



The Dispatch

"A beacon of truth."

Issue 2, Volume 37

Huntington High School

Oakwood and McKay Roads Huntington, NY 11743

DECEMBER09



PHOTO: LAUREN CAMPBELL

»news in short

Athletes honored at Suffolk Zone reception

Senior athletes Meredith McCourt (soccer, basketball, and track) and Ryan Greenhill (volleyball and lacrosse) were honored by Suffolk Zone for being outstanding individuals both on and off the field. These students are highly respected and serve as role models to their peers.

Suffolk Zone offers this award to only one male and one female from each high school in Suffolk. Qualifications include a 3.0 GPA as well as demonstration of leadership characteristics.

Finello's term extended

Due to numerous pressing issues facing the HUFSD, the Board of Ed. voted to postpone the retirement of Superintendent Finello for a full year, extending his contract until June 2011.

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Kids who help kids

by SAM WIDERMAN

Some people may notice that every Wednesday, a group of students meets in a small, hot pink room just outside the cafeteria. These students are the Natural Helpers. Each one is selected based on recommendations from his or her teachers and peers. Many students in the school see them go to their private area of the cafeteria to eat their lunch on Wednesdays, but they don't see anything else. It makes sense for people to wonder, "What does this club even do?"



PHOTO: LAUREN CAMPBELL

■ A group of Natural Helpers congregates during a 7th period meeting.

Natural Helpers is a national program that runs in high schools across the U.S., including neighboring schools such as Walt Whitman and Harborfields. The program at our school has been running for over 25 years and is also supported by the non-profit Tri Community and Youth Agency (TRI CYA), whose Assistant Regional Director, Mairead Kelly, has been advising the program along with Mr. Gilmor for years. The goal of the program is mainly to provide additional training and support to students throughout the school who already help their friends with conflicts and hard decisions. An anonymous survey is given out to students and teachers to help find these students and invite them to an overnight retreat. The retreat is a training session during which many of the members meet for the first time. The students are trained to become better helpers in their own circle of friends, while gaining access to a community that they know they can trust if they ever come across a problem they can't solve on their own. Natural Helpers are also trained to identify when students are having serious problems and take the proper steps to address them. When Ms. Kelly visits Huntington on Wednesdays, it is a time when club members can talk about any problems they're having, providing them with an outlet of people they know they can trust.

Recently, there has been some criticism about the recommendation process. Although it has its flaws, it is designed to invite new members that represent all parts of the student body, and in that aspect it works well.

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How H1N1 is changing society

Swine Flu changes customs and traditions around the world

by REBECCA FRIEDMAN

Flu season has arrived. If it isn't bad enough to deal with the threat of the seasonal flu, the H1N1 influenza virus, commonly known as the "swine flu", is adding its virulence to the autumn-winter sniffles. The outbreak of the H1N1 virus has caused people to reconsider the way they interact with each other, the foods they eat, and the way they live.

Europeans often greet and say farewell to one another by offering a quick kiss or peck on each cheek. With the current fear of transmitting swine flu, a number of schools and companies are urging people to avoid this practice. The mayor of a small French town has even gone as far as to ban the kisses all together, telling National Public Radio, "What's the point in the preventative hand washing when people are still kissing each other all of the time?" Mexican, Spanish, and Lebanese government officials have also discouraged the popular kissing greetings. The fear has even spread to New York, for some school officials have even advised students to avoid giving high fives.

Swine flu is slowly changing some long-held religious practices. The Archdiocese of New York told Catholic New Yorkers they may refrain from the traditional handshaking at mass. One rabbi in Brookline, Massachusetts told reporters that he suggested congregants at his temple greet each other with a "Buddhist bow" or an "Obama fist bump." Muslims celebrating Ramadan in Lebanon and Kuwait have been warned against hugging, and if the flu outbreak exacerbates, mosques may consider asking people to bring their own prayer

mats to services. In Spain, Roman Catholics are being asked to refrain from kissing a statue of the country's patron saint, and Italy has banned the kissing of two vials thought to contain the blood of a saint.

When the virus was first detected, China, Russia, and Ukraine were quick to ban pork produced in the United States. A total of 27 countries followed suit shortly after. According to *Time* magazine, the ban on pork has devastated the pork industry, causing the government to bail out farmers who have had to sell their pork at lower prices. It has been determined, however, that one cannot catch H1N1 through "the other white meat." The H1N1 virus contains both swine and human genes. Although most are aware that pork cannot be linked to the virus, the media's name of "swine flu" has persuaded many to avoid such products.

Symptoms of sickness may not be against the law yet, but there does seem to be an abundance of dirty looks going around in response to public throat clearing. It appears that everyone is much more cautious of coughing and sneezing in public, and perhaps rightly so. A simple sneeze sends as many as 100,000 droplets of germs from your mouth and nose into the air within 3 to 5 feet at about 100 mph ac-



PHOTO: WWW.CNN.COM

■ The Obama fist-pound: an innovative method of avoiding germs.

cording to CNN. The germs can then hang in the air for up to a minute, so even if the droplets don't land on a nearby person, he or she could still walk through the germ cloud and catch a virus. Even worse, coughing or sneezing into a hand followed by touching a public space, such as a subway pole, a door handle or a computer keyboard, spreads the range of the germs. Remember good cold and flu etiquette: cough or sneeze into a tissue, or if a Kleenex is unavailable, use your elbow and sleeve to cover your mouth.

Swine flu is making quite a name for itself this year. There are a few simple ways to lessen the likelihood of you getting the H1N1 virus: wash your hands several times a day, disinfect frequently touched objects, avoid touching your eyes, mouth, nose, and finally, take your vitamins (especially vitamin D, which helps to strengthen your immune system). Following these elementary steps will help you enjoy a healthy, swine-free holiday.

Holiday Gift Guide

by CAT TACOPINA

There are a bunch of holidays to celebrate at this time of year. Whether it be Hanukkah or Christmas, you are probably facing the same dilemma that most teenagers come across around this time- gifts. Most of us don't have the kind of money to make the same type of magic our favorite holiday icons pull off every single year, but who's to say you have to pull that sort of magic anyway? Some of the most heartfelt gifts are the ones that don't have a price. For example...

If you need to find a gift for the food-lover, chocolate covered pretzels are one of the most ideal snack foods. They are sweet and salty, and guaranteed to make anyone with a sweet tooth over-

joyed. You can make these on your own, too. All you'll need to do is melt one or two bags of chocolate chips and get a bag of pretzels. Once you've melted the chocolate chips, you can simply dip the pretzels in and voila! For extra flair you can utilize toppings, such as bits of candy canes or M&Ms.

