

The Raider Times

Spring Issue

Watertown High School

April 1, 2009

Ms. Wagner Joins National Rugby Team

By: Kalli Fabrikarakis



Photo by: Randall Mar

Most of you know Ms. Wagner, our amazing math teacher, who works so hard to help educate us all here at Watertown High School. However, something that all of you may not know about Ms. Wagner is that she has earned a position on the United States rugby team, which is an amazing honor and achievement.

The USA rugby team is comprised of the top 20 women rugby players in the country. These women are elite athletes that train just as hard and diligently as professional football players. The members of the team are selected by a committee of coaches, who pick the top 20 women based on a tryout. Women who try out need to complete a fitness test, play in a scrimmage, and run through drill after drill, during which the coaches narrow down the team to just 30 players. The 30 players then need to compete against

each other until the coaches narrow them down to a team of 20. Once this process is completed, the USA rugby team is assembled.

Ms. Wagner began her successful career in rugby during her senior year of high school. She was a three-sport athlete in high school, playing soccer, basketball, and softball, yet felt like she needed a sport where she wasn't always being penalized or receiving yellow cards. A good friend of hers had suggested rugby and told Ms. Wagner that she should try it out. As soon as she began to play the sport, she fell in love; it was a contact sport where she could tackle someone and not get penalized for it. Ms. Wagner has now been playing for 13 years, on all different levels. She has played for her college club team, and then began playing for her territory, which is when you play for the part of the country in which you live.

However, Ms. Wagner now plays with the USA team, and has even gone to San Diego to compete against all different countries with her team. One of Ms. Wagner's best memories from all of her years in playing rugby is, "the first time that I put on a USA Jersey. That was one of the most amazing feelings, knowing that I was about to step on the field and represent my country." Another memorable moment was "winning the semifinal game at nationals with my club team, Beantown, by a drop goal. This was the first time that our team would be vying for the number one seed in the country."

Ms. Wagner has learned many life-long lessons from playing on a team, and has achieved a sense of responsibility. "I have learned how to be a good teammate, a hard worker, and a trusted friend. When you step

on the field with your teammates you are laying your body on the line for them as they will do for you. I have also learned that I am willing to put my team before myself!"

However, she has also made a lot of sacrifices. She has had to sacrifice close friends and relationships, due to the long hours put into her training and her job here at Watertown High School. She has also had to sacrifice money, paying for unfunded rugby trips

and giving up paychecks due to the time that she has taken off of work to play for her team. She's had to sacrifice family vacations and time with her loved ones, which is very hard for her.

Here at Watertown High School, we are very lucky and honored to either know Ms. Wagner or to have been able to be taught by her in one of her math classes. She has accomplished many achievements, especially in rugby, and is a very diligent and hardworking teacher.



Photo by: Randall Mar

Locker Theft Numbers Rise To All Time High

By Keith Singh

Day after day, year after year, students are pestered by teachers and school officials to lock their lockers and keep watch over their personal belongings. Yet locker thefts have persisted, and this year a staggering number; over 25 have been reported. The third quarter has just started, and the number of locker thefts has already surpassed the entirety of last year's numbers. As more and more cell phones and iPods are being left in unlocked lockers, more thefts are being reported. Few students know how often locks are broken into at the school.

Retired police officer Mr. O'Conner blames these thefts on student ignorance, and carelessness for the rise of thefts this year, saying that the best prevention of a theft is to "lock your lockers, and not put valuable things, or things you wouldn't like to lose in your locker." He also states how discretion is key to not having your things stolen. "A thief won't take the risk of breaking into a locker unless they know that there is

something of value to them inside."

Keep in mind that 60-70 percent of locker thefts happen during

the three lunches. This is because there are fewer people in classrooms, and more time to wander halls looking

for an open locker. Walking down a hallway, a person can spot at least 15 lockers that are unlocked, and being used. Mind you that the laundry list of things being stolen has grown from just electronics. North Face jackets, jewelry, and textbooks now join the list, showing people that anything can be stolen, if care is not taken.

The easiest way to prevent locker theft is also the most obvious. Lock your locker, and turn the numbers before leaving your locker. If you simply leave your locker on the last number of your combination, the lock can be opened again just by pulling down on it.

To help raise awareness of these thefts, Officer Swift is working with Mr. Rimas' civics classes. They're working on posters to be hung up around the school, alerting people to the risk of theft. Hopefully people will begin to realize what's happening in the school, and begin locking their lockers.



Photo By: Anthony Smart

WHS Students Take on Bonaire

By: Kelsey Prendergast

On March 14, 2009, eight students from Watertown High School will depart for the annual trip to Bonaire. Mr. DiBeneditti, who has run this trip for 19 years now, takes students across seas to a marine environment. Most students take classes to obtain their scuba certification before going on the trip. By getting this diving certificate, it allows the students to scuba dive while in Bonaire. Without it, they can only snorkel. In Bonaire, the students are able to study marine biology, coral reef ecology and the effects of global warming on the coral reef.

Mr. D says, "it's a wonderful experience for students and teachers." This year there are several new WHS students joining the veterans, who have already attended this trip. The group of eight includes three newbies: sophomore

Michelle Poirier, sophomore Katie Carlson, and junior Mia DePaolis.

Michelle Poirier, who is getting ready for her first Bonaire trip, says, "I'm really excited to go to Bonaire and I hope its going to be the amazing trip that everyone is making it out to be."

