



THE DISPATCH

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HUNTINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

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PHOTO: DANIELA RAMOS

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FIRST ANNUAL BONFIRE EVENT ATTRACTS 2,000



By Kiara Gelbman

On Thursday, September 19th, 2019, Huntington High School began a new tradition in which a huge fire was held in the high school parking lot.

Looking to replace the

homecoming dance which has low attendance and was not very profitable, the student government decided to change Thursday's festivities to a bonfire. "Mr. Cusack had wanted to do [a bonfire] for years and this was the perfect opportunity," said Student Govern-

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NEW GOVERNMENT OFFERS BIG CHANGE

By Lucas Kelly

Huntington High School's Government Officers (G.O.) were elected June of last year along with officers of each class. The school-wide student government is lead by President Chris Mavrogian, Vice President Gabriel Medina-Jaudes, Treasurer Paul Katigbak, Recording Secretary Natalie Ciccone, and PR Coordinator Lucas Kelly. Each candidate promised to introduce new ideas to the student body such as improving transparency and the expansion of government activities.

President Chris Mavrogian said, "My vision for Huntington is a school that excites students to attend every day."

Since taking office, the student government has ordered the renovated library to provide a calendar indicating when the library is open and

closed, replacing the Homecoming Dance with the first annual Bonfire event, Spirit week with the Battle of the Classes, and the Pep Rally switched to an outside event. President Mavrogian explained, "We also want the Battle of the Classes in March. I understand March is a tough month for just about everyone, students and staff alike, and I think that will really break up the monotony. If you don't know, Battle of the Classes is like the Reindeer Games in Finley between all the grades. Different



HUNTINGTON STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Logo created 2019

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2019 HOMECOMING FLOAT NIGHT

By Olivia Perez

On Friday, September 20th, 2019, Huntington High School hosted its annual float night. Float Night is when Huntington High School students come together to create incredible floats for Homecoming. Every year, they are shown in the Huntington Homecoming Parade followed by a football

game. This year's theme was Board Games. The Freshman's float was The Game Of Life, the Sophomore's float was Monopoly, the Junior's float was Battleships, and lastly, the Senior's float was Candyland. Student Government chose the theme of this year's floats.

Lucas Kelly, the PR Coordinator for Student Government stated, "We wanted something different, something that hasn't been done in Huntington for years, and board games was the perfect idea." As each class gathered together there were tables set up for either folding the tissue paper to create the flowers for the float or puffing out the paper flowers ready for installation.

Senior, Jeslyn Alfaro stated, "I had an amazing experience at Float Night. I got to be with my friends while gaining community service hours and also helping to build our class float." The high school staff volunteered and handed out pizza and drinks for everyone to enjoy while the students



Class of 2020 working on their Candy Land float

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→news in short

◇ HBDMB host Home Show

On Sunday October, 6th, Huntington High School hosted a Marching Band Home Show Competition. Tickets were \$8 for entry. Huntington competed with marching bands of Floral Park, Sachem, Hicksville, Copiague, Division Ave, Malverne, and Brentwood. The first-differently-abled drum and bugle Corps in the world from Old Bethpage, NY was the special guest performer.

◇ Huntington crowns Homecoming King and Queen

During the half-time show of the Homecoming football game, Huntington royal court nominees lined up in front of the bleachers. In a tight race, Principal Brenden Cusack and Superintendent Jim Polansky crowned the victors; King Jack Jamison and Queen Isabella Toscano.

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2019-2020 STAFF

CO-EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

KIARA GELBMAN LUCAS KELLY

LAYOUT EDITOR

LUCAS KELLY

SPANISH EDITOR

DANIELA RAMOS

CONTRIBUTING STAFF

ANDREW MCKENZIE, DANIELA RAMOS, EMERSON FORBES, ERIK FLORES REYES, ERIN YE, JAMES KRETSCHMER, LUCAS CIRLINCIONE, LUKE RINALDI, NICK THOMPSON, OLIVIA PEREZ, PATRICIA CAMPOS SERPAS, RYAN PORIZO, SOPHIA SEGAL

ADVISOR

MR. EDWARD FLOREA

The Dispatch is Huntington High School's official student publication. Written for over 1500 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 2019-2020 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 editor 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 electronically to hhsdispatch@gmail.com or submitted to *The Dispatch* mailbox located 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 opinionated editorials on controversial topics, as well as provide previews and reviews for upcoming school and professional sports seasons and other forms of entertainment.

SCHOOL

Cover Story

FIRST ANNUAL BONFIRE EVENT ATTRACTS 2,000

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ment President, Chris Mavrogian, regarding this decision.

Once news of the bonfire traveled around the school, clubs began to plan their booths while students wondered how this event would work. Questions flooded the school of where this would be held, what will it be like and are they really going to light a bonfire at the school?

"When I first heard we were gonna do a bonfire, I thought it was really cool. My second thought was are we going to burn a hole through the



been in education, [the bonfire] is the best event I have participated in," told Caleca while Sophomore Francesca Stamatatos said, "It was really fun! I would go again."

However, this event was much more than a fire in a parking lot. "The bonfire involved not just the students but the greater community," described Dean Ron Wilson.

The day of the event, 2,000 people filled the Huntington High School parking lot. Surrounded by clubs selling food, drinks or products, the fire gleamed from the middle of the lot.

After a great turnout, the community cannot wait for a future bonfire and to see how this will progress in future years.

"The Bonfire involved not just the students but the greater community"
-Dean Ron Wilson

middle of the parking lot," said Dean Paul Caleca describing his reaction to the new idea of the bonfire.

The bonfire was a hit throughout the entire Huntington community. "In the thirty-two years that I've

2019 HOMECOMING FLOAT NIGHT

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worked. Some students even brought speakers to listen to music while creating the floats.

The night was filled with laughter and memorable moments. "The floats were awesome," said Junior Class President Isaiah James. Even Washington Primary School made a float to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

During the football homecoming halftime show, they announced the winners of the floats for 2019. The Class of 2020 won the float competition, outdistancing the other three classes. The Class of 2021 got second place, Class of 2023 got third place, and lastly, the Class of 2022 got fourth place. Overall,

Float Night was filled with extraordinary memories designed to bring to-

...each class gathered together there were tables set up for either folding the tissue paper to create the flowers for the float...

gether the student-body while earning community service.