A gift for the jewelry-lover: Huntington Village is home to many adorable jewelry shops, such as Blossom, Vine and Roses, and J&J Boutique. While some pretty pieces in these shops are a bit pricey, you can always go for a simple pair of earrings or a dazzling necklace that shouldn't cost you over \$20. For boys who are lost as to what they should get

their girlfriend for the holidays, you should seriously consider this option. There aren't many girls who don't like a cute piece of jewelry.

A gift for those who are totally lost as to what to buy someone- Gift cards are a great gift! While some people are opposed to the idea of a gift card, seeing as they find it impersonal, it is perfect for those who have no clue what to get someone. All you need to know is what they like, and you can easily get a gift. For example, if your friend likes technology, Best Buy is perfect, while the clothes lover would probably enjoy getting a gift card for H&M or Urban Outfitters. Plus, most people would rather do the shop-

ping on their own, and this eliminates the fear that your friend will absolutely hate the gift you have given them, causing them to exchange it for something else.

A gift for the sports lover: one of Huntington's best little shops is Cow Over The Moon, located on Main Street from Ben & Jerry's and a few stores down. Once you walk in there, you instantly feel that comforting sense of warmth of being in a family-run store. It specializes in nostalgic antiques such as music boxes and charming teddy bears, and there's a back section completely dedicated to sports. And it isn't just baseball either (even though that is the store's main focus). There is something

for the football, hockey, and even the tennis lover. If you want to get your dad the missing baseball card of his childhood card collection, or an autographed picture of your brother's favorite sports star, you should consider Cow Over The Moon.

Remember, the holidays don't have to be stressful, especially over gifts. Anyone who's found the perfect gift for a loved one knows that feeling of sheer success, and if you haven't experienced it, challenge yourself this year! Remember, it is always the thought that counts, and not the price of the present. Good luck, and Happy Holidays!

To club or not to club



These are just a few of the more than twenty-five clubs offered by Huntington High School.

by EMILY MCGOLDRICK

Many people wonder why they should bother joining clubs and teams during the school year. There is tons of school work to get done, and everyone craves free time. So why do people involve themselves with extracurricular activities?

The first reason is pretty obvious: you get to be with your friends and also make new ones. If you love being with them out of school, why can't you enjoy their company at school as well? It gives you an opportunity to get involved in activities you are interested in. Huntington High

School offers 27 clubs alone, not to mention the variety of sports teams. We are very lucky to have such a wide selection to choose from.

As well as the variety of clubs offered at the high school, there are many different sports teams to become involved in. Among the many reasons to join, especially in a day and age where obesity is an issue, it's important that everyone stays physically fit. You'll be given the opportunity to learn new skills and improve your old ones, and many love the thrill of competition.

Once you are a junior, you

are eligible to apply to a number of honor societies that provide volunteer services to the community. These give plenty of chances to get that feeling when you know you've done something good. There are also many people who depend on school programs to be involved in their lives. Plus, every upperclassman wants another thing to add to their college résumé.

Finally, extracurriculars are an easy way to experience new things and learn about yourself. Don't stop at school either, make a difference in our community!

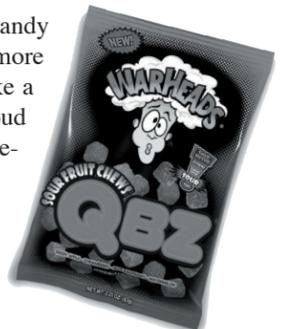
10 ways to make cash

Short on money?
Try one of these odd jobs.

by NATHAN SMITH

With the busy schedules many students are juggling, securing a job can be a difficult task, but everyone could use some extra cash during the holiday season. If your wallet feels a bit too light, try one of these odd jobs that can be completed right here in school.

1. Have your parents buy you lots of candy (Qbz work best) and sell it for a little bit more money than what you got it for. You'll make a nice profit. Plus, your parents will be proud of you, now that you've become a true entrepreneur.
2. Offer to carry students' backpacks for a price. Once you get 10 or 20 of them piled up, you'll be making a real salary.
3. Start a valet service for seniors who don't want to walk from a nearby street or far parking space to the school.
4. Sell copies of movies that you film in video class.
5. Begin a waiter service in the cafeteria.
6. Offer to photocopy exams for the teachers, but don't get any ideas.
7. Help students memorize their locker combinations by documenting them in a notebook.
8. Bring coffee to teachers for a price higher than what the store offers.
9. Rent a few go-karts and charge students to race them around the track.
10. Claim every item from the lost-and-found and resell them on Ebay.



Merry Christmas, Key Club!

by MARISSA SCHEDLER

While most are preparing for the holidays, hopping from store to store buying gifts and wrapping paper, the Huntington Key Club members are readying themselves for their annual Sears trip. Hearing about this trip blew me away. Though it is one of the many activities our school partic-

ipates in, this one is truly something special. Members of this year's Key Club are anxiously waiting for Saturday, the 19th of December, the weekend before Christmas. After talking with the former Lieutenant Governor, Tommy Monks, I understood the overview of the Sears trip.

The members of the Kiwanis Club of Huntington help us orga-

nize it. They are the "adult version" of Key Club. They help the Huntington High School, Half Hollow Hills West and East Key Clubs. They find underprivileged kids in our community (typically at the primary school level), and send them over to Sears by bus that morning. The "Key Clubbers" from those three high schools go to Sears and partner up. The Kiwanis Club gives each pair a gift card for about \$200 to

spend on winter necessities, such as jackets, shoes, socks, and other clothes that they couldn't afford otherwise. Normally, there is some money left over after buying the clothes, which is then used to purchase toys. After that, the members of the Key Club wrap the gifts while the kids get food and a visit from Santa. After all this is accomplished, the members of Key Club give the wrapped gifts to the parents so

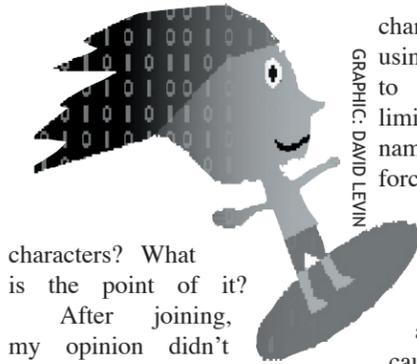
they have a little something to give their kids for Christmas.

