

# The Raider Times

Thanksgiving Issue

Watertown High School

November 30, 2009

## We Are The Champions

*WHS Lady Raiders Beat Oakmont Regional 1-0 in State Final*

By: Aaron Parseghian

On Saturday November 21, 2009 the Watertown Raiders varsity field hockey team won the Division II State Championship, defeating Oakmont Regional 1-0.

The road to get to the state championship game proved to be a difficult one, as the Raiders edged out another 1-0 game against Canton, on a clutch goal by junior Bianca Jones. Jones' goal, and stellar defensive play by senior captain Kelsey Prendergast were just enough to earn the team a spot against Oakmont in the finals.

Oakmont, a team known for their tenacious offense, started the game off quickly when they pushed the ball all the way down to Watertown territory in the opening minutes of the game. A missed chip shot off the crossbar by Oakmont led to defensemen Katie Carlson clearing the ball all the way to the opposing half.

The ball stayed in the Oakmont area for the first half, which relieved some pressure off of sophomore goalkeeper Kayla Costa. Costa, who wasn't too concerned about it said, "When I got on the field [at the start of the game] I was nervous, but the nervousness went away once the game started." This mentality seemed to help, as Costa kicked away anything that came her way.



The 2009 Division II State Championship Field Hockey Team

Photo by: Lifetouch Studios

The Raiders lone goal came in the final stretch of the first half, off a slap-shot by junior midfielder Jessica Doggett. The crowd was jubilant when the ball hit the back of the goal. The fans knew that the single goal could be all the talented Watertown team needed to pull through. The modest Jessica Doggett said, "It felt good to know that I contributed to the win, but it was

really a team effort, everyone did their part and that's why we won."

The second half worked because of wise coaching decisions made by Eileen Donahue. These included moving Middlesex League MVP and leading scorer Emily Sideris from forward to midfield, to add some needed defensive pressure. After a

couple of close calls during the second half, where goals were taken away from the Oakmont team due to penalties, the Raiders were able to waste some of the clock until the final whistle blew.

Sticks went flying. Athletes were jumping, and fans were screaming, as it became clear that the Raiders had become the Division II state champions. "It's amazing," said junior Michelle Poirier, when asked about being a champion. "I'm on top of the world!" exclaimed Jillian English.

Probably the most often overlooked part of this championship and season is the success of head coach Eileen Donahue. This win gives her an unheard of tenth state championship she has received in twenty-three years of coaching. This is statistically ten times more state championships than most coaches receive in their entire careers. "She pushed us really hard, but in the end, it helped us to succeed, she truly is a great coach." said junior Kaylee McNamara

The girls finished the season with an undefeated record of 21-0-2, and have hopes to be just as strong next year. The team will only lose four seniors, and two starters. When freshmen starters Lauren Sutherland and Alyssa Carlson were asked about their hopes for next season, they both said, "Repeat!"

## Obi-Tabot Signs with Fairfield U.

By: Jacqueline Tresca

Senior Brittany Obi-Tabot signed a letter of intent to the Division I Fairfield University at WHS on Tuesday, November 17. With the submission of this pledge to attend Fairfield, a university in Connecticut, Obi-Tabot will receive a full basketball scholarship. This incredible accomplishment comes only after Obi-Tabot has proven her remarkable for basketball during four years at WHS.

Since making the Raider's varsity team her freshman year, the 6-foot tall Obi-Tabot has racked up just about 950 points and 950 rebounds as the team's center. Averaging 18.1 points and 13 rebounds a game last season, Obi-Tabot led the Raider's girls team to the tournament last year.

An emotional Obi-Tabot was supported by her family, teammates, Coach Rimas, and other members of the school community as she signed her letter on Tuesday. It was an emotional experience for all who attended, especially Obi-Tabot herself. "At that time, it finally hit me that I was actually going to be playing at the D1 level. It

was actually really emotional to sign the letter too because I've worked hard since middle school to improve my game and it was nice to know that it all payed off," said Obi-Tabot. After being introduced by Athletic Director Mike Lahiff and girl's varsity basketball coach John Rimas, Obi-Tabot made her own tearful

speech, thanking both Coach Rimas and her AAU coach, Donald Morris as well as her family, friends, and teammates for their support over the years. Her speech left her supporters themselves crying, overwhelmingly proud of her accomplishments.



On November 17, 2009, Brittany Obi-Tabot signed her letter of intent with Division I Fairfield University.

Photo by: Samantha Rourke

## Vote for PHU

By: James Dunoyer

"You have a dream, and a goal, what are you gonna do?" This is the question that Kevin Phu, enior at Watertown High School, poses in his video "Education Means Everything." The video is an entry in a national contest to make a response to President Obama's speech on education from September 2009. The video is among thousands selected to be put up against other student made videos. The contest is an effort to get students motivated to learn and help their communities, a message that parallels Obama's speech. Kevin's video has already made it to the top ten, where voting is open to the public until the first week of December, when the winner with the most votes is awarded \$1000.

This video is not Kevin's musical debut. "I've written several other songs. All of my songs are based on personal experiences and some deal with mature situations." A win in a national contest will surely be advantageous in whatever field Kevin plans on going into, whether it is music or something entirely different. With a good education he can do whatever he wants, like he portrays in his video.

Kevin Phu made his video in an Interactive Journalism course taught

*Continued on Page 2*

### ***In This Issue:***

- \* *How to ward off the Swine Flu*
- \* *Feature Teacher: Ms. Johnson*

- \* *A recent school threat*
- \* *Harry Potter visits Boston*

# Goodbye Lisa D'Amico

By: Ashley Caira

The first question everyone currently asks when walking into 222 is why? Due to recent cuts in the budget, Watertown High has no choice but to let Lisa D'Amico go. Mrs. D'Amico has been working the desk in 222 for two years, but sadly, she must leave us. Mrs. Dinardo and many students have tried to help save her job. Senior Mia DePaolis quoted, "We literally were sitting here and said lets make a poster for Lisa." So that is what they did, and had students sign it almost like a petition.

Mrs. D'Amico grew up in Belmont and graduated from Waltham High. Even her husband is from Watertown. So she has always been apart of the Watertown community. "I love it!" She explains when asked how she likes working in the Watertown District. Lisa participates in many other things besides working at the High School. She helps with "WMS PTO and WHS PTO, Pop Warner, Watertown Wrestling and I think that's about it." So as everyone can see, she is a big help to the community. To see her go from Watertown High is a big loss for everyone including the teachers. "Oh my Lord! I'm so distressed about the

whole situation. It's a tough job, we need her!" quotes Ms. Johnson, the Foods and Nutrition teacher.

Mrs. D'Amico does many things in 222. There are way too many to name but a few are, period attendance, regular attendance, class lists, lockers, for example, helping to ensure that all lockers are assigned to students properly. When the nurse is absent, Mrs. D'Amico is the one kids go to when they are sick. She takes care of entering all discipline into computers, for example, in-house or out of school suspensions. She helps with student services, students' homework and even provides passes to students. On top of all of that, she orders the school supplies needed for the school year, helps with Iparent and Ipass. At the end of the year, she writes out the hold slips and organizes locks and lockers. That is just some, not even going into detail about handling calls, faculty parking, mailings and handouts and daily operations of 222. It is clear that when she leaves, organization will definitely be out of order.

Junior Cory Donahue feels, "It is disappointing and sad to have such a

nice lady leave the school." Who else could make students feel better about their days. Junior Danielle Brewer mentioned, "As a new student, Mrs. D'Amico made me feel welcome, and I enjoy being able to see her every

morning."

Mrs. D'Amico has made everyone at WHS feel welcome, and we will all miss her when she leaves us. Goodbye Mrs. D'Amico!



Mrs. D'Amico helps Abe Hamad with her trademark smile.

Photo by: Chloe Anderson

## Phu is Finalist in National Competition

Continued from Page One

by Vera Ventura. Everyone in the class worked on their own video, but Ms. Ventura saw huge potential in Kevin's original music. She had Junior James Dunoyer edit the video with Kevin because he had never edited before. She believed that a collaboration between the two of them would produce a winning video. So far her instincts seem dead on as the video successfully made it into the top 10, pitted against 9 other recognition worthy videos.

"He helped make the video a huge success," Kevin says about James. "Hopefully it'll make the cut."



Kevin Phu is all smiles about his chances of winning!

Photo by: Ashley Caira

Good luck Kevin!

## Students

### "Expect Bloodshed"

Threat disrupts opening of school day

By: Aaron Parseghian

Wednesday, October 7, 2009 had an unusual start compared to most at Watertown High School. When they came to school in the morning, students were greeted by a crowd of police officers, school officials, and other students waiting patiently in groups outside the school.

"EXPECT BLOODSHED", was written on a stall door in one of the school bathrooms. This two word phrase caused all the trouble.

The note was found at 9:30 the night before by a custodian, who was doing his nightly routine of wiping down the bathroom's walls. Immediately after discovering the note, the custodian contacted the police, fearing it could be a serious threat against the students' safety. The police immediately contacted the high school's administration. "When I found out about it [the threat] I was at home. It was around midnight when the police came to my door telling me that I needed to come back to school, it was an emergency," said Housemaster Michael McDermott.

After arriving at school around 12:30, Mr. Noftsker, Officer Swift, Mr. McDermott, and Ms. DiNardo, took the time to search every locker in the entire school one by one, the common areas, the library, and the rest of the school, making sure everything would be safe for school to be open the next morning. By the time they were done it was six in the morning and a telephone call was sent to all the parents, explaining the situation and that students were to enter through the main door, and no backpacks would be allowed in the building.

As a safety precaution,

backpacks that were brought into school were checked by staff members waiting for them. They were marked and put in the library for the remainder of the day. "The system of checking backpacks was a little slow, but it was a good idea for security reasons," said sophomore Ryan McDermott, about the process. Afternoon and evening events were subsequently cancelled.

When students arrived in school they were directed to enter the auditorium and wait for an address from Mr. Noftsker. While addressing the students Mr. Noftsker informed them of the situation and the altered schedule for the day. He went on to say how, "One person caused this." and asked if for any student with knowledge of the threat, to step forward and report it. At the end of the assembly, the Headmaster commended the students, on their good behavior and cooperation, which he said made the day a lot easier to handle.

This isn't the first time in recent memory the school has had to deal with a threat like this. "About 2 or 3 years ago we had a threat written on a mirror in the girl's bathroom saying the school was going to explode, and at that point the school was evacuated for a few hours," said Housemaster McDermott. The school's previous experience with safety concerns led to the day running a lot smoother. "The day was just like any other, I wasn't really that concerned," said junior David Farrar.

Currently no leads have been found, or investigated by the police or administrators. If you know anything about what "EXPECT BLOODSHED" may mean or who might have wrote it, please tell someone, a teacher, guidance counselor, or a housemaster.