1st Place: Class of 2020, Candy Land



2nd Place: Class of 2021, Battleship



3rd Place: Class of 2023, Game of Life

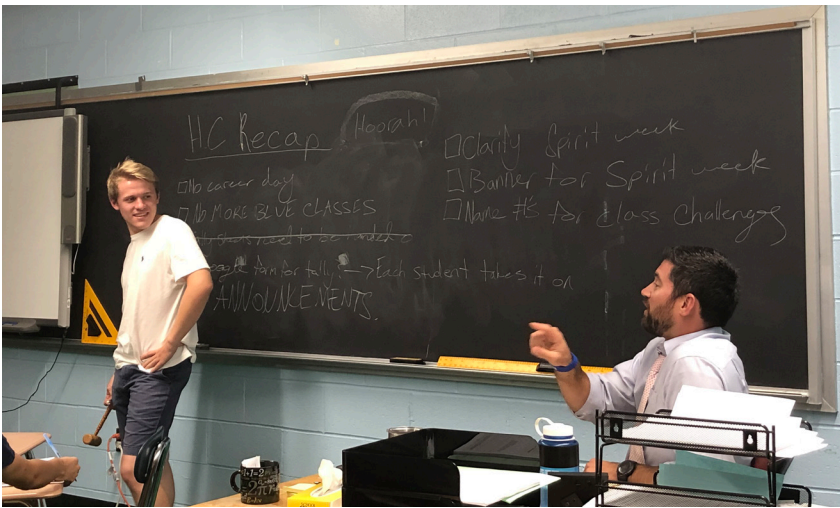


4th Place: Class of 2022, Monopoly



NEW GOVERNMENT OFFERS BIG CHANGE

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President Chris Mavrogian and Club Advisor Mr. Moriarty

challenges grades can sign up for and participate in for more points.”

With only one month down, the 2019-2020 student government has outpaced expectations of what a student government can do. Battle of the Classes is only one of the many ideas coming to Huntington High School.

Principal Cusack has announced a continuation of No Homework Wednesday every month. When asked about his opinion on the project, President Mavrogian commented, “...No Homework Night is really great... my issue is when teachers cram things on the other four days to fill in for the Wednesday.” The President’s comments are only one of the suggestions students have on the project, now going into its second year. Sources inside Student

Government suggest that there is a hidden push to expand the initiative. Many of these changes surprising the student body, like Olivia Perez (Senior) comments that the leadership is “...more committed to helping the community and organizing activities. Last year they were more laid back, but this time around is different. I am proud to be a Huntington student again.” Positive comments like that send waves of approval for Huntington’s Student Government.

Going forward, The Dispatch will be following the work of Student Government.

Meetings held every Tuesday in room 127, in the Math Hallway.

Follow for updates...

Instagram: @hufsdstudentgov

THIS YEAR’S HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH: A POETIC SLAM DUNK

By Erik Flores Reyes

Huntington High School has become a distinctive place for many people regardless of nationality or language. September is a truly extraordinary month for multiple students because the independence of their mother nation is celebrated. Various Hispanic countries in Central America gained their independence from Spain in September of 1821. To commemorate their history, Huntington High School allows students to adjust to a new environment by celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month from September 25 through October 25.

Teresa Connolly, an ENL English teacher, organizes Spanish Heritage Poetry every year, in which various students express themselves through the excellence of poetry. With the help of her students, Connolly adorned and prepared the setting for the event which took place in the newly renovated Huntington High School library. Some of the students who contributed to the decoration of the library included Bliden Martinez Argueta and Fredy Flores, who also participated in the event. The scene was set and full of enthusiastic young poets and spectators. It was a spectacular event.

Around twenty people shared a piece of their Spanish Heritage by writing poetry or using that of another to affirm their emotions. Poems were read to the audience in both Spanish and English to highlight the power in which poetry can unite a group of people in the community and teach a life lesson in the process. This allowed the attendees to break the barriers of language by allowing everyone to communicate their feelings through poetry. All in attendance could hear and observe the grandeur of language and poetry.

Franklin Ponce (Senior) at Huntington High School, composed several poems that were recited during the event. Most of his poems, in general, are private and express his personal life. He demonstrated great ability by composing several poems that impressed the audience. He is a strong writer and confessed that he composes all of his poems in the early morning. At 1:12 A.M., one day in March, he dedicated a poem to his mother, which expresses his affection toward his mom. This same poem was recited during the Poetry Reading event at Huntington High School. He received a lot of positive comments and exhorted him to write more poems

because of his impressive skills.

When one of the attendees, Bliden Martinez, was asked how these kinds of events impacted the Hispanic community, he responded, “These events, like Poetry Reading, makes us feel proud because we know that although we were not born in the United States, we are still doing great things and we are proud of our culture. And in the physical aspect of life, I think that this event helps students

...poetry can unite a group of people in the community and teach a life lesson in the process.

coming from foreign countries because they know that they can express themselves in Huntington High School; They feel safe”. Huntington High School has become a place of mixed cultures, where hate is overcome by acts of kindness.

When Teresa Connolly was asked the essential question, “What were your motives for doing the event?”, she said, “I wanted to bring Hispanic Heritage month into the light, as an opportunity for students to realize that the contributions Hispanic or Latinx people have made to American society are innumerable. These have come from heads of state, scientists, doctors, journalists, sports legends and writers to name a few. I decided to have students choose poetry written by Hispanic/Latinx authors to read because many authors help us realize that we all have struggles along the same path. By having students read poetry of their own or from published authors, we are given a glimpse of the hearts and minds of Hispanic people who have contributed to American society and the canon of literature. Students read several poems. A list of the poets included HHS student Franklin Ponce and other published others like Jimmy Santiago Baca, Gary Soto, Francisco X. Alarcon, and Luis Alberto Ambroggio, among others. Sometimes the words we read resonate with some of our experiences, sometimes they teach us, and sometimes they simply make us feel, but always they help us recognize our humanity.

“I’m always motivated by ways I can help students experience the English language and a sense of belonging. Having the students read original and published poetry to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in the newly renovated space in the library was a chance for them to participate in something that they already belong to. Having an experience such as this, helps them forget the preoccupations that come with language barriers and enables them to find joy in the experience of reading poetry.”

All of the magnificence endured that day illustrates the true value of cultural diversity. Poetry can unite our minds, hearts, and souls. All of this makes our school a better place due to the shared benevolence.

The next Poetry Reading will be hosted by the English National Honor Society and it will take place at the Huntington High School library, on October 23rd.



Spanish Heritage Month Attendees

VERSIÓN EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PRÓXIMA PÁGINA

EL MES DE LA HERENCIA HISPANA: UN GOLPE DE POESIA

By Erik Flores Reyes

La escuela secundaria de Huntington se ha convertido en un lugar distintivo para muchas personas, independientemente de su nacionalidad o idioma. Septiembre es un mes verdaderamente extraordinario para muchos estudiantes porque se celebra la independencia de muchos países hispanos. Varios países hispanos en América Central se independizaron de España en septiembre de 1821. Para conmemorar su historia, la escuela de Huntington le ayuda a los estudiantes adaptarse a un nuevo entorno al celebrar el Mes de la Herencia Hispana comenzando el 25 de septiembre al 25 de octubre.