After talking to students who participated in this event last year, I myself joined Key Club for the first time this year. Many people exclaim over how fun it is to go on this trip. They've talked about how great and interesting the kids are, and how happy it made them to see the kids smiling and having a great time.

DataStream Surfing: The net nerd takes on Twitter

by DAVID LEVIN

Before joining Twitter, I thought it was a fairly useless site. How can you update all the time if you don't either have a cell phone or are in front of a computer all day? How can you summarize everything in 140

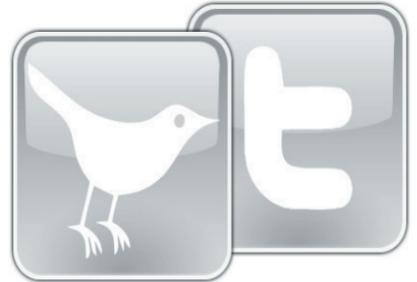


GRAPHIC: DAVID LEVIN

characters? What is the point of it? After joining, my opinion didn't

change much, perhaps from not using it a lot. There seems to be a lot of character limits, so I can see why usernames and "tweets" might be forced to not use proper English and abbreviate to fit the character limit. I realized you can use Twitter from your Nintendo DSi as well, which is nice because I don't have a cell phone.

Anyway, feel free to stalk—I mean, follow, me on Twitter. I am 4theSchoolPaper, since I only joined Twitter to review it for the Dispatch and "IAmOnlyDoingThisForTheSchoolPaper" is too long to fit. Be warned though, I may not update every five minutes like some people do.



GRAPHIC: WWW.TWITTER.COM

WORD N THE STREET

What is your favorite thing to do with snow?



Aliyah Cohen- Junior

"Make yummy snow cones with the freshest ice crystals and strawberry jam!"



Marie Coneys- Sophomore

"Hibernate inside (entirely away from it)."



Jonah Kramer- Junior

"My favorite thing to do with snow is to go sledding at Coindre Hall."



Ali Ortiz- Sophomore

"I love pelting my brother with snowballs...until he chases and pelts me too."



Marie Clifford- Sophomore

"I love having snowball fights with my sister...which I always win."

PHOTOS: LAUREN CAMPBELL

The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Dispatch's staff, nor the HUFSD School Board or any affiliated.

The new girl in town

by SHIRA MOSKOWITZ

Imagine walking down the hallway of your school and knowing every single student and their life story. Now, imagine walking down the hall and passing tons of people you have never met before. Some you recognize but have never spoken to, others you are acquainted with, and then finally finding your friends. Which one sounds more like Huntington High School to you? I'd say choice B. Choice A sounds more like the tiny private school that I used to attend and is almost impossible for a student at Huntington High School to conceive.

Until two months ago, the first scenario was my reality. This year, as a junior, I transferred to Huntington High School from Solomon Schechter High School of Long Island; a private, Jewish day school. I had been a student at Schechter for 11 years and the switch to a Huntington was a culture shock. I am not alone in making this switch from private to public school. Over the past few years, this year especially, many students have transferred to public schools. The reasons vary from student to student. Some were unhappy at their old school in the social sense, others found it too academically challenging or not academically challenging enough, while others switched because of economic factors.

The first two reasons have always caused a few students to shift between private and public education, however in the past year, the economy has played a much larger role in students' and parents' decisions to switch to public schools. When the economy collapsed last October, families began to consider the ways in which they spent their money and how they

would minimize spending to save for the future. With this in mind, I decided that I would try something new and switch to public school.

I was scared. My old school had less students in total than an entire grade at Huntington High School, and the physical building size paled in comparison. I thought I would have no friends and would get lost between every class, but I tried to stay positive. There would be more people, a shorter day, fewer classes and different opportunities (and a football team).

"Be yourself, introduce yourself, and make your presence known."

Although I could have pushed to find a way to return to Schechter and everything I had known, I chose not to. I realized that I wanted a change and that I was ready for one. I knew it would be difficult, but I had faith that I could handle it. I was jaded in a sense by the social scene at Schechter, for I had known it all my life and wanted something new. Don't get me wrong, Schechter is an amazing school filled with some of the smartest, kindest people I know. It challenged me academically and simultaneously created a social environment in which I felt I could freely express myself. However, I needed something different. Everyone I knew was Jewish and came from a similar financial and social background. Before I came to Huntington I probably could have counted the number of non-Jews I knew on my fingers and toes, but now my friends are of different races and religions and I don't even think



twice about it. I have enjoyed the challenge of switching schools and making a place for myself at Huntington High School. I miss Schechter and my friends there, however I am incredibly happy here. This switch has been eye-opening for me. I have met people who come from what seems to be a different world than my own and others who are just like me. I believe it has prepared me for my future.

Being the new girl was hard. I knew very few people at the school and started out in some classes where I knew absolutely no one. So, how did I do it? I put myself out there. I realized I could be extremely quiet and let people come to me, if they wanted, or I could go and introduce myself. I did not change who I was to fit in and hoped people would accept me.

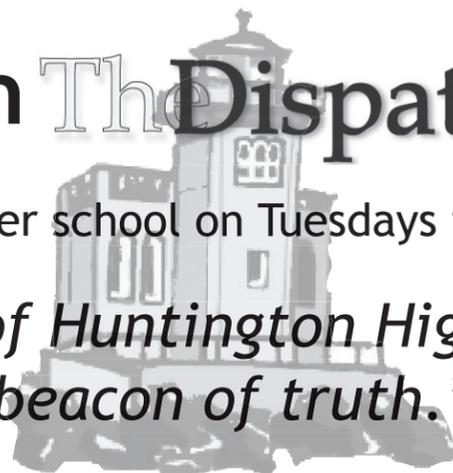
My advice to someone new to Huntington: be yourself, introduce yourself, and make your presence known (you could always wear a tutu or something). My advice to everyone else: be open to new people. Sit with them at lunch. Talk to them. Make them feel comfortable. You have a lot of power to improve their high school experience as well as your own. The people who invited me into their lives and made me feel a part of this school have helped me so much and I am forever thankful to them. Transferring from a tiny private school to Huntington was difficult and startling to say the least, but everyone has been so welcoming and made this a nearly seamless transition.

Looking for an extra-curricular activity?

Join The Dispatch!

Meetings after school on Tuesdays in room 242

Be a part of Huntington High School's "beacon of truth."



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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 opinionated editorials on controversial topics, as well as 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.