### The Raider Times 2009-2010 Staff List

**Editor-in-Chief: Chloe Anderson**

**Copy Editor: Sasha Grodsky**

#### News

**Kalli Fabrikarakis (Editor)**

Dylan Doyle

#### Feature

**Zohra Yaqubi (Editor)**

Harrison Ford

#### Opinion

**Ashley Caira (Editor)**

Brett McManus

#### Arts & Entertainment

**Jacqueline Tresca (Editor)**

Brian Jackson-Puglia

Wajeעה Shams

Vanessa Souza

#### Sports

**Aaron Parseghian (Editor)**

Alex Logan

#### Issue Freelancers

Michelle Ambila

Keith Singh

Anthony Smart

The newspaper staff welcomes freelance writers. If you would like to work on *The Raider Times*, see Ms. O'Grady.

# Facts about Swine Flu

By: Vanessa Souza

Swine Flu has been a problem in the nation and many have been affected in Watertown. On May 12<sup>th</sup> 2009, a letter came out saying that a student at the Hosmer School had been diagnosed with H1N1 influenza. Then a second letter came saying that two students were now infected with the swine flu. The students at Watertown High School were told that if they had a fever, cough, or sore throat, they had to stay out of school for 24 hours after their fever is below 100 degrees without taking any medications. The Massachusetts Department of Health made sure of getting every important information across to the Watertown Public Schools.

There is some confusion about what the Swine Flu actually is. This virus has the potential to quickly and unnoticeably spread, and it may be even harder to treat than the regular flu. In the spring of 2009 more than 200 deaths were confirmed in Mexico and throughout the US, and many also in other countries.

The symptoms of the swine flu are very similar to the seasonal flu. They

include fever, diarrhea, muscle aches, headaches, and vomiting. Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, pain or pressure in the chest, and confusion, are also signs of the swine flu. If you notice any of the above symptoms and signs, you should immediately contact your doctor or health care provider.

The FDA approved a new vaccine on September 15 of this year, and it is now available to those who are worried of being infected by swine flu. There are two types of vaccines, the dead virus is the shot, and the nasal spray is live. One dose is enough to protect yourself, so ask your doctor about it.

To prevent swine, you should cough into your arm, clean your hands with soap and water, and use hand sanitizer. Cover your nose with a tissue when sneezing; don't touch eyes to avoid any germs getting to you. Avoid counters, door knobs etc. You should also stay away from people who are infected by the virus. This virus is spread from person to person, but not from eating pork.



A line of people stretches up Common Street while they wait to receive the H1N1 vaccine on November 21, 2009.

Photo by: Ashley Caira

## It's That Time of Year: PSATs

By: Kalli Fabrikarakis

All high school students dread the day when they're required to take the SAT. It's one of the most unanticipated requirements of high school, especially for students in the eleventh grade. A student's SAT scores allow admissions staff at colleges to identify how well-prepared students are for college-level academics. Grades also play a significant role in indicating how well students are going to perform academically once in college. SAT scores are also included in the process of admissions, and because of that students tend to become very distressed over their performance and score decently on the test.

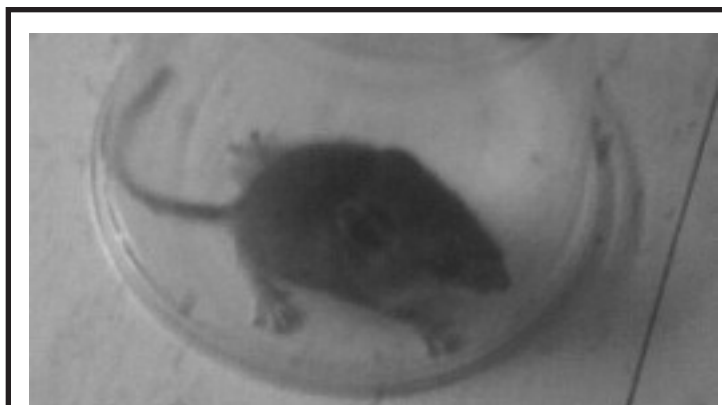
For this reason, districts provide their schools with the PSAT exam, the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test, which helps students prepare for the SAT. The PSAT is a test designed for sophomores and juniors that predicts how well they will do on their college-qualifying Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). Here at Watertown High School, the PSAT exam was given on the morning of Saturday October 17 at 7:45 in the morning. Any sophomore or junior that wanted to sign up to take the PSAT exam needed to pay a \$25 fee and hand it in to the guidance office. Once the fee was paid, students were given a booklet that had hints on how to take the PSAT exam, and also a

practice exam along with an answer key as extra practice for those that wanted it.

The chilly morning of October 17 had sophomore and junior students bundled up in their jackets as they entered the lobby. With their freshly sharpened number 2 pencils in hand and graphing calculators, students were ready to find their assigned room and take the test. Three hours later, the test finished and students left, their faces that were once filled with uncertainty were now filled with relief. "It wasn't as hard as I thought it would be. I found it very helpful because I was able to see what I knew, how my test taking abilities were, and what areas I needed to work on for the actual SAT," says junior Erik Hoiseth.

For all the sophomore students who did not take the PSAT exam this year, and did not think twice about signing up for, it is highly recommended by all students who did take it. It gives a chance to see what subjects on the SAT students need to prepare for, and gives students a little heads up, so they know what to expect from it. Students who are not determined to take test should definitely reconsider and know that there is always next year to sign up. College is something that is always in the minds of students, and for that reason the PSAT should be as well.

## Look out for Mice



A mouse interrupted one of the Science classes....a science lesson in itself.

Photo by: Brian Jackson-Puglia

## POW Flag Replaces Raider Sign in Gym

By: Keith Singh

You are not forgotten. That is the motto that is emblazoned at the bottom of the American Prisoner of War flag. Yet we have to ask ourselves, have we forgotten? The POW flag is an American emblem that has a long history, with many honored traditions, like having the flag always flying with the American and State flag. This is not the case though, in the Watertown High gymnasium. Since the beginning of September various students have looked up at the gym walls, and wondered, "Why is the POW flag there?" Not only is it hanging away from the American flag but it is hanging alongside school accolades, on a wall behind bleachers covering the spot where our Raider sign was.

With National Prisoner of War recognition day just passing by, one has to ask why our school decided to dishonor such rules and regulations by blatantly moving the flag over from its designated spot next to the American flag, high above the gym floor, where it should be. Were a veteran or anyone knowing the flag codes to visit our school when the POW flag was being flown in its incorrect spot, they would question the integrity, and perhaps the intelligence of the school. Teachers and students have no idea why the flag was moved, and the school has not yet brought up any reasons or explanations as to why the black and white flag has been placed behind the gym bleachers. Anyone standing up before a school

game during the national anthem could not look up and see the American flag, while remembering those who we have lost in times of war.

The POW flag was not moved intentionally though. With no malice or thought it was moved over the bleachers while renovations were being made to the gym. With glaring open spots on the wall the maintenance of the school decided to put the POW flags up in the blank spaces on the wall. When asked, Mr. Noftsker mentioned how it was a "central office discussion" and how he was personally very interested in the outcome of the fiasco. The administration cares deeply about the veterans, and has strong ties to the veterans of Watertown, so the problem will be fixed as soon as possible.

The Prisoner of War flag is not a flag to be taken lightly, or one that can be disrespected. Created in 1971 the flag was concocted during a time where America was deep in a grim war. The Vietnam War had taken many lives, but had also taken 2,000 troops, who were labeled MIA, or missing in action. These troops never came home, and no records show their deaths. For them and all of those that have gone missing during our nation's wartimes does the POW flag stand. It deserves its rightful place next to the American flag, and our Massachusetts flag. Not trapped behind our bleachers, and missing from our view.



Should the POW-MIA flag take the place of the Raider mascot in the WHS gym?

# Arts & Entertainment

## Looking for a Good Movie? See...

### “The Time Traveler’s Wife”

By: Wajeeha Shams

The Time Travelers Wife is a movie based on Audrey Niffenegger’s novel of the same title. It is a sci-fi and romantic movie. In the movie Henry DeTamble, played by Eric Bana, has a genetic anomaly which causes him to move from one time period to another, disappearing and landing in another place and time (without clothes). This is so that he cannot take anything in the future or the past back to his time. This is because he might steal something important or valuable from one time. With time Henry learns to break into clothes store and steal what he needs. Henry meets Clare Abshire played by Rachael McAdams when she is six. They meet occasionally at different ages and times. In the future they get married, Henry being 28 and Clare 20.

The lights, houses and cities shown in the movie are very similar to the book. In one scene, when Henry disappears it is shown exactly as described in the

book. The movie is very similar to the book, however the ending of the movie might upset the fans of the book. Clare and Henry go through a lot because of Henry’s unexpected time traveling and Clare is alone a lot of the time. The movie was great, however it could have been significantly better. Henry seems to be the same in every part of the movie with a couple of grey hairs, though, he time travels and gets older.

This movie is a comeback for Eric Bana who has not been seen in movies for quite some time. Eric does a brilliant job playing Henry. Rachael McAdams has also shown great acting and fits in well for the character of Clare. The child actors have done exceptionally well in this movie. The movie and the book are liked mostly by women because of the eternal love between Henry and Clare. Many people still like the book more than the movie because the book has more details.

### “Capitalism: A Love Story”

By: Sasha Grodsky

If you’re looking for a fun time and you are about to buy a ticket for Michael Moore’s new documentary “Capitalism: A Love Story,” put your money back in your wallet and turn around. Go out and ride your bike or something. However, if what you want is an in-depth run down on the current economic situation, with a slight (okay, pretty extreme) leftist bias, buy a ticket and settle in, it’s a long ride.

The movie starts with a clip of cats flushing toilets, gives the audience a moment to chuckle and then launches into two hours of ripping the United States economic system to shreds.

In “Capitalism: A Love Story,” Michael Moore discusses the history of the United States economic system and attempts to explain how it got us into the mess we are in today. Most of the movie, while very informative, can only be called depressing. It is filled with

stories of people who have had their homes repossessed and CEOs of big banks who are using the bailout money of the American people for their own gain. Not exactly a pick-me-up.

But the film does have a few funny moments, including a scene where Moore tries to get back the money from the bailout as well as a hopeful message: It is not too late. Act now and it is not too late to save ourselves. All in all the film is a worthwhile watch, although not for those with short attention spans or a tendency to fall asleep in movies (unless that’s what you’re looking for). The film is long and at times repetitive, revisiting the same topic over and over again, trying to drive home a point that was made in the first ten minutes. Still, if you have the time and are interested in learning more about the current economic situation it is probably worth your time to go see it.

### “Funny Games”

By: Brett McManus

Two thumbs up to the Michael Haneke’s remake of twisted tale about a pair of preppy, psychotic, young adults who terrorize innocent families that are vacationing on their secluded summer lake homes. Ironically titled, “Funny Games” is an intense psychological

thriller and will mess with the audience’s mind scene after scene. Michael Pitt’s and Naomi Watts’ performance as the deeply troubled Paul and the house wife Ann is outstanding. It is highly recommended to any movie goer to see this fantastic film.