Teresa Connolly, profesora de inglés ENL, organiza el Día De Poesía en honor a la herencia española todos los años, en la que varios estudiantes se expresan a través de la excelencia de la poesía. Con la ayuda de sus alumnos, Connolly adornó y preparó el escenario para el evento que tomó lugar en la biblioteca recientemente renovada de la escuela. Algunos de los estudiantes que contribuyeron a la decoración de la biblioteca incluyeron a Bliden Martinez Argueta y Fredy Flores, quienes también participaron en el evento. La escena estaba ambientada y llena de entusiastas poetas y espectadores jóvenes. En verdad que fue un evento espectacular.

Alrededor de veinte personas compartieron una parte de su herencia española al escribir poesía o usando la de otro para afirmar sus emociones. Se leyeron poemas a la audiencia en español e inglés para resaltar el poder en que la poesía puede unir a un grupo de personas en la comunidad y enseñar una lección de vida en el proceso. Esto permitió a los asistentes romper las barreras del lenguaje al permitir que todos comuniquen sus sentimientos a través de la poesía. Todos los asistentes pudieron escuchar y observar la grandeza del lenguaje y la poesía.

Franklin Ponce (cursante del grado 12) compuso varios poemas que fueron recitados durante el evento. La mayoría de sus poemas, en general, son privados y expresan su vida personal. Él demostró una gran habilidad al componer varios poemas que impresionaron al público. Es un escritor fuerte y confesó que compone todos sus poemas temprano en la mañana. A las 1:12 a.m., un día de marzo, le dedicó un poema a su madre, que expresa su afecto hacia su madre. Este mismo poema fue recitado durante el evento de Lectura de Poesía en la escuela secundaria de Huntington. Él recibió muchos comentarios positivos y se le exhortó a escribir más poemas debido a que él tiene potencial e impresionantes habilidades.

Cuando se le preguntó a uno de los asistentes, Bliden Martínez, cómo este tipo de eventos impactó a la comunidad hispana, él re-

spondió: “Estos eventos, como el día de la poesía bilingüe, nos hacen sentir orgullosos porque sabemos que aunque no nacimos en los Estados Unidos, todavía estamos haciendo grandes cosas y estamos orgullosos de nuestra cultura. En el aspecto físico de la vida, creo que este evento ayuda a los estudiantes que vienen de países extranjeros a sentirse como en casa porque saben que pueden expresarse en Huntington High School; Se sienten seguros “. Huntington High School se ha convertido en un lugar de culturas mixtas, donde el odio se supera con actos de bondad.

Cuando se le preguntó a Teresa Connolly la pregunta esencial: “¿Cuáles fueron sus motivos para hacer el evento?”, ella respondió, “Quería sacar a la luz el mes de la herencia hispana, como una oportunidad para que los estudiantes se den cuenta de que las contribuciones que las personas hispanas o latinas han hecho a la sociedad estadounidense son innumerables. Estos han venido de jefes de estado, científicos, médicos, periodistas, leyendas deportivas y escritores, por nombrar algunos. Decidí que los estudiantes elijan poesía escrita por autores hispanos / latinos para leer porque muchos autores nos ayudan a darnos cuenta de que todos tenemos dificultades en el mismo camino. Al hacer que los estudiantes lean poesía propia o de autores publicados, podemos vislumbrar los corazones y las mentes de los hispanos que han contribuido a la sociedad estadounidense y al canon de la literatura. Los alumnos leen varios poemas. Una lista de los poetas incluía al estudiante de la escuela secundaria de Huntington, Franklin Ponce, y otros autores publicados como Jimmy Santiago Baca, Gary Soto, Francisco X. Alarcón y Luis Alberto Ambroggio, entre otros. A veces las palabras que leemos resuenan con algunas de nuestras experiencias, a veces nos enseñan, y a veces simplemente nos hacen sentir, pero siempre nos ayudan a reconocer nuestra humanidad.”

“Siempre estoy motivada por las formas en que puedo ayudar a los estudiantes a experimentar el idioma inglés y un sentido de pertenencia. Hacer que los estudiantes leyera poesía original y publicada para celebrar el Mes de la Herencia Hispana en el espacio recientemente renovado de la biblioteca fue una oportunidad para que participaran en algo a lo que ya pertenecen. Tener una experiencia como esta, les ayuda a olvidar las preocupaciones que conllevan las barreras del idioma y les permite encontrar alegría en la experiencia de leer poesía.”

Toda la magnificencia que perduró ese día ilustra el verdadero valor de la diversidad cultural. La poesía puede unir nuestras mentes, corazones y almas. Todo esto hace que nuestra escuela sea un lugar mejor, debido a la benevolencia compartida.

La próxima lectura de poesía será organizada por la Sociedad Nacional Honoraria de Inglés y tomará lugar en la biblioteca de escuela secundaria de Huntington, el 23 de octubre.

• • •

AN E-PIDEMIC

By Emerson Forbes

E-cigarettes are everywhere nowadays. They rest in the hands of over 10 million adults across the country and are conveniently stashed away in the backpacks of one in four high school seniors. Vapes have even reached the lower grades. According to an annual survey conducted by the University of Michigan, one in eleven 8th graders has vaped in the past month. With fake IDs and easy online access, supplying yourself with ample vapes and e-liquids is absurdly easy. Vape companies such as Juul advertise themselves as a less harmful and “satisfying alternative to cigarettes,” which has enabled their company to reach a valuation of \$30 billion. Such advertising, however, has proven to be both deceptive and intended to target underaged users. As a result, the use of vapes has exploded, with most cautionary tales disregarded and ignored. Now, as was the case with cigarettes, we are beginning to move past the novelty of their enveloping haze and see these devices for what they truly are. Specifically, we are beginning to see hundreds of victims with mysterious and deadly ill-

nesses, and vape companies with blood on their hands.

Over the past few months, vapes and e-cigarettes have been linked to a mysterious lung illness. As of Oc-



tober 3rd, eighteen people have died from vape-related illnesses and over one thousand contracted a peculiar lung disease. With hundreds of new cases having been reported in the past weeks, these numbers continue to climb. Unsurprisingly, these victims have one thing

in common: they all are heavy vapers. The wide array of options available to users has made it impossible to link a certain substance, device, or cartridge to all of the cases. Ideally, the Centers for Disease Control would have been able to connect this unexpected surge of vape-related illnesses and fatalities to a newer or recently-altered product or substance. However, this has not been the case, so the root cause remains unknown.

The uncontested leader of the vape industry, Juul Labs, has based its entire advertisement campaign on the allure of switching from cigarettes to Juul while presenting their product as a safer alternative to cigarettes. Users never stopped to consider, however, just how similar a Juul may be to the cocktail of chemicals contained in cigarettes, which kill more than 480,000 people each year. We do know that a Juul pod contains twenty cigarettes worth of nicotine, as well as glycerol, propylene glycerol, benzoic acid, and flavorant, according to Juul’s website. However, the health effects of inhaling these chemicals are mostly unknown. At present, Juul has halted \$104 million in advertising and replaced its CEO, Kevin Burns with a chief growth officer at Altria, a major investor in Juul and ironically, a tobacco compa-

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ny. Despite this rampant uncertainty and state of flux, Juuls and other vape products remain heavily used.