Stage Door review

by AMY EISEN

The Huntington High School Drama Club performed "Stage Door" on Friday, November 13th and Saturday, November 14th. Mr. Schwendemann, the director, chose this play for a variety of reasons. Aside from liking the material, its large amount of female characters suited the large number of girls in the Drama Club. In total, there were fifty auditions, which turned into a cast of twenty girls and ten boys. With a cast so large, it was quite difficult for everyone to be at every rehearsal, and often major characters were absent. The week leading up to the show, nicknamed "Hell Week" for its long and grueling rehearsals, was even more challenging as many actors were out sick. The night of the first performance, interestingly Friday the 13th, Schwendy commented how "practices have been very tough." Despite the problems, the cast seemed to enjoy Hell Week. Jonah Kramer, who played over-the-top playwright Keith Burgess, stated, "Rehearsal has been really tiring this week, but it's worth it.

We've had a lot of cast bonding, and I'm going to miss them all when it's over."

Many other people played an important role in getting the show on the road. Mr. Gilbert and the stage crew en-



PHOTO: MOLLY PREP

sured the sets, lighting, and audio were working perfectly, and many parents become involved with costumes, set decorations, and other last minute additions. The Drama Club is considerably self-sufficient, financing the plays with bake sales and past production profits.

"Stage Door" is a tale of starving actresses living in the Footlights Club in New York City during the early 20th century. The girls desperately wish to be

on stage, and many have to deal with the harshness of rejection. The girls come from a variety of backgrounds, such as an abusive husband, wealthy parents, Russia, and Texas. Their love lives are also exposed, which allowed for humor between the girls and their male callers. One of my favorite scenes included the meet of Terry Randall, played by Lena Freed, and Keith Burgess. The two get into a shouting match, with Keith jumping on the chair claiming that "romance is for babies," and end with a date. The viewers became drawn into the drama surrounding each character's life, and a woman in the front row even received a special treat: a banana peel to the face kicked by one of the actors. The cast did an excellent job, which was proven by the claps and laughs of the entire audience.

After the show, the Drama Club seemed very pleased. "We had a lot of fun," said Shira Moskowitz and Cody Jacobs. "We really hope the audience enjoyed it as much as we did." Congratulations on another successful show, Drama Club!

Letter to the Editors

Send your letters to
hhsdispatch@gmail.com

Is it possible to live in a harmonious world? Or will there always be a difference between cultures?

It's hard to believe that in different parts of the world, and now at Huntington High School, people are still socially segregated. It seems inexplicable that these attitudes and divisions exist in our society today and in our own schools as well. It is hard to believe, but it is true.

Our cafeteria is proof of this situation. During the first few months of school, I noticed that Caucasian students, who make up the majority of our student body, mainly sit in the second half of the cafeteria, while the minority groups, such as African Americans, Latinos, and others as well, sit in the other half. It is possible that Caucasians are more comfortable amongst themselves and are separated out of social preference, which may also be true for African Americans and Latinos. Unfortunately, the truth is that there is segregation not only in the cafeteria, but in the Honors and AP classes as well. The issue of race that is witnessed in our school needs to

be addressed.

Other causes of these social divisions may be the bad references that surface from both groups and rumors that are prejudiced against a certain group. But the truth is that each one of these groups has something in common; we are all humans, whether we are African, Hispanic, or white. Whoever we are, we all have the same qualities; we all make friends, help others, or by simply being cordial, demonstrate a good attitude.

With this I do not mean to say that there is racism. Nevertheless, there is some type of preference or fear that exists between certain groups; a fear to establish a relationship with a person who is completely unknown. However, if you try, you may discover a best friend or a brother or sister in someone. Unfortunately, also in our society there are small groups that make us look bad with their attitudes and their manner of being. But we are not all the same, nor do we act the same way. Nevertheless, like all young people, we are able to form lasting friendships.

As human beings, we must make sure to keep in mind that in this world we are all the same. It does not matter what gender, social class, ethnic background or culture someone comes from. We all have the same basic necessities. My only hope is that from now on the barriers will break down, the rumors disappear, and as civilized people, we will start to accept one another, as well as accepting each other's faults and defects, no matter our appearance or color of skin. We should be considerate with each other, help each other, respect and love each other like brothers. These are small gestures, but simply giving a smile, a handshake, or a hug is a good way to say, "I consider you my friend." Maybe one day, we can all be in a group where there are no differences.

-Luis Fernando Cordero

Translated by: Cindy Portillo, Dayna Reyes, Rebecca Silverman, and Colleen Teubner

NATURAL HELPERS (continued from front page)

Every person who receives a survey (including club members) can recommend two students in the school. Last year, rumors circulated that someone in the program stuffed the ballot. When the issue was brought up during a meeting, one student admitted having witnessed this. Ms. Kelly was especially hurt by this, explaining, "I would never have expected this from any of my students, but I would never put a Natural Helper on the spot and ask for a name...I just hope that despite this, that person and whoever got in because of their actions have benefited from this program."

The decision isn't entirely based on the recommendations, however; a decision is still made by the club for every prospective person. The club strives to remain unbiased despite the knowledge of candidates' previous histories. To be more inclusive is definitely a goal the club is trying to attain, but the group can only admit so many students since it is proven to be more effective and support

itself better as a smaller community of people who can intimately know and trust each other.

In late October, the club took a hard turn when Mr. Gilmor presented it with a letter explaining that he would be stepping down from his position of club advisor. Heartbroken, members of the club met with Dr. Leonardi to discuss the financial problem they assumed was the reason. In the meeting, she assured them that there was grant money in the budget for the club. She told them that she would speak to Mr. Gilmor about his reasons for stepping down and try to change his mind.

The Natural Helpers program was cut from the club budget two years ago. It was assumed that the TRI CYA would continue to oversee the program and money would be found in grants to pay the advisor. Grants were approved this year for Natural Helpers. When explaining what made him feel inclined to not participate in the program this year, Mr. Gilmor said, "Kids will almost always

go to other kids with their problems before they talk to an adult. Without a program that helps develop these Natural Helpers, there are only students with good intentions. Cutting the program from the yearly budget at our school left me discouraged with how the administration did not see the program's grave importance." Mr. Gilmor explained that "having these individual students in the school community, listening and helping students on a daily basis, is extremely important to the student body staying healthy." At the end of the week, Mr. Gilmor announced that he would be resuming his role of advising the club for the 2009-2010 school year.

Natural Helpers is not a "loud" club, and if it is doing its job right you will not hear about its successes. For Mr. Gilmor and everyone involved with the Natural Helpers, it is a full time job, but one that is thoroughly effective and personally rewarding.