### “Jennifer’s Body”

By: Vanessa Souza

Jennifer’s Body is the title of this horror film starring the famous, beautiful Megan Fox. She plays Jennifer, the hottest girl in her high school, who slaughters teenage boys. She becomes thin when there is no one available after a fire in a bar. Her best friend is a nerdy bookworm, and Jennifer, being a conceited cheerleader, shows her that they have little in common. Noticing that boys are missing from school, the best friend must uncover the truth and stop the bloodthirsty violence before it reaches her own boyfriend.

Watching this movie was disappointing because it was nothing

### “2012”

By: Brian Jackson-Puglia

The premise on which the film is based is a popular doomsday scenario, that is supposed to take place on December 21st 2012. This has supposedly been predicted by many ancient civilizations. The movie stars John Cusack, as an unsuccessful author who, along with his family tries to escape the apocalyptic events that plague the planet and which face humankind with certain extinction. The cast faces many scenarios which include tsunamis that scale skyscrapers, mega earthquakes which shatter the foundation of cities,

like the trailer portrayed it to be. Many things differed, and it wasn’t what would have been expected after watching the trailer. Junior Brian Jackson-Puglia watched the movie as well, and talked to me about the story, and how the movie wasn’t scary at all. He said, “That movie was horrible, if I had paid with my own money I would of been very upset”. Despite the negative parts of the movie, there were some highlights that were presented in a ground breaking way. To all guys who love Megan Fox’s fierce look, the movie is recommended, but if you are expecting much more of the movie, then it should be avoided.

and volcanos that scorch the face of the earth. You may be asking yourself as you read this, “How could anybody Survive that” but you must see the movie to find out. The movie was a real nonstop action film that left its audience holding on to their seats. The graphics of the movie were simply stunning and were “the most realistic graphics in a movie I have seen yet.” The film is recommended for anybody who likes nonstop thrillers and action movies. The movie is deserving of 4.5 out of 5 stars.

### “Whip It”

By: Sasha Grodsky

“Whip It” starts with Pash (Alia Shawkat of Arrested Development fame) dying Bliss (Ellen Page)’s hair blue in the bathroom at a beauty pageant. It gets better from there.

“Whip It” is the story of Bliss Cavendar, an aspiring beauty queen living in the middle of nowhere (Bodeen, Texas). Bliss is at heart a hipster and happens, by chance, on a rare excursion to Austin pick up a flyer for the roller derby. From that moment on, the derby becomes her life. Derby seems to Bliss to be the answer to everything that has been lacking in her life. There is excitement, community, and Oliver, a boy who plays in a local band. Despite this newfound happiness, Bliss still struggles at home. Her mother is a retired beauty queen who wants nothing more than for Bliss to follow in her footsteps, and Bliss feels hard-pressed not to disappoint. So Bliss leads a double life. By day she works in the local diner and tries on cotillion gowns, but by night escapes to the

freedom of the roller derby.

Bliss is a likeable and relatable character, one whom the audience finds it easy to sympathize with and Oscar nominee Ellen Page of Juno fame, is perfect for the part. The cast as a whole was very strong and all of the characters from Derby Girl, the novel by Shauna Cross on which the movie is based come to life.

While “Whip It” probably will not go down in history as a classic, it is adorable through and through and very impressive for a first time director. Drew Barrymore, who directs, also plays a minor role as one of the women in the derby league.

As a whole the movie was fast paced and entertaining, with an upbeat and catchy soundtrack, a cute storyline and enough romance and fist fights to keep any audience entertained. Viewers will find themselves drawn into the world of roller derby and will be trying to think of their own derby name as they cheer Bliss, “Babe Ruthless” on.

## For a Good Read, try: *A Thousand Splendid Suns*

By: Wajeeha Shams

A Thousand Splendid Suns is written by the author of The Kite Runner Khaled Hosseini. The Kite Runner was a huge success. It describes the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and a bond between two friends. A Thousand Splendid Suns tells the same story of friendship, love, hatred, anger, war, and relationships. This book focuses more on females and the friendship between two women of two different generations.

The main character in this book, Mariam is the illegitimate child of

a rich cinema owner, Jalil. He marries her off, and she becomes the victim of abuse from her husband. She then meets Laila and finally gains the strength to stand up to her husband Rasheed. All this takes place during the war in Afghanistan, during the Soviet invasion and when the Taliban arrived.

The book is very well written and it is unbelievable that a male author wrote a book so well about a female character. He describes the feelings of a woman in depth.

This book is beautifully written and is not only about relationship between two women but women in general. Importance of education for females is emphasized in this book. It also shows the reader the drastic changes Afghanistan underwent from a beautiful place to a war zone.

The New York Times printed their book review on this book saying, “In the end it is these glimpses of daily life in Afghanistan — a country known to most Americans only through news

accounts of war and terrorism — that make this novel, like The Kite Runner, so stirring, and that distract attention from its myriad flaws.” Most readers enjoy The Kite Runner while others, especially women, feel that “A Thousand Splendid Suns” is better. Mr. Hosseini has said in an interview that it took him twice as much time to write A Thousand Splendid Suns than The Kite Runner.

# Harry Potter: The Exhibition at MOS

By: Chloe Anderson and Ashley Caira

You enter a dark hallway and proceed to a small dark room with one candle. The dark lighting in the first room of the Harry Potter Exhibition set the mood for an exciting journey through the years of Harry Potter. The prelude to each and every movie echoes through the room preparing its audience for the excitement that lies ahead of them.

"Welcome to Hogwarts!" screams a woman with a British accent, dressed in black robes as the audience enters the first corridor, guided by a man dressed in black robes holding a lantern. The woman holds the infamous sorting hat, asking visitors who wants to be sorted first. The anxious children among the group raise their hands immediately as news cameras buzz around them. One child is chosen and takes a seat on the stool as the sorting hat is placed on his head. The hat proceeds to quote the exact lines it uses in the movie and then finally yells, "Gryffindor!"

Two enormous doors swing open to reveal a pitch black room with eight screens all of which are playing clips from all six movies. In the very last clip the Hogwarts Express roars across the screen and a curtain on the left rises to reveal an exact replica of the Hogwarts Express, with the loud train whistle blaring. As the audience passes by the train, they enter the well known Portrait Gallery, where the famous moving pictures are seen, including the fat lady who sings!

The first room is the Gryffindor common room. The room is set up exactly as it is seen in the movies. Ron and Harry's beds are in the room, along with the costumes and props used by the actors in the movies. Included among these is the infamous Golden Egg that Harry won in the fourth book, the Goblet of Fire.

The audience travels through the Common Room and arrives next to the classroom set. People are taken under arches and pass by stone walls all of which originated in a castle in England. The notice board displays "Dumbledore's army" among other notices. Then the journey takes you to the potions classroom, where you see the costumes of professors Snape and Slughorn, from the newest movie. To the right the audience finds Professor Lockheart's giant portrait of himself, right from the movie set. Straight ahead there is Professor Umbridge's nauseatingly bright pink walls with

her cat plates. Alongside all of this you can see a Cornish Pixie, a number of costumes, and the blood-stained paper bearing the writing "I mus not tell lies", the remnants of a punishment forced on Harry by Umbridge. Moving forward you come to the last classroom exhibit, the Herbology Green House. In this room it is easy to hear Mandrakes screaming as guests pull them out of their pots. This interactive part of the exhibit gives guests a chance for some hands on action.

The next room people are led into is the Quidditch field. This room involves "artifacts from their matches" as well as Draco Malfoy and Harry

Buckbeak. He is the exact one used in the movies, and it is told that each of his feathers are hand painted and hand stitched. Once the audience has seen the famous Hippogriff, they then proceed inside Hagrid's Hut. Here his costume is seen and also his belongings. People are allowed to take a seat in his humongous chair, after all when you're part giant, you cant help but be big!

Just as if you were in the movies or the books, when you leave Hagrid's hut the audience finds themselves journeying into the forbidden forest, just as Harry has been forced to do through either detention or trying to save Hogwarts and the Wizarding Community. In the

all together. "A collection of the darkest elements from the film series fills this environment." In the dark, evil room you will find, the Angel of Death Statue, what is really behind a Dementors' clothing, and the costumes of the Death Eaters and Lord Voldemort.

The final room is the Great Hall. The main attraction of this room is that it holds nine props and artifacts from the Yule Ball including the dress Emma Watson, who plays Hermione Granger, wears in the film, and Victor Krum's dress clothes. Inside the great hall, items and food from the feasts are placed realistically and the fake food looks so real that people could just reach out and eat it! One display case even contained candy from the wizarding sweetshop in the town of Hogsmeade. Lastly there are Professor Dumbledore's costumes. The room is an exact replica of the Great Hall where all of Hogwarts gathers, whether it be for food or safety this is the main place to be.

After touring the whole exhibit, the group was told there would be a surprise guest. The surprise guest was Matthew Lewis, who plays Neville Longbottom in the movies. Matthew seemed well connected with everyone and the audience including ourselves. We even got to take a few pictures with him! We had an amazing opportunity, when meeting with him. Some of the guests even got a special chance to go back into the exhibit and pull up Mandrakes with Lewis. After all, his character Neville loves Herbology and even helps Harry during the events that led up to winning the Goblet of Fire. Camera crews and press followed him as well, and made sure to get quite a few pictures.

The exhibit will be traveling around the world for the next 5 years. Boston is only the exhibit's second city, with Chicago being the previous one. The exhibit took three years to come up with, including the concept and design, getting all the props together, and actually building it. It also takes three to four weeks to set it up at each location. "We hope it will be jam-packed!", says the designer of the exhibit, Robin Staply.

The exhibit is in Boston until February 21st. It costs \$26.00 to enter, and takes about an hour to go through. For every Harry Potter fan. For people who are not big fans, the exhibit is still a lot of fun!



Students from Cunniff Kids News, WMS Splash, and WHS Raider Times, pose after the press showing of the Harry Potter exhibit.

Photo by: Ms. O'Grady

Potter's brooms. Also the Bulgarian and Irish props straight from the Goblet of Fire movie are set in this part of the exhibit. Sitting atop the crystal base is the golden snitch, which Harry must catch in every Quidditch game in order for Gryffindor to win a match. In this room there is another interactive opportunity open to guests. The audience is able to try their Quidditch skills as shoot the Quaffle through their house goals and earn points, just as the cast does in the movies.

After leaving the Quidditch room and entering Hagrid's Hut you can't help but notice the giant Hippogriff

dark, Forbidden forest, guests will find centaurs, Acromantula (giant spiders) and the Hungarian Horntail dragon that Harry fights during the fourth movie, "The Goblet of Fire," and it is exciting to see that all of these animatronic characters are the actual ones used in the movies.

When leaving the forbidden forest and traveling through a hallway, a giant chess piece from the chess scene in the movie is seen as you enter the next room, entitled, Dark Forces. If you listen carefully you can hear Lord Voldemort whispering. In this room guests can find all of the evil from the books and movies

## IMAX XMas Carol

By: James Dunoyer

The Jordan's Furniture IMAX Theater in Natick has succeeded in keeping a classic Christmas tale alive and interesting. Since it was written in 1843, A Christmas Carol has been presented annually in many different forms, including movies and plays. Everybody knows the story and after all of the productions seen, it can get monotonous, which is why seeing it in IMAX 3D took it to the next level.

