation as the book moves along. The best part is getting a little bit of everything from reading it: laughter, tears and a good message.