POINT / COUNTERPOINT

Yay for Obama's education plan

by CARRIE FANTE

A sure way for a President to make himself unpopular among kids is to propose adding more time to the school day or even the school year. However, that's just what President Obama has done, and what many students are unable to recognize, is that this could be an important step in raising education standards in America, and in allowing the United States to compete with foreign countries.

Despite the fact that the United States is viewed as a major world power and has produced many technological and scientific breakthroughs in its history, many countries, particularly Asian countries like Japan and Hong Kong, are continuously outscoring the U.S. on science and math tests. The United States is also far behind many countries in terms of learning second languages. In many European countries, students are learning second, third, and sometimes even fourth languages starting in their early childhood. In the United States on the other hand, many students don't start learning a second language until late elementary or middle school, by which time language acquisition is much harder than when kids are younger. It is also much less common to find U.S. students studying a third language.

In the twenty-first century, the business world is much more competitive and many companies have branches in various different countries. It is becoming more and more of a benefit on job applications to be bilingual; just being well educated in general is exceedingly important. Now, companies can hire peo-

ple in other countries to perform jobs that they could not find qualified U.S. candidates for. If U.S. citizens cannot compete



GRAPHIC: LEIF DRACE

with people from other countries, than the country will lose strength. If the U.S. does not create an intelligent and capable next generation, then it will not be able to compete with other countries that have set higher standards for their children.

see OBAMA on page 6

Nay for education plan

by NATASHA STOLLMACK

An exceptionally low percentage of American students support the potential plan of President Obama and Secretary

I have little faith in the Obama/Duncan education plan, the biggest reason being that many factors have not been addressed and/or clarified. During his speech in which he presented the ideas for education reform, Obama pointed out that students in the United States "spend over one month less in school than South Korea." He addressed that Asian students are consistently outscoring the American youth, specifically in mathematics and science. It is no secret to U.S. citizens that Asian countries such as Korea, China and Japan promote a much stricter society than that of the American culture. As much as the government may like to draw a connection between time spent in school and higher test scores, the validity of the relationship only goes so far. The element that needs to be recognized and reformed within the United States education system is incentive. For many students nationwide, the drive to be academically successful is nonexistent. Even for students of high achievement and work ethic, it is difficult to constantly think long-term; to take every assignment and test seriously and complete it to your fullest potential. Although more rigorous courses have been incorporated into the education system within the last few decades, the general state standards have been on a spiraling decline. The majority of core subject courses, regardless of academic level, are

geared towards being taught how to score well on the exam at the end of the school year instead of learning the material for the purpose of expanding their knowledge. There has been a massive change within society's youth with regard to respect and priorities, especially within the scholastic setting. From students' behavior towards teachers and their peers to the torrent of

of Education Arne Duncan to lengthen the amount of time spent in school. Unfortunately, many of the students that immediately oppose the change only do so upon being told that their summer vacation would be shortened and their regular school day extended, and those points of discontent are the least of the problems with the plan.

see OBAMA on page 6

the Dispatch examines . . .



What's

Hot

1. Wiz Khalifa- The latest hip-hop infatuation of Huntington High School.



2. Taylor Lautner- There

are more and more girls howling about this hot werewolf after the release of *New Moon*, the second movie of the *Twilight* saga.

3. Call of Duty- Looking for a great violent after-school activity? Grab a copy of Call of Duty: Modern Warfare II at your local game store!



4. Hand Sanitizer- With a flu season stronger than ever, many have become reliant on hand sanitizing products to be shield themselves from germs.

5. Gray- This color has been dominating winter wardrobes of girls and guys alike.



What's

Not

1. Summer clothes in winter- Our sympathy for the students we see shivering in school is waning thin- especially because the reason being that eighty percent of their skin is still being exposed. (Check out www.weather.com, kids.)

2. Sexy Santa costumes- It has to feel at least a LITTLE wrong...

3. Crazy fan girls- Justin Bieber is 15 years old! Girls, save your hearts (and your vocal chords) for a real man.

4. N.Y. Sports- It seems that every NY sports team (excluding the Yankees) has seen better days than in this 2009-2010 season.



5. Gossip Girl- Threesomes on broadcast television...wait, what?

Droid proves delightful

by MARK DROBNJAK

Motorola has recently released a new phone recently that is sure to please millions of consumers. But, can you really call it a phone? The Motorola Droid runs on the Android operating system, a trademark of Google, which allows for a great experience on Verizon's powerful 3G network. Fast web-browsing, music listening, text messaging, and video shooting are made possible with its amazing processor. Even so, such a phone is not bulky or annoyingly heavy. In fact, it is the thinnest QWERTY slider phone available in the world today. The sleek black design is only .54 inches thick and 4.56 inches tall with a 3.7-inch screen. This device is the first Android phone that Verizon sells, and it seems that it is made to compete with the

iPhone. The Droid's TV commercial attacks the qualities that the iPhone lacks, saying things like "iDon't have a real keyboard," and "iDon't customize." The commercial ends with "DROID DOES." This adamant final statement must express Motorola's desire to impact consumers with a phone that surpasses current electronic standards. One of these new additions is an entirely separate keyboard from the phone, which not only frees up space on the screen while emailing or texting, but has responsive buttons that can be

pressed down, resulting in less typos. When slid open, an extra navigation pad is offered to the right of the keyboard which takes



PHOTO: WWW.MOTOROLA.COM

away the common occurrence of tapping at things you previously

wrote, trying to get the cursor between those two tiny letters on the iPhone. When the phone is turned on, it shows you a dial. Slide it to the left to silence your phone's ring. Slide it to the right to unlock, and you are now looking at a shiny, application-filled home screen. This home screen can be swiped to the right or left for two extra pages of room. Drag the arrow at the bottom of the screen and out pops a large, detailed menu that has the solution to any problem that can't be solved in just plain "Settings". Four white buttons are set on the bottom of the phone, which let you go back, open a menu, go

to the Home screen, or search the phone. The 5 megapixel camera shoots DVD quality videos and has an extensive list of photo effects. Its memory comes in the form of a removable card that offers 16 GB of space for whatever you feel like putting on there. When it comes to music, it includes a loud but undistorted speakerphone and a 3.5mm audio jack (yes, this means you can put your iPod headphones right in there, too). Overall, the Droid offers a combination of unique features that are put together nicely into a user-friendly interface and a stylish and small design. The bottom line: Christmas is just around the corner, and Verizon customers should definitely consider coughing up the \$200 for the Droid, as well as the \$70 monthly plan.