As always, Scrooge is uncharitable and grouchy during the holidays, and as always, he has nightmares on Christmas Eve of the ghosts of Christmas past. However, this time the ghosts are more animated than usual as they jump out of the screen at the viewers. The effects of the IMAX

3D at Jordan's theater are flawless and astounding. On top of it being in 3D, the IMAX makes you feel like you are actually there learning about the wonders and morals of Christmas with Ebenezer Scrooge.

The meaning of Christmas is getting more difficult to express as the requirements to keep children's attention for ninety minutes get harder to reach. With technology that responds quicker than ever before, it is too much to expect kids to sit through a long play despite the valuable message it may teach. The IMAX 3D fixes this problem by grabbing your attention right away and not letting you look away until the credits roll.

## New Moon Rises

By: Vanessa Souza

*New Moon*, by Stephanie Meyer, an author who had a dream about Edward and Bella, began writing the Twilight saga. A mother by day, writer by night, this novel was put together very well, beginning with *Twilight* and followed by *New Moon*.

People expected this novel to have the same effect as *Twilight*, but fans came out to be very disappointed. Little did they know, there was a twist. *Twilight* is completely different from *New Moon*. Many things were left out of this novel such as Edward and his family. In *Twilight*, Edward and his family were emphasized more and the readers learned more about their background and how they became vampires.

*New Moon* is narrated by Bella. When Edward abandons Bella, you can feel the tension and pain she's feeling. Many things happened to Bella, such as being attacked by Edward's enemy, as she tries to overcome the loss of her loved one. She becomes closer to Jacob, the werewolf, and their friendship of many years becomes stronger and more compassionate. Jacob loves Bella even though her heart is drawn to Edward.

The book isn't necessarily all about Bella. It includes many other things, such as the vicious vampires, as they try to get Bella for the revenge of Edward. I knew about The *Twilight* Series but was never a big fan of it, but as I began reading it, I started to love it. *New Moon* is definitely recommended, if you enjoy adventure, thrill, suspense, lovestory and vampires.

# Feature

## Lack of Electives

By: Kalli Fabrikarakis

Imagine having to go through your entire high school career, and only being offered electives do not interest you. The main purpose behind electives is to give students the opportunity to take classes that they really enjoy. Electives are meant to open up new areas of interest for students and in some cases prepare them for the career they choose to pursue after high school.

Many high schools allow their students to choose their own electives, in hopes of encouraging them to begin shaping their futures based, on their own interests and goals. By allowing students to choose their own electives, based on their personal interests, students may consider colleges, and what they want to major in. Based on their chosen electives, students have more insight towards selecting an appropriate college or trade school, in order to pursue their interests.

At Watertown High School, students are not being offered many electives that inspire students to further pursue them after high school. If WHS were to enrich their selection of electives, then students would be more involved with structuring their futures. Not everyone shares the same goals in life, and by offering a variety of electives, students are able to learn to their strengths. So why not add a bit of flavor to the choices of electives that students are being offered? Change is often not a bad thing, and in this case has a good change of creating positive results. It is important to recognize the different interests of students in order to strengthen not only their abilities, but also to stimulate their interest in education after high school.

## A Dipping School?

By: Keith Singh

Athletes. Farmers. People from the south. These are the kind of people you can picture spitting out the brown, thick, residue that comes with dipping tobacco. Yet this kind of tobacco use has taken a home in the mouths of many Watertown High students. Dipping tobacco has recently become a popular thing for all those desiring a strong quick nicotine rush. Though dip can be quick, useful, and discrete, dip isn't the healthiest thing, and there can be many things to watch out for.

Dip is a kind of tobacco that is clumped inside of a tin, and then pinches of these clumps are put between the lower lip and gums. While the user has the dip in their mouths, the dip makes tiny cuts along the gum wall, letting the nicotine seep into the blood system, instead of inhaling, like one would do through a cigarette.

Dip is not a smoking substance, and doesn't pollute the air, or cause a danger of second hand smoke. The student handbook does not state anything against dip, or chewing tobacco, though it is under the umbrella term tobacco product. This makes one wonder, is it not against the rules to use dip in school? Can students stop hiding their packed lips in front of teachers and

However, not all students may feel like electives make a significant contribution to their education. Some students feel that primary subjects such as English, math, science, and history are more important to their education than elective classes. The school board especially seems to feel that these primary classes contribute more to the success of students than the extra elective classes. When asked how she feels about the electives here a WHS, junior Jacqui Tresca shares, "Personally, it does not really effect me because I don't have the room in my schedule, but I do think that it is unfair that upperclassman such as the seniors, get preference of classes. Classes meant for school to career such as child development should be offered because it both helps kids excel in the area they want to pursue, or find something they would be interested in pursuing in college."

Although there are many electives offered at Watertown High School, there are not nearly enough to satisfy all the students, especially underclassmen. The most electrifying classes that are offered at Watertown High School only seem to be offered to mostly senior students. All of the basic electives, such as photography, cooking and art, are offered to the younger students, while the more career oriented classes, such as psychology, accounting and law are offered to upperclassmen. It is important to offer a greater variety of electives to the younger generation of high school students, to introduce them to a wider variety of electives, and possibly make them think more of their futures at a younger age. Children are the future and in order to celebrate that philosophy, it seems to be a wise decision to expose them to a wider variety of electives at a younger age.

spitting in bottles, or can they emerge and openly use dip?

The answer is no. Though it is not mentioned in the handbook, there is a sign outside of the school that bans all use of any tobacco products. This isn't a school rule, but a rule set by the state of Massachusetts. This of course does not stop those who use dip. The use of Dip has slowed down recently, with many claiming they do not do it anymore, but small concealable things like this will always be going on in schools, the only thing that can stop them is the education behind dip, and its harmful effects. When asked, Mr. Noftsker did not know the wide use of dip that was happening. The administration had not known at all about the use of dip, signifying how unnoticeable the use of it has been within the school. The school's plan to stop the use of dip isn't centralized in punishment, but education of dip. Chewing tobacco substances can be harmful over a long period of time, stemming future problems like cancer of the mouth. The use of dip in the end is up the student. Whether or not they choose to pack a lip is up to them. Being properly educated about the subject is up to those who have the authority to ban it, and hopefully the education will reach those who need it.

## Private vs. Public

By: Harrison Ford

This September there was a far larger than average number of former private-school students who came to Watertown High School, which is most definitely a public school. The great switch has outsiders wondering... how do the two schools compare? Do private schools really offer students a better education? Is the food better? What are the sports teams like?

The answers are simple, as I found out. I asked junior Natalie Singer, who recently made the transition from Dana Hall School to WHS. Natalie was originally enrolled in Dana Hall because her parents wanted her to have a «single-sex education». When asked why she came back, Natalie responded «It was too far away, I didn't have a say». But Natalie was not affected negatively by the switch; «coming back was easier than leaving».

Of her former private school, Natalie has fond thoughts, «It was fun. I loved lunch. We had lots of choices.» Some other perks of DHS were «lunch off-campus and required fun». Natalie also stated that, because of the lack of boys, the girls were able to focus completely on schoolwork, and she felt «less distracted».

Upon her entrance to WHS, after years of being absent from the Watertown Public School System, Natalie is not bitter, and is enjoying her junior year. She excels in three-dimensional art and is excited for the Junior Cruise. Natalie proves that the transition from private to public school can be a difficult experience, but adaption doesn't have to be. The differences may be obvious, but the magic of high-school years is just the same.

## Care to Squeeze In?



Students crowd into classrooms to learn.

By: Zohra Yaqhubi

It's weird enough walking into a new classroom for the first time at the beginning of a school year, but it's even worse when you walk in and there's nowhere for you to sit. This issue is not as uncommon as it may seem. The academic year of 2009-2010 has proven to be one seemingly packed with students. "It's very hard to concentrate with a lot of kids in our English class. You tend to get less done with a lot of kids." says sophomore, Vicky Quirk about a packed full second period English class.

"I do have a small classroom... the biggest setback is that I can't give individual time to individual students in such a large class, especially in a class that focuses so much on writing," says Ms. Gilmartin, an English teacher who has experienced the overcrowding. The issue of overcrowded classes though, isn't as clear cut as it seems. The number of students and teachers has stayed relatively the same for the past years, and so this leads us to think, why are there so many kids in certain classes this year, if none of the numbers have changed?

Every student's schedule is generated on the computer, with the principal and department heads working alongside it. The goal for each classroom at any given level or subject, with few exceptions depending on classrooms, is to have between 24-25 students. Where the system hits trouble is when students take classes offered only one period a day. The classes you get are based off of your entire schedule. Timing being a key factor. Singleton classes offered at WHS are classes that are only offered one period, with one teacher, in one classroom, and when students take classes that are singletons, and still need to fulfill their academic requirements, choices get smaller. They have no other choice but to be put in a class they still need to take, even if it already has 25 students. When students

take singletons, "larger numbers of kids get moved around, making larger classes" says Mr. McDermott, Headmaster at Watertown High.

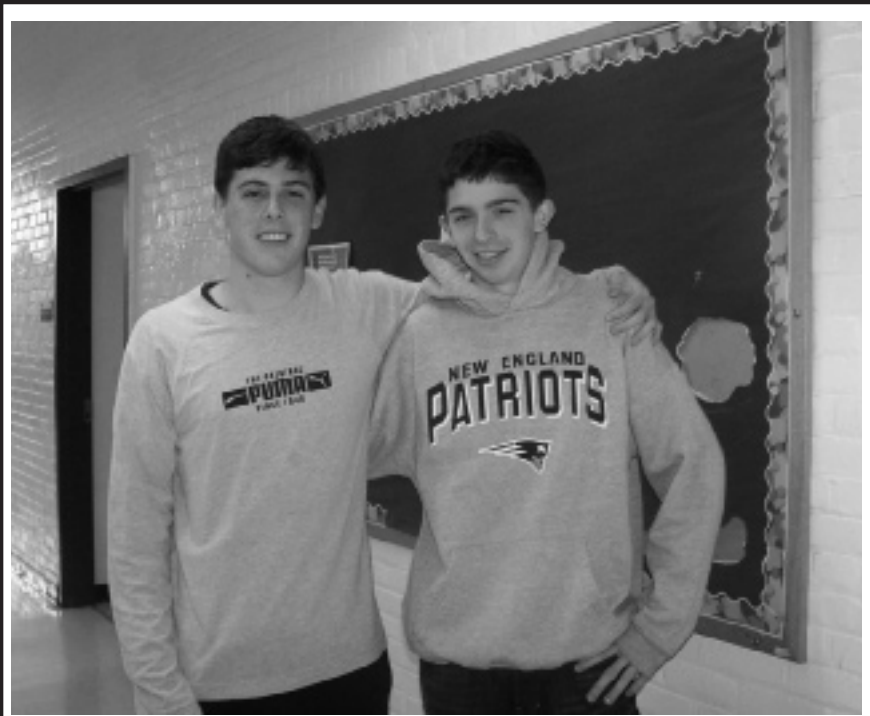
When asked which level of classes is offered the most, Mr. McDermott ensured that, "certainly AP doesn't, it's a 50-50 between Level I and Honors". So with the significantly smaller amount of AP classes, which are, for the most, all singletons, and the somewhat larger amount of kids taking them, the group of kids being pushed into classes already relatively full is becoming larger and larger.