Multiple school districts, including the Three Village Central School District in Long Island, are suing Juul, claiming that Juul's products and advertising target children and has led to a crisis throughout both the school district and the country. The lawsuit also

Juul has halted \$104 million in advertising and replaced its CEO, Kevin Burns with a chief growth officer at Altria, a major investor in Juul and ironically, a tobacco company.

says that school districts have been disproportionately affected by Juul; districts such as Three Village have spent large sums of money combating vapes in their schools. Juul's decision to suspend "all broadcast, print and digital product advertising in the U.S." in late September came too late, according to documents filed in the lawsuit.

"What scares me about vapes is that they seem to be walking in the shoes of cigarette companies," said Jonathon Koumas, a senior at Huntington High School. "Cigarettes were

Over the past few months, vapes and e-cigarettes have been linked to a mysterious lung illness. As of October 3rd, eighteen people have died from vape-related illnesses and over one thousand contracted a peculiar lung disease. With hundreds of new cases having been reported in the past weeks, these numbers continue to climb. Unsurprisingly, these victims have one thing in common: they all are heavy vapers. The wide array of options available to users has made it impossible to link a certain substance, device, or cartridge to all of the cases. Ideally, the Centers for Disease Control would have been able to connect this unexpected surge of vape-related illnesses and fatalities to a newer or recently-altered product or substance. However, this has not been the case, so the root cause remains unknown.

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"What scares me about vapes is that they seem to be walking in the shoes of cigarette companies," said Jonathon Koumas, a senior at Huntington High School. "Cigarettes were



initially smoked without hesitation, and as history has shown, this was a mistake. People continue to smoke them despite the abundance of health risks," he said. "Vapes are fairly new to the market, and health risks have already emerged. I don't look forward to seeing what the future holds for us."

Another reason teens disregard

the health risks of vaping relates to the internal and external features of common vapes. E-cigarettes offer their users a convenient and smell-free fix,

"Vapes are fairly new to the market, and health risks have already emerged. I don't look forward to seeing what the future holds for us." -Senior Jonathon Koumas

putting vape companies on a pedestal above cigarettes. This, of course, does not correspond to any health benefits as vapes and e-cigarettes have not yet proven to be any less deadly than cigarettes. Additionally, flavored vapes come in bright colors and flavors that naturally appeal to young users. It is because of this that states such as New York have decided to temporarily ban flavored e-cigarettes while health risks are vigorously investigated.

In early September, President Trump announced his plans to ban flavored e-cigarettes, stating that, "We can't allow people to get sick. . . we can't have our kids be so affected." Since then, multiple states have announced bans on e-cigarettes, and several more are planning to do the same.

Yet another contributing factor to the vape crisis is marijuana vape pens, which contain the psychoactive chemical THC. These products have been swept into the controversy, and many users are beginning to question the contents of their THC cartridges. As a result, marijuana pens are beginning to lose their share in the cannabis market, with a decline of 4.6 percent in Nevada and 4.2 percent in California, according to data from Headset analytics.

In a statement, Dr. Norman Sharpless, the current acting FDA Commissioner, discussed the inherent paradox of e-cigarettes. "While they were pitched as a way to get smokers to stop lighting up, they hooked a new generation that may end up smoking traditional cigarettes to get that fix." Without vapes, the number of available nicotine products would be significantly smaller than it is now, forcing those affected to choose between quitting and cigarettes, chewing tobacco, etc. Certainly, some will invariably choose the latter, at great risk to their health and possibly their lives.

LAST MONTH'S CLIMATE STRIKE

By Sophia Segal

On Friday, September 20th, millions took part in climate strikes around the world. Women, men, and children attended strikes to protest against the climate crisis. Students left school early or took a day off in order to get their message across.

Climate activist Greta Thunberg attended the strike in New York, where she discussed what actions need to be taken to prevent the climate crisis from evolving. Greta and many others stated this by march-

ing, reading speeches and holding up signs.

The goal of this strike was to encourage people to change their actions and emphasize that this is not a new issue. This was expressed mainly by students. Groups in schools have been created surrounding the climate movement. This includes the youth led group, Sunrise Huntington, which was established this past August. Senior, Bella Fodera, a member of Sunrise Huntington, said this group "brings people together with the common goal of promoting a sustainable lifestyle and climate justice for animals and humans alike." In addition to the Sunrise

Movement, other groups such as SustainUS and Uplift are led by students and aim to help people learn more about the climate at a young age. The hope is to make people realize that there is a large climate crisis.



IS TIKTOK HERE TO STAY OR TO GO?

By Cassidy Casabona

When you were little, did you ever participate in a fad that only lasted for a few months or maybe even just a few years? I for one, was a heavy collector of silly bandz and beanie boos who loved to make rainbow loom bracelets for hours. Once I decided to become a “beauty guru” where I would collect lip balm and hand sanitizers from Bath and Body Works and review them on Instagram. Yes I know, collecting hand sanitizers is a strange obsession to have as a little kid, but I will admit that I enjoyed it very much.

August of 2018, Musical.ly was purchased by a similar company called TikTok, which merged the two apps and users together to create a larger community.

Do you remember that time where flipping water bottles was an actual thing and spinning a fidget spinner was fascinating? I remember the days where I would walk into FAD, a store in Huntington for many years before it closed down, and look through all of the crazy gadgets and toys. I cannot forget wanting to buy everything, and being disappointed when my mom said no because she knew I would lose interest within a few weeks. These were the trends that made our childhood and we will look back on them forever.

Another fad that was very popular was Musical.ly, an app where people were able to film and post videos of themselves lip-syncing. Many people, including myself, joined the “muser family” and started filming videos of songs or scenes from movies. Eventually, people started to get famous from their videos. Muser, Danielle Cohn, gained almost 4 million followers on Instagram and had more than 10 million on Musical.ly just from making videos on this platform. Jacob Sartorius, Baby Ariel, and Loren Gray were some other popular users as well. Although this app was very trendy, it was only a fad, so after a couple of years the user number went down and all of those videos and famous musers were seen as “cringe-worthy.”

Around August of 2018, Musical.ly was purchased by a similar company called TikTok, which merged the two apps and users together to create a larger community. After that, Musical.ly was no longer to be found, but TikTok started to grow popular. Now this app, rather than lip-syncing, is about dancing and making relatable

videos. Within this app, there are dances that are trends, of which only last for a few weeks before they become old. Anyone with a TikTok account can make a video. When finding a sound for their video, TikTok users can even go to a trending list and find the most popular songs so they can stay in the loop.