Crazy for COD

by JAKE GOLDSZTEJN

After months of waiting, millions of fans flocked to stores as *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2* finally hit shelves on Tuesday, November 10th. What may be the most anticipated video game of the year, *Modern Warfare 2* lives up to the hype of its predecessor, as well as fan based expectation. The game's developer, Infinity Ward, was not only put to the task of making a sequel, but having to surpass what some consider to be one of the greatest first person shooter games ever.

The storyline of *Modern Warfare* does a magnificent job of immersing the player into a world of conflict. Whether it is

running through the slums of Rio de Janeiro, fighting on rooftops and in trenches of Washington D.C., or rescuing a prisoner from a Russian gulag, the campaign of *Modern Warfare 2* is full of plot twists and surprises that make the game's story seem like a box office sensation.

Where *Modern Warfare 2* truly gains its claim to fame is the multi-player mode. If a player is alone or with up to 15 other friends, the online game play is guaranteed to produce hours of endless fun. From the thousands of combinations of weapons, equipment, perks, kill streak rewards, and game types, each

game will never be the same as another. With the addition of cooperative game play to the sequel in the form of "spec ops," players must work together to complete different challenges that can put even the most skilled players to the test. Even if you aren't a fan of the campaign, the multi-player in itself is enough reason to purchase the game.

Across the board, *Modern Warfare 2* has received ratings of 9/10 or above. Aside from minor issues, the only true flaw this game has is that it can't be the original, like any sequel.

Jake's Ratings:

-Concept: 9 out of 10

It's bigger, better, more than what has been seen in the original.

-Graphics: 9.5 out of 10

60 frames per second display crisp images that top out every other game.

-Sound: 9.5 out of 10

Explosions and chaos never sounded more real, and the voice acting is as if the sources are sitting right next to you.

-Fun Rating: 10 out of 10

With gamers already topping hundreds of days of game time, in the same time frame it took to make the universe, who could argue that this game isn't worth playing?

9.5 out of 10:

Average student rating at Huntington High School

-*Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2*

-Rated Mature for blood, drug reference, intense violence, and language.

-Available on Xbox 360, Play Station 3, and PC

OBAMA (continued from pg. 5)

Yay for education plan:

Obama's plan to create a better education system involves potentially adding hours on to the school day as well as tacking days on to the school year. Some schools have already lengthened the school day to test its effectiveness in raising aca-

Nay for education plan:

laziness that has swept over recent generations, students as well as the country as a whole are in store for an unpleasant future. Change is no longer an option; it is an imperative action that must be taken.

Students who don't currently have the drive to perform well academically are not going to suddenly flip a switch if the school year is made longer. If anything, this will cause those students to put even less effort into their work. There is no doubt that in many cases more time must be devoted to school, but that does not necessarily mean more

democratic standards and test scores, and have found that their students have improved. Charter schools and private schools with longer school days typically perform better on standardized tests. Forty-five minutes is a typical period length at a high school today; even adding ten minutes to each

time spent in the classroom. If the school day was extended by two to three hours, and Obama enforced the "expansion of effective after school programs", where would time for homework and extracurricular activities go? Homework is an essential part of the learning process, but after an eight or nine-hour school day it is unlikely that students will be able or let alone willing to complete it. Extracurriculars are also of great importance to students and their communities, and there would be very little to no time for them to continue under this plan. Haven't we consistently been told by our

class could make a big difference. In addition, the school schedule as it is today wasn't really created for the twenty-first century. As pointed out by the U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, the current school calendar is based on an agrarian (farm-based) economy where kids would be needed

teachers and parents that if our résumés are being compared with another student's, the one with more extracurricular/service involvement is sure to be chosen? Numbers aren't enough to determine our character.

The dire need for serious modification to the current American education system is indisputable; however, the Obama/Duncan plan is not going to improve upon the areas that they want to, such as higher test scores and a more skilled workforce. No person can guarantee the outcome of putting such a plan into effect, but what we can do is bring attention to the

to help on the farm after school and during the summer, and this isn't a reality for most American kids today.

Right now, Obama's proposal for more school is still very much in the works and many details such as money to keep the building open longer and paying teach-

ers for more hours have not been worked out. However, though most kids don't want to think about it or accept it, improving the education system and being in school longer could really help with securing jobs in the future, and with being more successful as a country.

whose family is financially stable and resourceful and the only excuse for their poor grades is their own carelessness. It is high time for more students to join those in the top ten percent of their class; to make their schoolwork a priority and seek out the help that they need. In turn, we will need the support of a strong economy and a strategic government reform program to make a higher education a reality for every student in the country.

biggest sources of the problem and do everything in our power to rectify them. A child's home environment has a tremendous influence on their attitude towards school as well as their resources. In most cases, students with scholastically successful guardians are more inclined to perform well in school because there is a strong emphasis on it at home, whereas less privileged families may be forced to devote more time to providing for each other financially. I think that one of the most unfortunate of scenarios is the capable student who does not perform to their fullest potential,

ers for more hours have not been worked out. However, though most kids don't want to think about it or accept it, improving the education system and being in school longer could really help with securing jobs in the future, and with being more successful as a country.

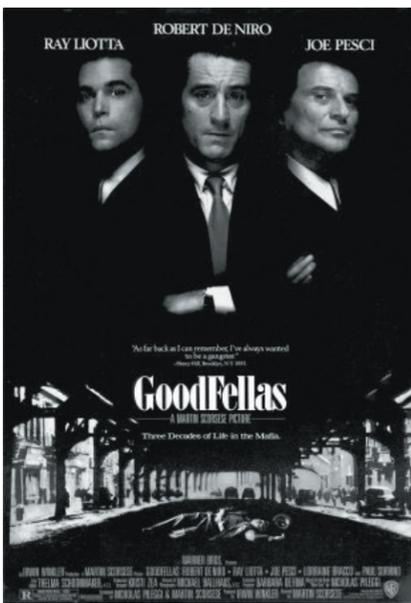


Reels Revisited

The Classic Movie Review

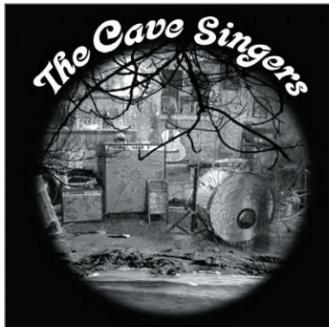
by NATASHA STOLLMACK

Based on Nicholas Pileggi's non-fictional book *Wiseguy*, this Martin Scorsese classic explores the lives of Henry Hill (Ray Liotta) and the Lucchese crime family through the rise and fall of their exciting criminal pursuits. The film begins in Brooklyn during the mid 1950s where a young Hill drops out of school to become involved with the mafia. He is mentored by the Lucchese capo, Paul "Paulie" Cicero, and his right hand man, Jimmy Conway (Robert De Niro). Henry is introduced to the glamour and dangers of the criminal world, meeting countless notorious people in the network whilst receiving "assignments" from Paulie. With the help of fellow mobster Tommy DeVito (Joe Pesci), Hill executes the