"Our enrollment has been around this number [700-800] for at least the past 10 years" adds Mr. McDermott. And the teacher to student ratio has remained the same at 1:22 for the past few years as well. So, this year seems more overcrowded and poorly distributed than the past few, only because of more kids being pushed into already somewhat full classes to accommodate timing, and the fitting in of all classes in a day, but the numbers have remained the same. "We were able to keep everyone on our staff from last year- no one was layed off" Mr. McDermott stated, proving that indeed the numbers haven't shifted.

There is no clear solution to this issue. It is not something that scheduling can fix since there are only small amounts of certain classes offered in our school. "I suppose the easiest way to do it would be to hire more staff... which is probably unlikely due to much constraints" Mr. McDermott tells us, giving one possible, but unlikely solution. So seemingly larger classes this year, may in fact be quite larger than certain classrooms can permit, but the there aren't more students or less teachers, it's all in the timing.

# McDermott Brothers Tell All

By: Chloe Anderson



Senior Chris McDermott (left) with his brother Sophomore Ryan McDermott (right) show how upperclassmen and underclassmen perspectives differ.

Photo by: Ashley Caira

All students encounter different experiences during their time at WHS. Everyone has different occasions they will always remember and things they have waited their whole high school career for. Also, one's years spent at WHS can also change who they are, what they think etc. A sophomore's opinion is definitely different than a seniors' but also there may be something that all WHS students can agree on. Interviewing brothers, senior Chris McDermott and sophomore Ryan McDermott, confirmed this.

## How is your school year going so far?

**Chris:** My school year is going pretty well so far. I have a lot of stuff to keep me busy with college applications and Senior Thesis.

**Ryan:** It's going well. It's nice not to be a freshman and it's nice not being locked in a locker every day

## What is something you look forward to everyday at WHS?

**Chris:** Everyday I look forward to going to Mr. P's Astronomy class. His knowledge of space keeps me interested and his clever one liners keep me awake during third period.

**Ryan:** I look forward to seeing my friends, and I enjoy hearing Dunny's take on current events, and protein. I also look forward to Mr. P's biology class. His comical stories and enthusiasm keep me interested in learning. He should be on TV.

## How have you changed since freshman year?

**Chris:** Today I think I am a little less goofy looking than I was my freshman year. In other words I look less like my brother.

**Ryan:** I believe I have matured, and contrary to my brother's beliefs I too have become less goofy.

## What is your favorite memory at WHS?

**Chris:** My favorite memories in WHS have been the spirit weeks and the pep rallies. There's just something about telling freshmen

to sit down that puts me in a good mood for all of Thanksgiving break.

**Ryan:** My favorite memories are going to the football and basketball games

## Who is your favorite teacher and why?

**Chris:** My favorite teacher is without question Mr. Buck. You can't talk about Mr. Buck without mentioning his overwhelming kindness. He shows this not only towards his students but also towards people he doesn't even know by running the Invisible Children group at the school. I have also learned all that I know about NGO's and giving rice from his class.

**Ryan:** It's a tie between Mr. P and Sr. Henry. Mr. P because his class is my favorite and Senior because of his laid back yet challenging classroom setting.

## If you could change one thing at WHS what would it be?

**Chris:** If I could change one thing at WHS it would be that there should be a "McDermott Appreciation Day" because let's face it even though us McDermott's have a weak sophomore link pulling us down, we still have me and Mr. McDermott, 2 people who keep the school running "smoothly"

**Ryan:** I would want no dress code so that I can wear my micro mini skirt and revealing top to school

## What are you looking forward to the rest of your high school career?

**Chris:** The rest of this year I am looking forward to just being a senior. I am also looking forward to track so I can watch Nathan break the world record for most high school records broken. Finally I am looking forward to having great debates in Rimas' class about things such as religion in schools, gay rights, and whether or not Dupuis' guns should have restrictions on them

**Ryan:** I am looking forward to becoming an upperclassman, going on the junior cruise, and hopefully gaining enough muscle mass in my arms to be in the same class of deadly weaponry as Dupuis.

# Annual Spirit Week at WHS

By: Zohra Yaqubi

Watertown High has always upheld the tradition of an annual Spirit Week leading up to Thanksgiving Break. Spirit Week 2009 will take place from Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. The school's Sports Management club, run by the juniors and seniors, alongside advisors Mr. Ciarametaro and Ms. Nykiel, are in charge this year for planning and putting together the events of the week as well as the activities taking place in the Pep Rally on the half day before Thanksgiving Break.

Every year, the Sports Management club with their advisors, co-plan the entire schedule of events. The events differ every year, "Students brainstorm ideas for the Spirit Week events. Often, ideas from previous years are reintroduced and reused. This year we brainstormed 62 ideas while sharing pizzas." says Ms. Nykiel, one of the teacher advisors for The Sport's Management club.

This year, the events on schedule are as follows:

Thursday- Flannel Day

Friday- Flashback Day (wear clothing from another decade)

Monday- Salad Dressing (Freshmen are blue cheese- wear blue and white, Sophomores are Thousand Island- wear tropical clothing, Juniors are Ranch- wear cowboy clothing, Seniors are Cesar - wear togas, with clothing underneath!)

Tuesday- Color Wars (Freshmen wear orange, Sophomores wear purple, Juniors wear yellow, Seniors wear camouflage, Faculty and Staff wear blue.)

Wednesday- Raider Pride (wear red, white and black)

But it is important to remember than any student wearing attire that is inappropriate will be sent to 222 and be given a pair of sweatpants and a sweatshirt to wear for the rest of the day.

Each grade is encouraged to participate in the events, as they all contribute to school spirit, but the

higher you go in grade level, the more pride you see. Juniors and seniors are always the classes that put forth the most "spirit" through high participation rates from most, if not all students in their grade.

Students get very excited for this week, as it is only comes around once a year. Senior Harrison Ford encloses, "As a senior, I'm very excited for spirit week. In years past I've been apathetic, but I've come to realize that spirit week is a departure from every other mundane week. It's a chance to be silly and express yourself, which is something every student can benefit from." sharing his excitement about the event.

The Pep Rally will be final event, ending Spirit Week at Watertown High. "We are planning to have an obstacle course, pyramid building contests and a dance off. Each grade should also make a banner to display at the Pep Rally," adds Ms. Nykiel, giving a glimpse of what is to come. And on the Wednesday directly following the Pep Rally will be the traditional Powder Puff Football game at Victory Field. The Senior girls will take on the Junior girls for the annual sports match. On Thursday, the boys Football team will play the Thanksgiving game versus Belmont, the game will take place in Watertown this year.

The Watertown High School Spirit Week has been a long held tradition at the school. It is held every year to show support and pride for Watertown and more specifically to show support for our football team as they play in the traditional Watertown vs. Belmont game. "Spirit Week is a fun time for the school community to show town and school pride while having fun and acting goofy at times." Ms. Nykiel says, of the fun line-up of events that everyone gets to take part in through the duration of the week.

Spirit Week is no average week here at Watertown High, so be sure to plan out your outfits and dress accordingly, because it's a week full of events you won't want to miss out on. Events will be posted around the school as well as said over the announcements for extra reminders, but it's all up to the students to show their true school spirit!

# Help WHS "GO GREEN"



**Don't forget to  
recycle this paper!**

# Cooking in the Classroom with Feature Teacher: Ms. Johnson

By: Michelle Ambila

The Raider Times "Feature Teacher" is none other than our WHS "Foods" teacher Ms. Johnson. In "Foods", students put their culinary skills to the test, by following recipes in order to make meals and baked goods. They enhance their culinary creativity, while learning about nutrition, and how to make healthy choices. Nutrition is a subject that Ms. Johnson feels is important to discuss with her students. She informs her students about portion control, fats, and how to read a food label, so that her students know how to eat "smart." She also uses healthy ingredients in her recipes in order to promote a healthy lifestyle

Ms. Johnson had become inspired to teach by her brother, Middle School gym teacher Mr. Johnson. She attended Framingham State in 1997, and graduated in 2000 with a Bachelor's Degree in family and consumer sciences. She got her masters at Endicott College, and then began teaching at Bedford High School. She taught "Foods" at Bedford High for four years, and at

Mansfield High for two. She began teaching "Foods" at Watertown High in September 2006, and has taught at the high school ever since.

Surprisingly, Ms. Johnson's interests were not always in teaching. Her uncle inspired her to join the military in 1991. She went into basic training as the oldest in her class at age 35. In the military, she worked in Personnel Services, organizing records, and participated in safety drills for two weeks during the summer. She later enlisted into the National Guard until 2002.

Just recently, Ms. Johnson's advanced students made food for the "Raider Café" which is held at the high school for faculty and staff. When looking back on the events that have occurred in her Foods class. Ms. Johnson's most memorable experience involved a student's tray of chocolate chip cookies catching fire, when the parchment paper the cookies were on began to burn. Smoke filled the room



Ms. Johnson patiently shows XXXXXXXX how to knead pizza dough in a recent Foods class.

Photo by: Ashley Caira

while Ms. Johnson struggled to take the cookies out of the oven. Luckily no one was hurt, and the room was flame-free.

Ms. Johnson's hard-work and dedication makes her worthy of being

our "Feature Teacher." Congratulations, and we hope that you'll be teaching at Watertown High School for years to come.

## SAT Time at WHS

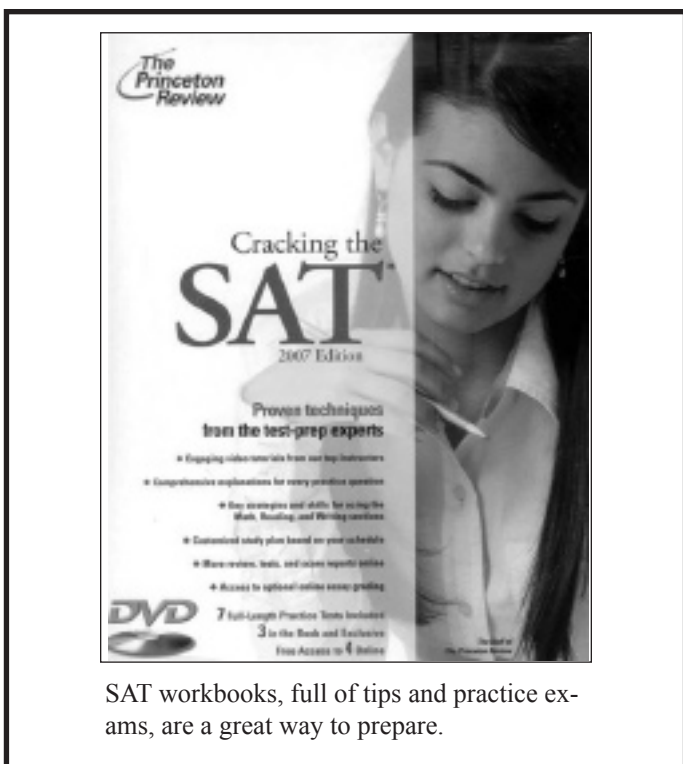
By Wajeeha Shams

The SATs are taken by high school students. It is a requirement for most colleges. Many students do not do well on the SATs, however sometimes their GPAs are good enough to make up for it. There are many reasons why most students do not seem to do so well on the SATs, like they might be taking it the first time, they could be stressed out or the limited amount of time which is given. Even under these circumstances many students can still achieve very high score, some get it on their first try, for others it takes time and they take the SAT's 2 or more times.