Over the summer, many teens spent hours scrolling through TikTok and making videos, fantasizing over becoming “TikTok famous.” Let’s be honest, how many hours did you really spend looking at videos on the “For You Page?” A lot right? I too, spent way more time on that app than I should have. Whenever most teens hear songs that are on TikTok, they instantly think, “Hey, isn’t this the song from TikTok?”. Just look at our pep rally this year. Many sports teams made a mashup of TikTok songs and dances as their pep rally choreography. TikTok has popularized new dance moves like the “Woah,” and more. This app has also created a new term to describe groups such as “e-girls/e-boys” and “vsco girls.” If you hear your fellow classmates in the hallways saying “I dropped my hydro flask, and I oop, sksksksk,” know that this phrase was also popularized by the app.

The real question is whether or not TikTok is a fad, or if it is here to stay as a social media platform. With all of the terms TikTok has brought to Generation Z and with new dances and trends constantly being created on the app, it seems like TikTok is here to stay permanently. However, when you see what happened to Musical.ly or even Vine, another social media app that was shut down, it seems that TikTok will eventually follow in their path. What do you think? Will TikTok’s popularity soon come to an end or is it here to stay for good?



WAS IT CHAPTER 2 A DISAPPOINTING SEQUEL?

By Abby Simon

After the initial showing of the blockbuster film, It Chapter 2 on September 6, 2019, there were many controversial opinions over the quality of the movie. It 2 was the sequel to the first movie which was released September 8, 2017. The original film was praised for being a great film adaption to the Steven King novel, The sequel takes place 27 years after the original film, where the protagonists have to return to their hometown to try and kill the evil entity that resides in their town.

However, many feel that the new movie did not live up to the standards of the original. Fans feel as though the sequel was not as creepy as the original movie, and instead relies more on jump scares and mediocre special effects to spook the audience. Instead of having scenes with a lot of tension that builds up fear, the audience is just hit with one jumpscare after another. Along with the constant jumpscares, the CGI of the movie is just not up to par with most recent movies. CGI stands for comput-

er-generated imagery, widely practiced in horror movies today. The monsters are just not as scary when they look fake. The original movie had excellent CGI and creepy scenes which made it much better in fans’ opinions.

The monsters are just not as scary when they look fake... the use of CGI to de-age the actors doesn’t look right.

Additionally, due to the fact that the kids who were in the original movie have aged dramatically since the original films premiere, the use of CGI to de-age the actors doesn’t look right. One common link between both movies is that the actors are great in the movie. Actors such as James McAvoy and Bill Hader brought up the quality of the movie. Another good part of the movie was that the plot was easy to follow as it generally followed the book through a large extent of the film.

In conclusion, though the movie had some bad scares and worse CGI, it was made up for with a good plot and actors. People have their own opinions on the movie, those who were huge fans of the first movie thought that it was a great squeal. On the other hand, those who saw the movie for the fright aspect were greatly disappointed.



OPEN LETTER FROM A GYMNAST

By Lucas Cirlincione

Gymnastics is a very interesting sport when it comes to the concept of the little details involved and the various key details that need to be understood before attempting the many dangerous stunts and skills in the sport. I, for one, love the sport and its many components but for some, it may just seem like a confusing, dangerous, and scary activity. You may assume that the sport may be just for girls, however, it is quite unique for men to do gymnastics as I started out doing gymnastics when I was only five years old. I absolutely loved doing the various exercises as I sweat for three hours straight. I know that may not sound very appealing to most, but for me, it was absolutely amazing getting up on a tall bar at the age of five and getting to swing off of it into a foam pit. As I slowly grew through the years going through countless levels of challenges, I learned new skills that all contribute to the bigger and more breathtaking skills I am able to accomplish now. My brother, Sam, is also an amazing gymnast, trains with me at Hotshots gymnastics, right outside of Syosset. One year, we both had an amazing year as we each claimed a second prize in level 6 at the Regional competition. Having gone through three years consisting of compulsory and team, with an additional seven at levels four, five, six (twice), eight, nine and the highest level, then, I will continue to practice throughout high school. My brother is close behind as this is his 9th year and he is going through his second year at level nine. Level ten is a challenging level for me as I am competing against many other competitors. Just last year there were over 150 kids in my age group alone for the regional competition. I ended up finishing one

placement short of a trip to the national championship, although it was disappointing, I have made it my priority to get a lot better to be able to make it next season to nationals. My parents have been very supportive of my career as they have been the ones to come to every meeting and pick me up from every practice. They are also the ones that pay for my classes and training. I also have the support of my Coach Cris and my former Coach Erika. With their help, I was able to go from a forward roll to a front handspring to a frontflip and so on and so forth. I absolutely love this sport as it has also made me strong and it has revealed characteristics about me that have 100% changed my life.



Gymnast Simone Biles representing the US

→news in short

(continued from front page)

◇ Homecoming Pep Rally Moved Outside

On September 20th, 2019, Huntington High School changed its annual pep rally tradition and held this exciting event outside. With the luck of beautiful weather, sports teams took to the field while other students stood in the bleachers to celebrate Blue Devil Pride. Students had very mixed opinions on the change.

◇ Parking Lot incident Triggers Calls of Safety

An after school incident in the high school parking lot resulted in the injury within the first weeks of Senior driving privileges. The incident cuased immediate calls for students to slow down and be more aware of surrounding pedestrians.



◇ Citi Field Hosts Rolling Loud

On Columbus Day’s long weekend, many Huntington High School students and others in neighboring areas took to Citi Field for the Rolling Loud music festival. With an extensive rap lineup including Travis Scott, Wu-Tang Clan, and Lil Uzi Vert, Megan Thee Stallion, Denzel Curry, Rico Nasty, Pusha T, A\$ap Rocky, and so much more. The festival received great reviews from students from all grades that attended.

Presented by Dispatch Editors

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that needs to be heard...
we will listen.