Air France Robbery in 1967 which becomes the debut of his criminal career. Hill and the Lucchese mobsters reap the financial and authoritative benefits of their scheming, allowing them to live comfortably and lavishly. Hill begins dating his future wife, Karen, who is at first flustered by his involvement with gangsters, but after he proves his fierceness she becomes attracted to his lifestyle. In the midst of their unlawful success, Hill, DeVito and Conway realize their hubris has become a hindrance in a situation that puts themselves and the family in severe jeopardy. Scorsese provides the viewer with a window into the reality of the criminal world, allowing the viewer to see the cost at which a family pays to live this glamorized lifestyle.

Craving the Cave Singers



GRAPHIC: WWW.ALLMUSIC.COM

ALBUM: *Welcome Joy*
ARTIST: The Cave Singers

by CODY JACOBS

It was on accident that I came across the relatively new folk trio, "The Cave Singers" last Friday night, as I was idly occupying my time online, however, I am glad I did.

Hailing from Seattle, Pete Quirk, Derek Fudesco, and Marty Lund got together in 2007 with very little advanced buzz. Fudesco picked up a guitar and the other

guys followed, all contributing to the acoustic folk-oriented sound that they have made their own.

All of the band members come from a background of scarcely known bands, (most noteworthy being Derek Fudesco's alternative rock band, "Pretty Girls Make Graves"), and they have been making waves in the indie folk scene. In June 2007, the band signed with Matador Records and recorded "Invitation Songs" in Vancouver which was met with critical praise. "Seeds of Night" became the trio's first single during the production of "Invitation Songs," and can easily be referred to as a primary example of the traditional melodic sound that is The Cave Singers.

Following the release of "Seeds of Night," "Dancing On Our Graves" was released in February of 2008. Personally, when I heard "Dancing On Our Graves," I couldn't help but listen to it over and over again because it had a

sort of mesmerizing quality to it, sounding like an updated version of Roots music. Check out the video for this single; it's like a cross between a gospel church scene and MTV Unplugged.

It's easy to see how The Cave Singers are heavily influenced by Bob Dylan, Woody Guthrie and Modest Mouse. Other songs I'd recommend would be "Elephant Clouds," a day-dreamy sort of tune, and "Helen," which is similar to "Seeds of Night." These are only some of the songs from their first album, but that's not to say that *Welcome Joy*, which came out this past August, is equally pleasing to the ears. "Summer Light" is a good one to check out from the new album, as well as "At the Cut," which is a little rough around the edges but sure to make you coming back for more. Although they may have not quite made it on to your favorite alternative rock radio stations yet, be sure to keep an ear out.

Ivy League a breath of fresh air

by EMILY FELDMAN

Before becoming members of the band Cobra Starship, Ryland Blackinton and Alex Suarez created a group of their own called This Is Ivy League. This acoustic-based indie-pop band formed in 2005 in Brooklyn, New York. This is Ivy League has a very different sound from Cobra Starship; the group is often compared to Simon and Garfunkel. They released two albums called "This is Ivy League" and "London Bridges", which include songs called "The

Richest Kids" and "A Summer Chill." The duo has a very calm and relaxing sound with a sixties vibe to it. Many of their songs are reminiscent of summer, causing memories to flood back to the listener. Their harmonies are a breath of fresh air from the generic songs on the radio. There aren't many groups today that create music like theirs, which is something that I value them for. You can search this easy listening group through Google and YouTube.



GRAPHIC: WWW.ALLMUSIC.COM

ALBUM: *This Is Ivy League*
ARTIST: This Is Ivy League



Biology takes on a new meaning at Bodies: The Exhibition

by ANDREW KU

If you want to gain a profound and definitive understanding of the human body, or are just looking for an interesting and unusual experience, go to see *Bodies: The Exhibition*, located in the South Street Seaport of New York City.

Nickelodeon reports that *Bodies* "is a creepily cool exhibit that features 22 real, whole human cadavers and over 260 body parts, all preserved using a liquid silicon process. The bodies themselves are not frightening

and in some instances (the circulatory system, for example, in which

self, and I agree with Nickelodeon's assessment. For the first 10 minutes, the exhibit just seems weird and gross, with all of the internal parts of the human body on display. But the show gets better as you continue. The exhibit gives an up-close, three-dimensional look at the human body from the inside out. Each part of the human body – the skeletal system, muscular system, nervous system, the organ system, and much more – is on display in a series of rooms, with each display accompanied by detailed information about that particular body part.

You learn about the human body by looking at the real thing right in front of you. It is both a truly revolutionary way to learn and something simply fascinating to look at. Many of the whole body specimens were dissected in vivid athletic poses, allowing the visitor to relate to everyday activities. Perhaps the most amazing fact is that each human specimen is so thoroughly and carefully dissected that they can display the entire network of blood vessels and arteries without anything else attached to it. In addition, authentic human specimens illustrate the damage caused to organs by over-eating, smoking and drug use. They show the results of heart disease, kidney disease, breast cancer, cirrhosis, and more on real organs of once-living people. A healthy lung is featured next to a black lung ravaged by smoking in a vivid comparison more powerful than any

textbook image. Parts of the show could even be considered art for their detail and beauty.

You may consider going to *Bodies: The Exhibition* as a unique winter treat, or to supplement the science class you are taking. Whatever your purpose, you will emerge with a fundamental understanding of the human body; a comprehension unparalleled by reading a textbook or looking at pictures.

Useful information:
Address: 11 Fulton Street, South Street Seaport, NYC
Open Monday thru Thursday from 10am-7pm and Friday thru Sunday from 10am-10pm, with last admission one hour prior to closing.