Many students and parents raise the question whether the SAT's are fair? On Jiskha Homework Help there is an article by Alexander Chuang "Is the SAT a Fair Test" in which he says "These scores supposedly predict students' academic levels and promote diversity on the national level. Unfortunately, the test promotes elitism. There is a sense that the test determines which college a person attends and how he will do before he even enters. This is as unfair,

like assuming there is water on Mars without stepping foot on it and looking. No one test truly measures someone's intellectual and economic future." Nowadays many colleges don't just look at the SAT scores. There are many other things that are considered like college essay, GPA and extracurricular activities. These and other student achievements can increase your chances of getting into the college you want.

A question asked by many students is whether they should take the SAT's or the ACT's? The SATs and ACTs are two different tests, in many ways they determine different skills. You may perform well on one and not so well on the other. Kaplan Test Prep said, "the difference between SAT and ACT in these terms: the ACT is a content-based test, whereas the SAT tests critical thinking and problem solving." In my opinion both should be taken because you might do well on one or who knows maybe both. The SAT's and ACT's are very important and students can achieve better scores if they practice the SAT's as much as they can.



SAT workbooks, full of tips and practice exams, are a great way to prepare.

## Making a Difference for Invisible Children

By: Chloe Anderson

For the last four years world history teacher, Mr. Buck has run a club whose sole purpose is to stop the longest running war in Africa. You may have heard announcements about Invisible Children; well it is not about legitimate invisible children.

Invisible Children at WHS is a small club trying to raise money for the "schools for schools" program and collecting books to be donated and sent over to Uganda. The national group uses the power of media to display their purpose of raising money for the schools, children and refugees of the war and spread their message loud and clear world wide. The group closer to home is part of the "schools for schools" program. The "schools for schools" program raises money that goes straight to a partner school in Uganda. Each high school involved gets partnered with a real school in Uganda and all their fundraising efforts go straight to the school. It is a good way of knowing exactly where the money is going and what a powerful impact it will have on real children. The money raised can help rebuild a school destroyed in the war or supply the school with simple necessities such as books, pencils, paper and other school supplies. The

top schools, raising the most money get to send a representative to Uganda to see what their fund raising efforts have actually accomplished.

"I'm so proud of all these kids who want to help other kids who live half a world away" says Mr. Buck. "I just wish more kids could get involved." The group is open to anyone willing to help come up with ideas to raise money and get the whole school involved. Buckets of candy can always be found in Mr. Buck's room being sold for 25 cents or one dollar. Also, t-shirts are sold with the saying "every war has an end" on the back projecting the group's message. Anyone is willing to stop by and purchase a t shirt or even a DVD. Other fundraising efforts are in the making and will be hitting WHS soon and anyone can give money and help this worthy cause. Your money can really make a difference.

Every penny counts when raising money for such a powerful reason. This club is unlike any other club at WHS. The money raised does not go to the member or benefit the members. The money benefits real children involved in the longest running war in the history of Africa.

Interested in helping WHS Invisible Children Club? See Mr. Buck or Chloe Anderson

# Opinion

## No Room to Breathe in Classrooms

By Sasha Grodsky

On the first day of school students at Watertown High School walked into their classrooms to find them packed to the point where in some classes there were not enough desks for every student in the class to have a seat.

When asked if he had any overcrowded classes 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade history teacher Craig Gustafson said, "They're all overcrowded. I've never had more kids." He went on to add that he has two classes where every single desk in his room is full, and two more that come very close to being full.

Some classes, like Mr. Harrington's fifth period math class, are so big that they do not fit in their classrooms and are forced to move to the lecture hall until enough students drop the class that it can fit back in its designated room.

## Still No Bake Sales?

By: Zohra Yaqhubi

It's not unknown that Watertown High School has been lacking bake sales for a while now. The disappearance has been leaving many students questioning why.

Bake sales are no longer allowed at Watertown High School, for a variety of reasons, one of the biggest reasons being state guidelines. State guidelines about nutrition and the content of foods being sold (especially their sugar amounts) do not allow public schools to sell these sugary snacks to students. Food allergies also play a large roll in their disappearance. The lack of labeling and mystery ingredients that the homemade sweets are made of, have the possibility to be a risky venture for those students with severe allergies. The rules banning the sales of baked goods are, "based all on healthcare and contents of the foods," says Mr. McDermott, Headmaster here at WHS. Bake sales have indeed become, against the school's rules.

The rules and guidelines regarding such topics are generally taken "from the State Department and Board of Health" adds Mr. McDermott. Parents, television and community concerns also take part in how these rules are formed.

There are however, you will find, exceptions to these rules. The Armenian Club has a food sale annually during school hours. Although other groups are prohibited to do so during

Almost anywhere you look in the school teachers can be seen teaching to enormous classes and begging kids to drop their classes.

It's not just teachers feeling the impact of the overcrowding. Students haven't noticed the change too. Sophomore Zohra Yaqhubi says that "all my classes are enormously larger than last year."

Despite most classes being full there are a few classes throughout the school (other than AP classes) that are oddly, almost empty.

There is much speculation among the students as to why the size of classes is so out of balance. Some say it is a glitch in the scheduling, while others say it's that the freshman class is much bigger than most classes. Whatever the reason, you better hurry to class or else you won't find a seat.

the school day, this event is welcomed and encouraged labeling their sale as a "cultural experience". The ideals of the sale are the same though, and almost parallel to a regular bake sale other than the difference in food. This sale however, is a special exception to rule, and the group has Mr. Noftsker's permission to hold it. Because it is a "cultural experience", the Armenian Club food sale is able to be held at the school. Bear in mind though, that this is the only food sale you'd find during a normal school day.

Bake sales that do happen at the premise of the school are only after school hours, at certain events being held at WHS. Things such as school plays and parent nights are run by different groups and they still hold bake sales at the school. Food sold at those kind of events though, are usually found labeled and store-bought, not actual homemade products. "You don't see that many homemade cookies," Mr. McDermott explains.

In general though, school day bake sales are a thing of the past as rules from the Board of Health are getting stricter. Schools have no choice but to oblige, and because of that, the chances of a student purchasing a cookie or muffin in between classes have disappeared. Sadly, you won't find a bake sale from 7:55 to 2:30 in the building, because they are in fact, now prohibited.

## WHS Athletes are Paying to Play

By: Jaqueline Tresca

No one wants to have to pay fees for sports at a public high school. However, that's what it's come down to here at Watertown High School, which now charges a \$175 fee in order for students to play sports. Beginning this 2009-2010 school year, students at WHS have had to pay \$175 for their first sport, but are not required to pay an additional fee for additional sports throughout the school year. Students who receive free or reduced lunch may have the cost waived.

But why do we have to pay for sports that we have never had to pay for in the past? According to Mr. Michael Lahiff, athletic director, we have to pay to take the place of \$50,000 of the athletic budget. Due to perhaps the economic difficulties, we can no longer afford to pay this fee at either the high school or the middle school without charging individual athletes. What used to be considered simple aspects of sports at WHS, such as paying for officials and equipment, has become unbearable for the school to support on their own. "Some of the things that we pay for in this line item are buses, officials, memberships and dues (for example, belonging to the MIAA and the Middlesex League) and other services to run athletics," said Lahiff. All of these aspects can be incredibly expensive. Therefore, as a public school, administration has now resorted to having parents who already pay taxes towards the school, participate in fundraisers for sports, and buy apparel for their student athletes, pay an additional fee.

I have to agree with Maddie Rimsa, 11<sup>th</sup> grade, two-sport athlete, when she thoughtfully said, "Well, I think that they're [the athletic fees] pointless because I don't see what the money goes to and we've been getting along without paying fees for a while." If we've been getting along without paying fees for such a long period of time, why do we have to begin paying for athletes now? Could athletics have been better factored into the school system's budget in the past to put the athletics into a better position now? If we had begun to pay for athletics in the past, would we be able to afford more in our athletic program now? Probably. However, I must admit that I probably wouldn't have liked paying for athletic fees anymore if I had started my freshmen year rather than my junior year.

While it is shocking and new to student athletes to have to pay for their school

sports, I don't believe that this new requirement is completely unreasonable. In my perspective, it was bound to happen at some point, considering we cannot even afford paper here at WHS, let alone uniforms and buses. In comparison to nearby schools such as Belmont High, the \$175 fee is relatively small compared to a fee of \$400 for the first sport, \$300 for the second, and \$150 for the third. For a three sport athlete this comes to a total cost of \$850 a year. However, schools such as Burlington High and Woburn High are still capable of paying for their student athletes without implementing fees. While it would be nice to not have to pay a fee, I can see that with the number of expenses involved in athletics, it is necessary for Watertown High now.

As long as the cost can remain stable for a few more years, WHS students and parents will not be forced to break the bank as those at other schools have to in order to pay for athletics. The problem is that if this fee becomes permanent, athletes could face more expensive fees in the future. "I hope it will not be a permanent fee because in my experience, the fees only go up and it impacts the athletic program," said Lahiff. As of now, the \$175 is not a terrible deal for most families, and the option that provides students who receive free and reduced lunches a waived fee is also helpful for those who cannot afford it. For three sport athletes such as me, it is a good deal compared to what students who play one sport the entire school year have to pay. This may be one of the greatest examples of unfairness with this new requirement. Those who only play one sport a year are, in a sense, also paying for other student athletes to play multiple sports throughout the year. Not exactly fair to these one-sport athletes.

Although some adjustments could probably be made to this regulation, it seems reasonable on the whole, especially compared to the outrageous prices paid by other local schools. However, it brings to mind one aspect of doubt for all current and future students at WHS; once we start directly paying for sports, what will come next? Spirit week and other school events? "Deep down, I hope the economy will turn for the better and hopefully the state will get more money to cities and towns and make the user fee go away," said Lahiff. We'll just have to wait and see what the future has to hold at an over-budget and athletic fee-paying Watertown High School.



Armenian Club members host a recent Cultural Experience.

Photo by: Talar Abdalian

The opinions expressed on the Opinion pages do not necessarily reflect those of the *Raider Times* staff or its advisor.