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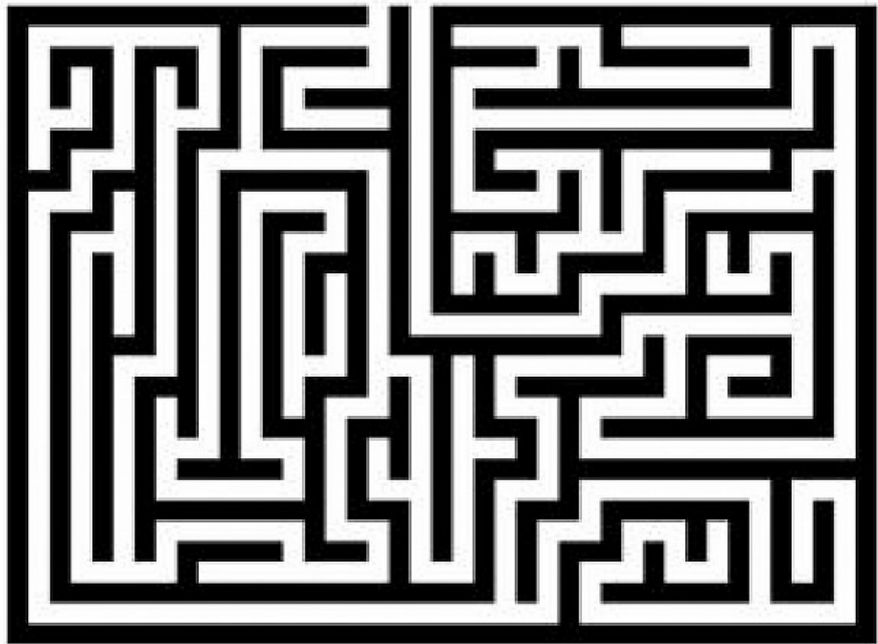
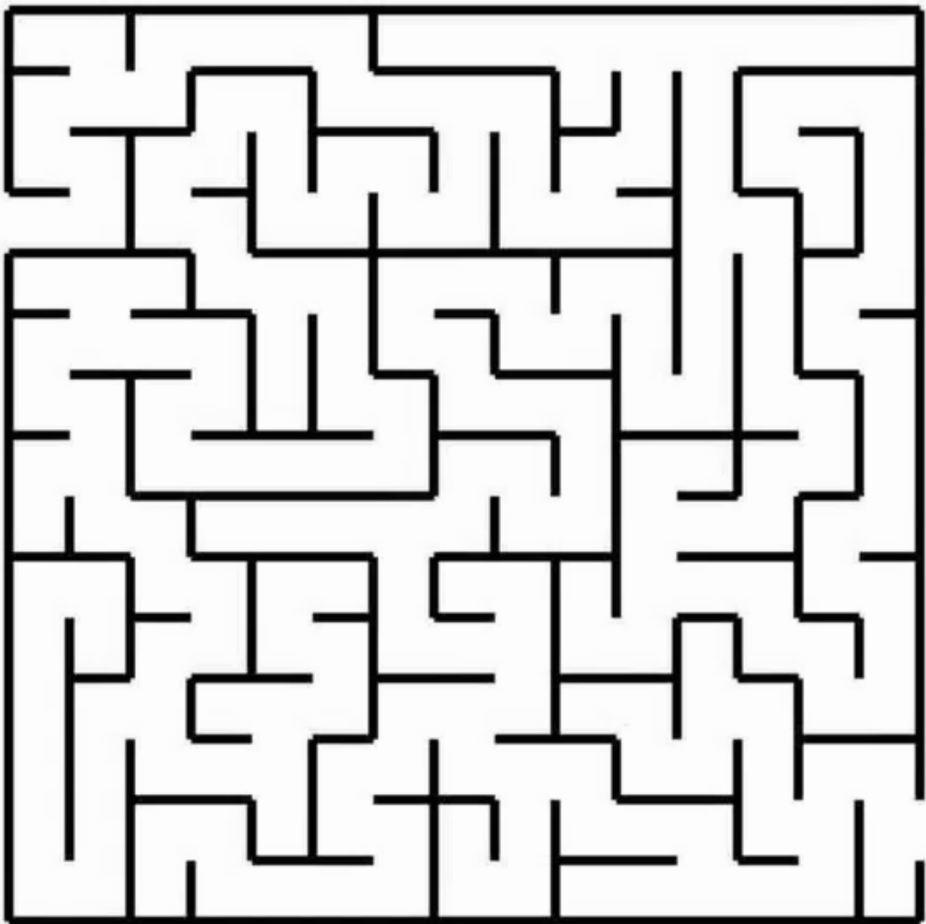
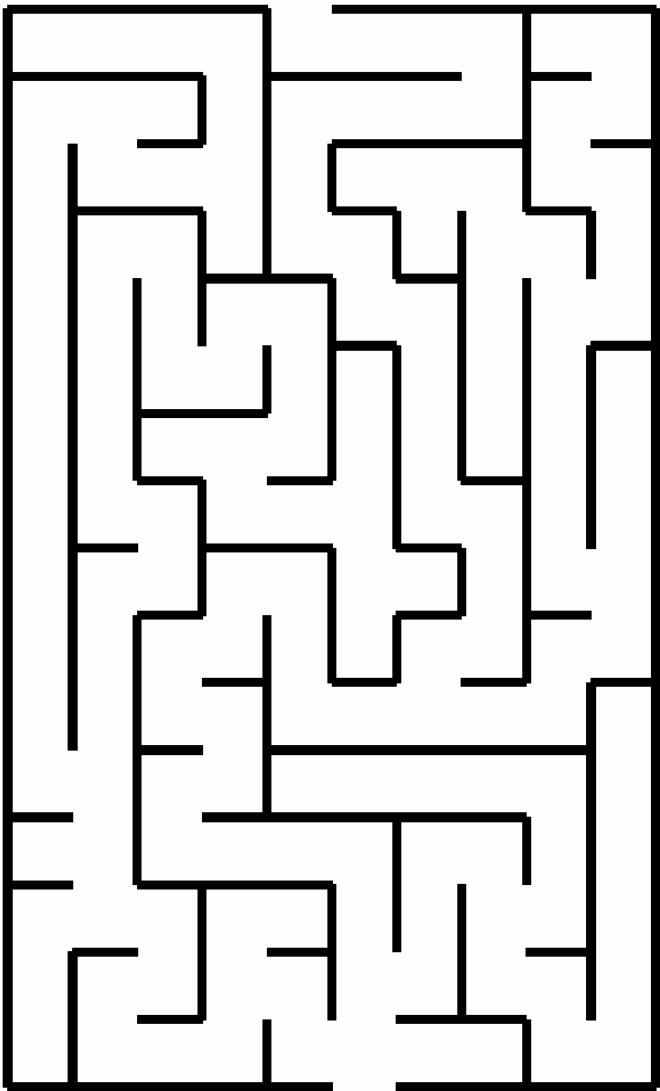
MEETINGS ON WEDNESDAYS IN ROOM 207