Phone: 1-888-9BODIES
Websites: www.bodiestheexhibition.com
www.bodiesny.com

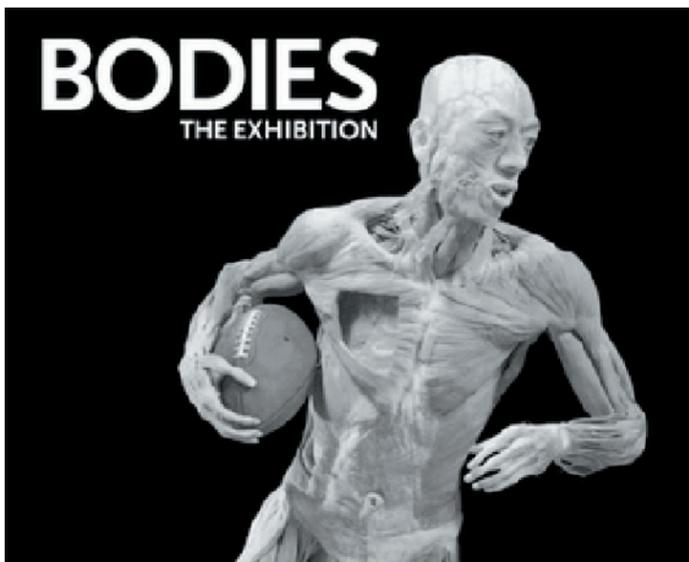


PHOTO: WWW.BODIESTHEEXHIBITION.COM

veins have been filled with red and blue dye) are actually beautiful." I went to see the show my-

SPORTS

Winter Preview 2009-2010

Blue Devil grapplers

by RYAN GREENHILL

As we all know, the Huntington Wrestling program is a prolific force in its league, dominating teams on a consistent basis and producing phenomenal athletes. Coming off a near-perfect season, only losing to league rival Islip, the Blue Devils look to continue their tradition as a dominant force. During the 08-09, season the team produced three county finalists and one county champion, Damon McQueen. Damon moved on all the way to the state finals finishing as a runner up in the 119 weight class. The team as a whole was ranked in

that of the top ten in New York State. Coaches Mock, Smith, Fusco, and Giani run their team off a simple saying, "The 3 Ds: Desire, Dedication, and Determination." You can see this on a large sign in Huntington's wrestling room. Junior Duncan Murchison notes, "Once you've wrestled here at Huntington, everything else in life is easy." The Blue Devils once again show great promise in the upcoming season. Coach Fusco says some guys to watch out for are, once again, Damon McQueen, Louis Puca, Duncan Murchison, Ryan Fox, and Chris Sandoval.

High hopes for Huntington basketball

by CARLY GLOWACKY

It looks like another season of Huntington Blue Devil basketball is starting out with a bang. The coaches have their goals set for the year, and the players are working hard. Both the Girls' and Boys' Varsity teams are very well-respected by their teachers, coaches, and most importantly, their peers from around the town of Huntington. So, it's our job as fans to give them the support they deserve.

The coach for this year's varsity boys' team is Mr. Michael Schmitz. His team consists of all new players, except three returning boys from last year: seniors Dan Smith and Jeremy Rhodes, and freshman John Patron, who

scored a remarkable 10 points per game last year. Unfortunately, the team lost key players to graduation last year, but coach Schmitz thinks it'll be an interesting season because everyone's new. He also thinks it will be a learning year for the team. There are a lot of boys to keep an eye on: Devon Nelson is the only freshman boy to make the varsity team, and coach Schmitz thinks he's a very promising player. People should also watch Shaquan Rains and six-foot-four Jack Forster, who are both forwards, as well as sophomores Trevon Brown and John McCarthy, who are starting guards. Last year, the team was ranked second in Suffolk County,

and placed as a County Finalist. The team's goal for this season is to make the playoffs. The team's biggest opponents are Harborfields and Islip. When asked what the team's attitude towards the season is, coach Schmitz responded that they "don't really know what they're doing." But, he also said that they're already hustling and playing hard, and he's really looking forward to working with them this year. His advice to the team is that they need to work hard to get better, especially the young and new players, and it's important for them to watch and learn from the more advanced and experienced players.

As for the Girls' Varsity, it looks like they have a great team as well. Coach Brad Reminick is hoping to lead the team of 10 through another triumphant season. The team is led by seniors Meredith McCourt, Lauren Visbal, and junior Emma Hayes-Hurley. Meredith, Lauren, and Emma are all players to watch, along with Jackie Waldron, Sarah Erhman, and the only two freshmen on the team, Rachel

Bosco and Rayneisha Witherpoon. Other key players include Colleen Wright, Courtney O'Bryan, and Shea Scully. Unfortunately, the team lost five seniors last year, so this will be a period of rebuilding for the team. Without these alumni girls, the team has a "different look." The team's goal, like that of the Boy's Varsity, is to make the playoffs. Coach Reminick thinks that as long as the team works hard, it will reach this milestone and beat its biggest opponents, Harborfields High School. For the past three years, the team has made it to the County Finals, and won its first County Championship two years ago. Winning again this year would be the ultimate goal for the team, although it will be a very difficult goal to reach. Coach Reminick's advice to the team is to stay competitive, to learn from its mistakes, and for the younger girls to watch and learn from the upperclassmen.

A season to remember

by RYAN GREENHILL



PHOTO: WWW.HUFSD.EDU

Coming off a heartbreaking season, missing playoffs by a single point, the Huntington Girls Varsity soc-

cer program rebounded by posting a strong 10 and 2 league record. Coached by Huntington's own John Walsh, the Blue Devils returned 12 key players including 8 veteran seniors. When asked about the season as a whole, Coach Walsh said, "Overall, the season was a success. The girls really came together as a family." Led by captains Angela Bosco and Meredith McCourt, the girls

stunned number one Islip on their home field, silencing the home crowd with less than twenty minutes left in the game. The lone goal by Angela Bosco got the girls to the County Championship game where they faced the Hauppauge Eagles. Although they dominated the first half, the Blue Devils could not hold on. With a late second half goal, the Eagles took the air out of the Huntington crowd. Nonetheless, the team looks back on the season with nothing but positivity, nostalgia, and good memories. "This year we became a family, the chemistry really helped us become successful for the whole season," said captain Angela Bosco. The Huntington Varsity program looks to continue their success in the upcoming seasons.



PHOTOS: NATHAN SMITH



Varsity is a faster paced game, and both the Boys' and Girls' Varsity teams are working very hard to get to the top of their game. The two teams show lots of dedication to the game, and they have some serious potential. They need all the support that they can get from their fans, so let's show some school spirit and support our teams!