# How Old is Too Old to Trick or Treat?

By: Harrison Ford

Every year around October 31st, little children gear up for the beloved act of trick-or-treating. Some have their parents rush to Party Needs to buy elaborate costumes, while others wrack their brains for creative, homemade ideas, all beaming with the hope of filling their pillowcases or little plastic pumpkins to the brim. Most of us at WHS have fond memories of this American tradition, and a select few are *still* eager to don capes and fangs and devour goodies...which raises the question; *how old is too old to trick-or-treat?*

When approached with this holiday dilemma, most high schoolers are surprisingly open minded, like senior Rana Al-Najjar who says «You're never too old to trick-or-treat.» or senior Emily Morad who thinks high school trick-or-

treating is alright «As long as there's a cut-off age of 18». But when asked if they still participated in the Halloween trickery they both replied «No».

It appears the holiday spirit is still alive within the halls of WHS, not so much for the mystery and enchantment All Hallow's Eve brought in yesteryear, but a new nostalgic tingling that comes along with black pointy hats and candy corn. Though the vast majority of students are done with trick-or-treating, they remain sensitive, like junior Mireille O'Connor, who calls it a «child's pastime».

So this Halloween, don't expect to answer the door and see only munchkins, because the grand old tradition of trick-or-treating is, and will always be open to ghosts and ghouls of all ages.

# Where Has All the Paper Gone?

By: Jacqueline Tresca

In an effort to conserve money and to help the environment, Headmaster Nofstker has restricted teachers to the use of one case of paper each for the entire school year here at Watertown High.

Due to a very minimal budget this year, Mr. Nofstker has had to ask teachers to cut down on their usage of paper for copies and print-outs. Codes have been issued for the usage of the copy machines in the building to ensure that only teachers are using the machines for class materials. This new implementation was due to the discovery of the usage of copy machines by both after-school programs and students, which used much of the school's paper supply last year. The plan is that this, along with cutting teacher's usage of paper down to only one box per year, will hopefully reduce the amount of paper used in the school, thus satisfying the school's budget. The new plan will also help WHS to "go green."

The low school budget has caused implementations such as a paper restriction and fees around the school. With increased class sizes, the need for a part of the budget to go towards new text books has caused a cutback in funds for items such as paper. Of course, these cutbacks can and have always been visible in the limited supply of other materials for the school, including the ever-missing tissues.

Budget cuts such as these can potentially have an impact on the school, the learning environment of all students, and the teaching environment of all educators, according to English teacher Ms. Regan, who says that the paper restriction has a potential to cause such a disruption if teachers have to stop giving students necessary handouts because of a lack of paper. Not only is the implementation of a paper restriction a hassle for students who now usually have to retrieve their assignments from teacher web sites, but it is difficult for

teachers as well. While many teachers have done their best to cut down on the amounts of paper used in their classrooms, most are finding it difficult to conserve paper. "English is a little unique," said Ms. Regan. "We don't have anthologies or textbooks, so there is a lot of photocopying. Unfortunately, this is a paper inducted business." According to Ms. Regan, she has already gone through about half of her allotment. In fact, many have already gone through if not all, most of their paper supply for the entire school year. For those teachers who quickly use their assigned amount, a costly trip may have to be made to purchase their classroom paper with their own resources. "Am I going to Staples and buying paper? If I have to, yes," said Ms. Regan. Although the school may attempt to reimburse these teachers, it seems as though that may not be enough to supply the entire school with the paper that we need.

Students are feeling the pain of the shortage as well. While the reduction of paper handed out in classrooms may help WHS attempt to save money and "go green," students are faced with the task of printing their own necessary materials at home. This could potentially be costly to students and their parents and would not help to conserve paper in any way. Not to mention that this could pose a problem for students who lack internet access in their homes.

While the solution to dealing with the budget may be the only option for right now, it is certainly one that is affecting students and faculty alike. The restriction of paper may, in the long run, help the school save some money, but as for now it will only cost the teachers and students more. However, restricting teachers to the use of only one box for the entire school year seems to be helping to conserve paper here at Watertown High School. While it may be a difficult option, this conservation at WHS is the only option to help us save money and "go green" for right now.

# Wi-Fi Troubles Plague the Opening of School

By: Keith Singh

Wi-Fi has become something that is expected in our modern, technologically sound world. With Wi-Fi now reaching major public areas in the city, one would think that schools would have a decent Wi-Fi network, with multiple hubs and access points. This is not the case though, with teachers and students showing frustration as their connection bars drop trying to load home pages.

In 2009 technology is a focal point in education. With most students excelling in basic web browsing and computer use, a good wireless connection is necessary for those roaming the halls with their Ipod Touches downloading the latest apps, or those sitting in classrooms trying to do their online assignments. Everyone, not just students, feel the impact of a less than stellar Wi-Fi connection. Teachers are impacted even more, for they have to do everything with their school issued Dell laptops. With the amount of grading, attendance checking, and general work teachers do on their laptops a reliable network is needed, to do their jobs right.

Teachers are being pressured by the administration to incorporate technology into classrooms, making tech a focal point in the agenda. Teachers, like Ms. Zeikel, who try to incorporate laptops in everyday classes knows how this pressure mixed with a lack of resources can be frustrating. "We are being forced to go old school with

everything, making handouts, which wastes more and more paper that we also don't have," she exclaims. In a period 4 stats class of 21 (that day) 36% of class could not get on the internet at all, to download a basic excel sheet that the class would focus on that day. The others that could had to put up with a excruciatingly low connection.

Even the Watertown High website has a section titled "teaching the net generation" which talks about the new things the high school has been supplied with. "Last year we had an exciting opening day because you received laptops and we had new laptop carts and computers for students. This year we are continuing to add student laptop carts, projectors, and other devices like flip videos, probes, drawing tablets, and notebooks." Most of these things are not easy to access though to average students, and most of these are useless without a proper internet connection.

If teachers had proper Wi-Fi and we had proper supplies Watertown could actually be caught up with the rest of the nation in technology. Notes could be accessed online, and lesson plans could be dealt out all wirelessly, eliminating the need of the mass amounts of paper that teachers use for handouts and class work. It is a matter of money for supplies, and this dream is a while away, but until then they can improve the basic thing we need, a good connection. The ball is in your court, administration.

# The Catwalk... It's Still Controversial

By: Anthony Smart



At WHS the catwalk has been known as a notorious class skipping spot and a convenient way to get to class faster without having to deal with all the people traffic in the main hallway. One day, all of a sudden it was closed, there was no real explanation to why it was closed. Some people say it was because students were engaging in inappropriate activities like throwing a section of bleachers off the catwalk onto the gym floor.

During my sophomore year I remember I would always use the catwalk to get to

my classes that were on the other side of the building, it would save a lot of time and it was a lot better than walking through the main hallway having to push through the crowds of people to get to class. After asking Aaron Parseghian a WHS junior how the catwalk effected him he responded with "Sometimes I arrive late to class when I have to make my way to the English wing to the science wing, and the catwalk would help cut down on time, I think we should reconsider it and reopen the catwalk."

The opinions expressed on the Opinion pages do not necessarily reflect those of the *Raider Times* staff or its advisor.

# Our Troops Deserve Our Support

By: Jacqueline Tresca

As Americans, we pride ourselves in our unity, our strength, and our support for fellow citizens. However, we do not always demonstrate these characteristics, especially in our support for our soldiers. At this moment, how many readers were honestly thinking of our troops overseas, fighting a battle to protect our country and to strengthen weaker countries? Probably none. Why? Because the war seems so far away, because you don't know anyone directly involved, because you don't support the war itself perhaps. These may seem like legitimate reasons for not thinking of the war as you glaze over this article, but they are not enough to explain the decline of support for our soldiers.

Day after day, American soldiers engage in a war that has kept them from their families, their homes, their lives, while the rest of America goes through the same daily routines, most without sparing a passing thought to the men and women who are allowing us to live without the gnawing fear of terrorist attacks or nuclear missiles appearing outside our bedroom windows. We tend to forget about the Americans who are sleeping on military bases tonight, or out on midnight raids, or providing support to the people of Afghanistan or Iraq. We all forget sometimes. But with the 1440 minutes in a day, there should never be too much on any American's mind to think about our troops for even just a single minute. This war and what these soldiers are doing affect every one of us, whether we know the name of a single soldier or not. Whether we support the war or not, there is no excuse for neglecting our soldiers, our fellow Americans, *our*

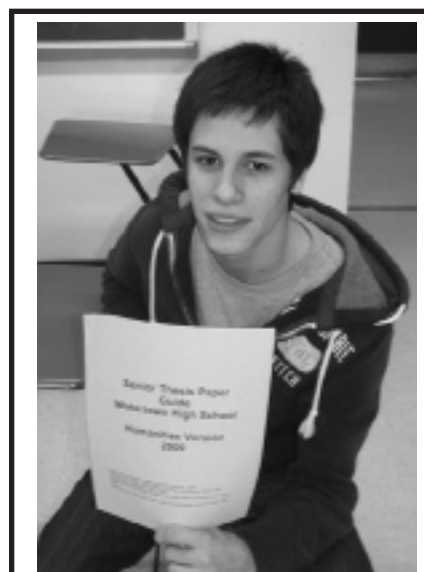
*brothers and sisters*, as they fight on.

However, this cannot be done through the current attitude that many in our country display daily. Showing no consideration and no support for our soldiers, people use inappropriate displays to show what they perhaps believe demonstrates their disagreement with the war but that actually show their neglect and unsupportive attitude for our troops. There is nothing that sickens me more than the sight of a yellow ribbon bumper sticker jaggedly cut into two pieces. How children and adults alike could show disrespect towards a veteran or an active soldier. These men and women give their time, their full effort, and even their lives in the name of our country. Day after day, American soldiers witness the bloodshed in the Middle East, the loss of their comrades, and the agonizing despair faced by injured friends. Every turn they take in the road could be hiding a bomb or an ambush. Constantly on their toes, constantly on duty, and constantly separated from their loved ones, these soldiers continue to press on. And they continue to do so without the help of the majority of their fellow Americans, without the recognition and support that they deserve.

So the next time you see a person in uniform thank him for his services, or when you go to church on Sunday pray for the men and women in the military, but whatever you do, do not forget those who risk their lives in the name of our country.

## Tackling the STP

By Anthony Smart



Senior Anthony Smart has a handle on the STP

STP, just hearing that phrase will send shivers down the spine of any incoming seniors. A paper with quite possibly the worst reputation in Watertown High School, that has many seniors scrambling at the last minute trying to finish up the last few pages of their books and get all their note cards together. Going into my freshman year I was already anticipating the horrific senior thesis. But after the 3 fastest years of my life it is my turn to have a go at the thesis. Some students may disagree with me on this but so far the thesis hasn't been that torturous, as long as you stick with the deadlines and

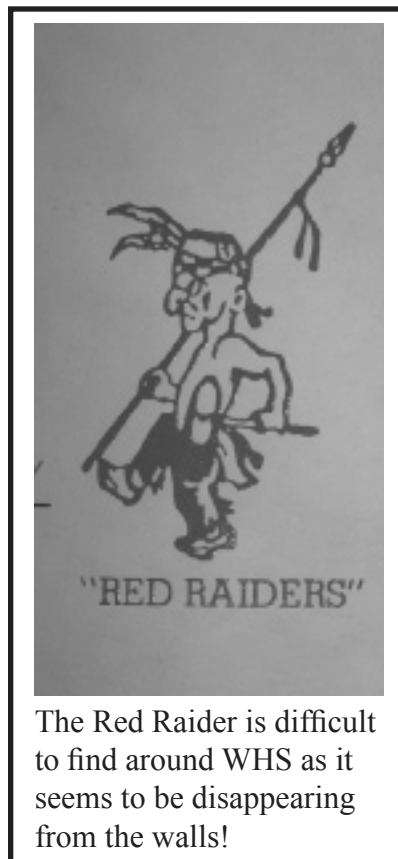
don't wait until the last minute, that's a bad decision.