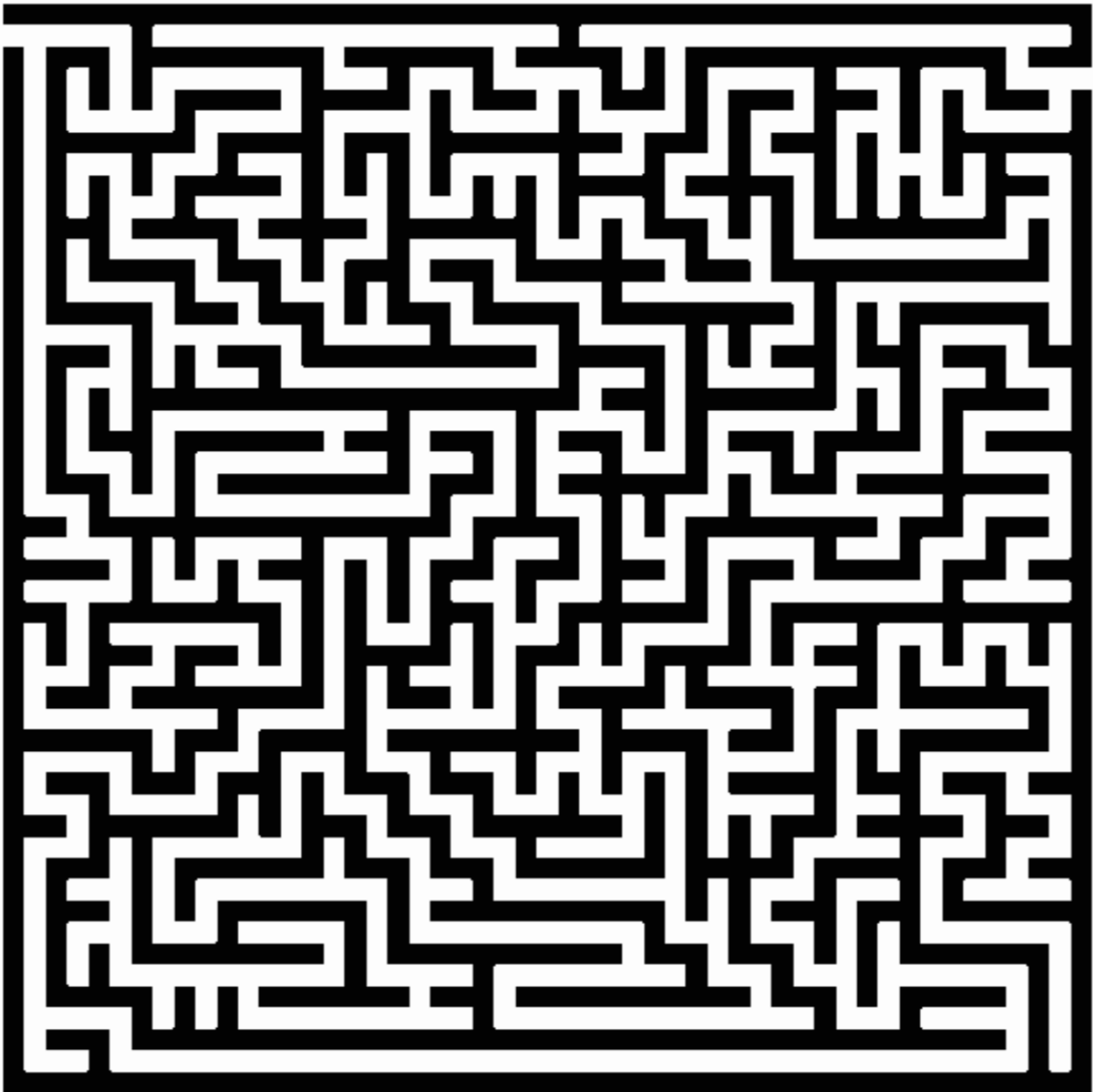
SPAGHETTI

By Jamie Kretschmer

LIL MAZIE



MEGA LEVEL 100



THE DISPATCH supports **Huntington High School Clubs**

CALENDAR

Monday

Habitat for Humanity- Room 140, Heritage Room
Robotics- Room 013

Tuesday

Gay Straight Alliance (GSA)- Room 110
Mathletes- Room 121
Science Research- Room 112
Student Government- Room 127

Wednesday

History Day- Room 204
Interact Club- Room 214
Key Club- Room 140, Heritage Room
The Dispatch- Room 209
Women's Empowerment- Room 110

Thursday

Debate Club- Room 207
Grandfriends (typically once a month)- Room 201
ETCETERA- Room 240
A World of Difference (AWOD)- Room 201
Stage Crew- Auditorium
United Amigos- Room 143

Friday

Environmental Club- Room 141
Yearbook- Room 223

MINECRAFT: A RENAISSANCE

By Luke Rinaldi

Remember when you were in elementary school and all you wanted to do was play Minecraft? Well just like Crocs, it's back. You can finally reunite with your Minecraft dog from six years ago without being shamed for it (maybe). Who's to blame for this resurgence? Influencers. Since its inception in 2009, Minecraft has been providing hours of entertainment to children and adults alike. Its intuitive building me-



chanics and unique style have enticed over 170 million people worldwide to join the game. There were a total of 112 million active players this past September. However, this massive popularity is coming off of a high of several years. This high was likely caused by an oversaturation of the market with other games, as well as less coverage by major presences in the gaming community. With these reasons for people to stop playing, why the sudden burst in popularity? Well, it's a lot more complicated than you may think. As you may know, from the years 2017-2019, there was a major shift in popular game genres. Games like Overwatch and Call of Duty took a backseat to the new king: Player's Unknown Battle Ground or PUBG. The prominence of PUBG in the gaming community incited a mad race for profits. Additionally, new battle royale games were being churned out by the minute. As these games flooded the market, titles like Fortnite and Apex Legends floated to the top. Fortnite would eventually dethrone PUBG, and would remain at the top of the charts until a new challenger appeared. That challenger was, you guessed it: Minecraft. Riding on the shoulders of a Swedish man and his pixelated horse, Minecraft re-established itself as a major player in the gaming industry. Now, if you live under a rock, you might be wondering who this Swedish man is. He's none other a youtuber with the second most subscribers on the platform, PewDiePie.



Amassing an audience of over 100 million people, you can be sure that he'll get a message across. Therefore when he decided to pick up Minecraft, you can bet that his massive fanbase did the same. PewDiePie's Minecraft series can best be described as an incredibly obscure inside joke. If you heard the words "Water Sheep" and "Feigi the Chicken" in a conversation without knowing the context, you would probably question the other person's sanity. Nevertheless, the series was a "must watch," and thus spread between teenagers across the nation. Personally, watching the videos gave me an overwhelming desire to play Minecraft, and I am sure it did the same

PewDiePie's Minecraft series can best be described as an incredibly obscure inside joke.

for countless others. As a result, the game's popularity grew exponentially putting it in an ideal position. In addition, people were finally getting tired of the same battle royale game branded 60 different ways, so even more of them jumped on the Minecraft bandwagon. As one can see, the combination of influence from a massive gaming presence and a shared apathy toward battle royale games facilitated the rebirth of Minecraft that has been seen since mid-2019. So put on your Crocs, fire up your console (or PC), launch Minecraft, and see for yourself what all the rage is about.



OREO'S NEW STUNT!

By Kiara Gelbman

Once again, Oreo has released a new flavor that is the talk of the town. What is it, you may be wondering? Well, that's the ultimate question. While this may look like a regular oreo with white filling surrounded by chocolate cookie, this definitely is not the case. From the moment the package is opened, the unique scent of the 2019 Mystery Flavor Oreos fills the air. Yes, you heard me,



Mystery Flavor Oreos. With an incentive of \$50,000 in prize money, each year Nabisco releases a mystery flavored oreo for the world to guess. This year there are clues posted online to help solve the mystery.

With three full packs of Oreos, I set out across the school asking students and teachers what they think the mystery flavor oreo is. The most common answer is graham cracker which was voted by eighteen people. The next most popular answer is cinnamon, followed by churro. Some of the other guesses included snickerdoodle, airplane cookies, eggnog, cinnamon bun, gingerbread, honey, cinnamon toast crunch, pumpkin, smores, and french toast.