I've been told by an array of English teachers "DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE!" and it's true, the senior thesis is a vicious paper, but if you stick with deadlines and stay organized the whole experience should be smooth sailing. Coming from the perspective of a level 1 student I can honestly say that it is by far easier than what honors students have to do. Level 1 student's are required to read one book and complete 20 note cards, while honors students are expected to read two books and hand in 50 note cards! A whole other book and 25 note cards per book seems a little unfair to me, the gap seems way too big. Honors students shouldn't be expected to do so much stressful work, remember we all have colleges to look at and other class work to balance.

Senior year would be so much easier without the senior thesis, maybe a bit too easy, that's why we need the thesis. The whole purpose of this vast paper is to show how well we can write and understand literature, basically to see if English class is paying off. I don't necessarily agree that we should have to complete the senior thesis to graduate high school, yes it's a very important paper but that 1 paper should decide our fate on graduating high school or not. Overall if the senior thesis was an optional assignment I can guarantee that nobody would complete it or even bother attempting it.

# The Raider: Should it Stay or Should it Go?

By: Jacqueline Tresca



The Red Raider is difficult to find around WHS as it seems to be disappearing from the walls!

The Fighting Turkeys. The Watertown Sharks. The WHS Rockets. They just don't sound right. Why? Because Watertown High School has been the home of the Red Raiders for decades. Athletes, non-athletes, and many staff members alike have always prided themselves in being the red, black and white Raiders. However, in this politically correct world, that might not be the case anymore. With the ideas of many of Watertown High's leaders, soon enough we just may be the Watertown Unicorns.

Those who are in favor of changing the Raider logo insist that it is offensive. Not that I realized we had so many Native Americans in our area, but if we do or did in the recent past, I think their input is more important in making that statement. I mean, an Italian cannot just walk up to the Notre Dame campus and complain that the fighting Irishman is offensive to Irish people. They will not seem very credible. So why should anyone who either is not or does not know the actual opinion of Native Americans be able to decide that the logo is offensive?

What *is* offensive about the Raider mascot? "I mean, it's a raging mad Indian with the exact characteristics of Native Americans but it's portrayed in a negative way, so I guess people of that decent would find it a little offensive, as it's undermining their culture," said junior Mane Harutyunyan, although she agrees that the logo should not be

changed. Over the years the Raider logo has changed from being a strong, Native American figure, to a caricature of an Indian. There may be some warrant in that. The Raider logo has become a lot weaker as the years have passed. With its balloon-like features and less intense facial expression, I could see how some could take offense to this logo. So yes, maybe we should redesign the Indian so that it demonstrates what the mascot "Raider" really stands for, but do we really need to change the entire name?

We absolutely do not need to change the entire name, our entire school's identity. According to junior Melina Kapotsis, we do not need to change the name "...because I think we're kind of honoring them because they're tough and they're warriors." I agree. When I think of our mascot here at WHS I think of pride, strength and unity. To be a Raider is to be full of pride and passion, strength and determination, unity and teamwork. These were known to be characteristic of Native American tribes. Why wouldn't we want to be represented by a mascot that says all of this? That is what the title "Raider" represents. However, the logo itself could and should be redesigned to return to representing these characteristics. By making the Indian mascot less cartoon-like, stronger, and more realistic, we can return the meaning to the symbol. However, there is no reason to change the entire name. "People would be very upset. They'd have to redo the entire gym and courtyard. I think the alumni would be very upset as well," said Kapotsis. This would mean big expenses for the school and a wound to the pride of Raider alumni and current students.

After all, the Raider really is our identity. It's who we've been at Watertown High since the founding of the school. The Raider is what connects past, present and future generations of WHS students. It's the pride, the motivation, and the determination behind every sports team. The Raider is a major part of our WHS tradition. No matter what decision the school leaders come to regarding the Raider logo, they will face serious complaints when and if they attempt to change or modify it. If there's one thing I know and love about our little Watertown, it's the fierce love and defense of tradition that we all seem to possess. After all, let's face it; the Raiders will take down the Turkeys any day.

The opinions expressed on the Opinion pages do not necessarily reflect those of the *Raider Times* staff or its advisor.

# Sports

## Watertown Recreation Sponsors Ski Trips

By: Brian Jackson-Puglia

The Watertown Ski Trip is a series of short trips that starts the first Saturday evening in January and ends in mid-February. The trip happens every Saturday from 4 PM to 11 PM. The trip is sponsored by the Watertown Recreational Department. It's fun for both skiers and snowboarders alike and is a great experience. By paying a fee of about \$300 for people who already own a snowboard or a pair of skis and about \$200 extra for a rental fee. Paying these fees will provide you with Lift passes, bus transportation, and rental equipment if necessary.

The ski trip has only been going on for three years but has given people many

memorable experiences that everyone should be able to have. The trip takes place at Wachusett Mountain, which has a terrain park, jumps, and many great trails.

Since the beginning of the ski trip in Watertown, many WHS students have increasingly joined over the past three years making the trip bigger and more enjoyable. If you are interested in signing up for the trip, you can go to Watertown city hall and ask for a sign up form, I believe that this trip coming up will be the best yet and everyone who is interested should definitely get involved

## The Forgotten Cheerleaders

By: Aaron Parseghian

"Let's go Watertown!" "Raiders go!" This typical cheer that the Watertown High School football fans are used to hearing on Friday nights, has disappeared after the first home game of the season, along with the young ladies who recite them.

After the opening night win, the fall cheerleading team consisting of six cheerleaders (four freshmen, 2 sophomores), decreased to four after two freshmen cheerers went on to pursue other sports. After these unfortunate events, the cheering team decided not to cheer at games as they felt it would be pointless to cheer with only a few members. "We decided not to cheer at games because we were getting made fun of for only having four members, and everyone thought it was pointless," said sophomore captain Vicky Quirk. Thus, the much more improved football team was left without their most consistent fans.

Varsity football player Alexander Logan agreed with the cheering team's decision. "I'm fine if there's no cheering team, I'd rather have no cheerers than only four, it's just embarrassing, especially when other teams bring a lot of cheerleaders."

However, Junior footballer Billy Stohlman disagreed with the cheering team's decision, saying, "The number of cheerers shouldn't be an issue, every high school team has a squad which I think is needed to keep the atmosphere of Friday night football."

Nowadays, the four remaining cheerers still attend practice every night, where they work on their conditioning and flexibility. At games they can be seen raising money by selling 50/50 raffle tickets to help support the program, which they hope to strengthen in the future.

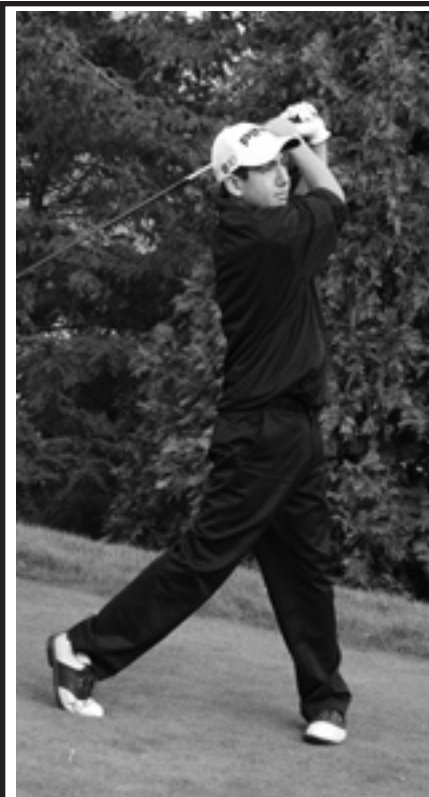
"Next year, we are hoping to have more upcoming freshmen join the team, and hopefully others that want to pursue a fall activity," mentioned Quirk.

All in all, the cheering team hopes to have a strong comeback next year, their happy spirit and athletic cheers are needed to fulfill every fan's experience at a football game, and the team's resurgence is necessary. "I don't feel the same energy in the stands, as I used to," said junior Daniel Kelly. "Their efforts are sorely missed."

## Feature Athlete

### Aaron Parseghian

By Alex Logan



Aaron shows off his swing.

Photo By: Lifetouch Studios

The feature athlete this term is probably some one you wouldn't expect. Although admittedly when you hear the name Aaron Parseghian you don't really think of an athlete, mostly you think of him as a good student, a good friend, or as student body president of the junior class, but Aaron is an active member of the WHS golf team.

Even though it is his first year playing for a team he has been playing

on and off for 5 years.

"I started playing back in middle school when I was playing two sports; basketball and baseball, and my mom suggested that I try a third so I picked up golf on my own time." His teammates appreciate that he picked golf as his third sport, Captain Tyler Bartley said, "he brings good looks and good times to the team, he's always there to cheer you up after a bad round." And when asked how he views Aaron as a golfer Tyler said "to be a golfer you need to be patient and committed to the game, and Aaron does both these things very well. He just started to play but he holds his own and always keeps up."

Aaron is no stranger to compliments like these as he remains, humble about his status on the team over all. "I mean you learn a little something from each teammate, I've received a lot of help from junior captain Tyler Bartley and top male seed Danny Kelly. Their three years of experience has really helped me out on the courses I've played over the year." He has improved his game by 13 strokes.

Aaron is not only highly complimented on the links but in school as well "I think he is a good student and a hard working boy and always tries to do his best," says Headmaster Michael McDermott. Aaron normally has no trouble balancing school and a sport "I don't view it (school work) as that difficult because I haven't had enough work junior year to make it difficult." Over all Aaron is a well rounded kid, a good student, a good athlete, and a good friend

## WHS Athlete Signs to Play Div. I Ball

Continued from page one

Obi-Tabot will be one of the few lady Raider basketball players to continue playing in college, let alone to receive a full scholarship to a Division I school. Only two other girls moved on to Division I schools in the recent past. Since the 1970s, there have only been a few girls who have gone on to play in Division II or III schools. "I found out the news about the full scholarship about a month ago. I knew that I was going to play there, but didn't know that I'd be going for free. I was shocked because I knew that it was really rare, especially around here," said Obi-Tabot.

While she awaits attending Fairfield next fall, Obi-Tabot will go into her high school basketball season without the tedious senior worries of college applications and finances. However, expectations will be high, as they always have been for Obi-Tabot, as she attempts to reach a career record of 1,000 points and rebounds this season. The Watertown High community is extremely proud of Brittany, and we can only wish her luck for the future. Who knows, maybe Brittany will be the one girl from little Watertown that we will all be watching in the WNBA someday.



CONGRATULATIONS  
BRITTANY!