After learning these thoughts on the taste and smell, I made my way to the two clues that were posted online. The first was, "Its name it stole and history kept. Perhaps from a creature that lived on the steppe?" followed by "often paired with chocolate, hence why we chose it. We'll keep the suspense 'til everyone knows it." Are you thinking what I'm thinking? I think I know the flavor, do you? Stay posted in the next issue for the results.

(Feel free to find me in the halls and tell me your guesses!)

VARSITY SOCCER’S FIRST EVER HOMECOMING GAME IS A 1-0 VICTORY

By Nick Thompson

Huntington Boys Soccer had never had a Homecoming game before, but after this one there will surely be another. After opening the season with two victories in three games, the Blue Devils prevailed further this past Saturday.

The game started quickly. Huntington was quickly on the front foot after peppering shots for the first 10 minutes. Starting Senior strikers, Jasson Garay and Manny Reyes, were important factors as their speed made it difficult for Centereach to bring the ball out of the back. However, at the heart of the Huntington team, was Senior Captain, Brian Contreras.

“We were very hard working, we just need to tune some things up... we were very in sync with each other,” said Contreras. You’ll find this captain is one of the most humble around. When asked about the feeling of scoring a winning goal, Contreras said, “It always feels good to score the winning goal, but it wasn’t my effort, it was an effort by other teammates.” His penalty in the first half sealed the deal for the Blue Devils.

The game could not have been won without Huntington’s rock solid Senior Goalkeeper, Cole Pillion. The prominent keeper tallied a total of eight saves, with the biggest being the 15th minute after denying Centereach a promising one-on-one opportunity.

Fourteen-year coach, Jason Suarez, described Pillion perfectly. “He’s a beast,” said Suarez, “ He’s made some huge saves

that have kept us in big games this year.” The rest of the team surely agrees; Pillion has racked up 34 saves already this season.

Since the seasons start, Huntington has played well. They have talent in every position along with depth on the bench. Most importantly, the boys have fun. They can make any bad situation into a promising one. The sky is the limit for these Blue Devils.



Senior Goalkeeper Cole Pillion

QUARTERBACK EPIDEMIC!

Nearly ¼ of all NFL Teams are forced to settle with their backup QBs...

How are they doing now?

By Ryan Porizo

This week was the first regular season week in the NFL in 15 years where at least one starting quarterback including Ben Roelitsberger, Drew Brees, or Eli Manning did not start for their respective teams. That’s nearly as long as most of this years freshmen and some sophomores have been alive. These 3 weren’t the only starting quarterbacks who didn’t start this week due to being injured, benched, or retirement. We saw a number of backup quarterbacks having major shoes to fill due to the absence of their franchise quarterbacks. It’s some sort of epidemic! Here’s some of the changes you will see in this upcoming season.



Jacoby Brissett

Team: New York Jets
Starting QB: Sam Darnold
Replacement: Luke Falk

Quarterback Sam Darnold of the New York Jets was diagnosed with mononucleosis (mono) just days after their week one 17-16 loss to the Buffalo Bills. If things couldn’t get worse, the Jets’ backup, Trevor Simiean, suffered a brutal ankle injury early on in a 23-3 loss against the Cleveland Browns. As a result, he Jets were forced to call on Luke Falk. Since Darnold’s diagnosis, the Jets have not scored an offensive touchdown in eight quarters. They are 0-3 after getting dismantled by the New England Patriots (30-14).



Team: Indianapolis Colts
Starting QB : Andrew Luck
Replacement: Jacoby Brissett

In a preseason game, shocking news spread across the sports world as superstar quarterback, Andrew Luck, 29, retired from the NFL. Without Luck, the Colts plummeted from a real title contender (15-1 odds to win the Superbowl) into mediocrity (30-1 odds). However, losing Luck hasn’t hurt the Colts who have carried on as a very talented team. Jacoby Brissett has been playing very well and the Colts are 2-1 after defeating the Tennessee Titans (19-17) and Atlanta Falcons (27-24). Their only loss so far was to the LA Chargers (30-24)



Jacoby Brissett



Daniel Jones

Team: New York Giants

Starting QB: Eli Manning

Replacement: Daniel Jones

In a week two game against the Rams, last year's runner up for MVP, quarterback Drew Brees, injured his thumb and had to leave the game. As it turns out, the injury was severe and he will be out for several weeks. Backup Quarterback, Teddy Bridgewater, had to enter the game, resulting in a 27-9 loss. However, the next week Bridgewater played very well as the Saints toppled the Seattle Seahawks 33-27.

Team: New York Giants

Starting QB: Eli Manning

Replacement: Daniel Jones

Going into week three, Giants coach Pat Shurmer announced that rookie quarterback Daniel Jones would get the starting nod for the then 0-2 Giants in place of legend, Eli Manning. Jones took the field and shocked his many haters as he scorched the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in an 18 point comeback win. Jones threw for 336 passing yards and had four total touchdowns (two passing and two rushing). Not bad, rook.



Teddy Bridgewater

Team: New Orleans Saints

Starting QB: Drew Brees

Replacement: Teddy Bridgewater

In a week two game against the Rams, last year's runner up for MVP, quarterback Drew Brees, injured his thumb and had to leave the game. As it turns out, the injury was severe and he will be out for several weeks. Backup Quarterback, Teddy Bridgewater, had to enter the game, resulting in a 27-9 loss. However, the next week Bridgewater played very well as the Saints toppled the Seattle Seahawks 33-27.

Team: Pittsburgh Steelers

QB: Mason Rudolph

Replacing: Ben Roethlisberger

In week two, while suffering a 28-26 loss against the Seattle Seahawks, future Hall of famer Ben Roethlisberger suffered an elbow injury, making him unable to play for the remainder of the season. The new offense led by Mason Rudolph hasn't looked great as the Steelers record is an underwhelming 0-3. The Terrible Towels are looking quite terrible.



Ben Roethlisberger

Team: Jacksonville Jaguars

Starting QB: Nick Foles

Replacement: Gardner Minshew

In the season opener against the Kansas City Chiefs, the Jaguars suffered a 40-26 loss. Additionally, newly acquired and \$88 million dollar man, quarterback Nick Foles, broke his clavicle on a touchdown pass. Rookie quarterback, Gardner Minshew, now has to play for the rest of the season. The Jaguars are 1-1 with Minshew starting and he has taken over the league with his play and his colourful personality.



Gardner Minshew

Team: Carolina Panthers

Starting QB: Cam Newton

Replacement: Kyle Allen

After two poor performances, the Panthers wanted to re-evaluate Cam Newton's injury and Kyle Allen got the starting nod against the Arizona Cardinals. Allen played fantastic tossing four touchdowns in a 38-20 win, giving Carolina their first win of the season. Maybe a quarterback controversy is starting in Carolina?



Kyle Allen