Sophomore Tyler Bartley, who has already been, says, "Bonaire is a great trip, and is one of the funnest weeks you can ever imagine. All of the times I have gone, I've always wished I never had to leave. It is an overall amazing experience." This trip allows the students to escape the pressure and responsibilities of school for a few days and relax while gaining a sense of adventure, as they explore the depth of the ocean environment and all it has to offer.



Photo by: Libby Emery

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KwarQs Enter Competition

By: Dylan Lindholm

The high school robotics team, the KwarQs, has been hard at work for the past two months building a robot for this year's FIRST Robotics Competition. With only six weeks to build a functional robot, the KwarQs scrambled to make something that would give them the best chances of winning. This year, the competition's game requires building a robot pulling a trailer with a basket. Human players and other robots will try to shoot playing balls into the baskets to score points. If that isn't enough of a challenge, this all must be accomplished on a surface with a low coefficient of friction, simulating what it would

be like driving a robot on the moon.

The KwarQs' robot has been designed, built, programmed, and shipped off to the competition. Try-outs were held to find a human player who can throw balls into the robots' trailer the best. The KwarQs will be competing on the weekend of March 6th at Boston University's Agganis Arena against other teams from the region. Being a second year team, they're up against some tough competition, but if this year goes as well as last year, when the team won the Rookie All-Stars award and was able to go to the Championships in Atlanta, Georgia, the KwarQs will do just fine.

WHS Shows Lots of Talent

By: Harrison Ford

The WHS Talent Show took place on Wednesday, February 25th, 2009 in the Shaw Auditorium. The idea for the show came from Mr. Dan Wulf as fund-raiser for the music department's field trip to New York City in April, and his efforts were not fruitless.

Senior Annie O'Connell and sophomore Shayla Titus did an interesting job of hosting, including skits between every act and an unscheduled curtain call. Freshman Maeve McClusky and sophomore Rose Fristrom opened the show with their team of high-stepping sword dancers. The crowd gasped in amazement as Rose did a climactic back-flip on the stage. Mr. Cooke proved to be the Beyonce of the evening, performing three times; once with Eric Falter to sing James Blunt's "You're Beautiful", once with Mr. Wulf to sing "Bridge Over Troubled Water" and closing the show with Harrison Ford, Dylan Lindholm, Clara Gibbons, and Michelle Ambila in a choral rendition of James Taylor's "Carolina In My Mind."

The night was also peppered

with some more colorful acts. Dr. Schutze belted an Italian opera song with great gusto and left the wild crowd almost speechless. Dan Wulf revealed his hidden talents as a guitarist when he played and sang Tom Cochrane's "Life Is A Highway." Junior Dylan Lindholm and senior Gaby D'Amico did an Irish step dancing routine with "Womanizer" by Britney Spears blaring in the background. Singing proved to be a favorite for the students in the show. Sophomore Isilay Yalcin sang a breathtaking version of the Goo Goo Dolls' hit "Iris." Junior Harrison Ford brought to mind April in Paris, as he crooned his way through Edith Piaf's "La Vie En Rose." And senior Caitlin Feeney brought the house down with a stunning rendition of Fleetwood Mac's classic "Landslide."

Overall it was a fun evening. The audience laughed, cheered, and even cried a little. The revenue came to almost three hundred dollars and it was a fun and creative way to alleviate the cost of an important field trip.

Forever 21 Opens At Arsenal Mall

By: Maddy Herzog

On January 31, 2009, the Arsenal Mall thrilled teenagers in Watertown and neighboring towns with its opening of the popular clothing chain, Forever 21. Die-hard shoppers began lining up at 8:00 to view the clean, bright, and shiny, two-story store. Another incentive for these early birds were the \$21 gift cards handed out to the first 200 customers, and one randomly presented \$250 gift card.

Forever 21, founded in 1984 in Los Angeles, California, is a popular destination for females and males of all ages and economic statuses. Their merchandise includes colorful, high-fashion garments at extremely reasonable prices. The store also does not confine itself to one particular trend; its numerous rooms hold a variety of styles from boho to urban, preppy to glam.



"I love their basics, like plain t-shirts and sweaters and cardigans. Everything is pretty good quality," shared Watertown Middle School student and approximately 50th customer at Watertown's chain, Norah Herzog.

Most customers value the variety of the clothing, too. Senior Libby Emery celebrated the fact that she found a pair of jeans that were short enough for her- not an easy feat. "Their dresses are really cute and colorful," she

added. "There's something for every girl there."

Prior to its recent opening, Forever 21, had not been an easily attainable store despite its popularity. The Natick Collections held the nearest one, and even that location is only a couple months old. "I could only shop at Forever 21 when I was on vacation or online," said senior Alison Marshall.

Most local mall-goers are happy to see the new, glitzy white

lights and eye-catching mannequins of Forever 21 instead of a nameless variety store or the boarded up doorway of another failed business. "When you walk in [the store], it doesn't feel like you're in the Arsenal Mall anymore," Norah explained. Its abundance of clean and organized clothing in a modernly decorated, spacious location is pretty much unique to the Arsenal Mall. "I feel like the Arsenal Mall is stepping it up," commented WHS senior Liz Russo.

If you haven't visited the new store yet, take a trip to the Arsenal Mall. Although it tends to be more popular among females, there is a large upstairs section for males as well. With all the excitement surrounding this opening in a small town like Watertown, it is not unlikely that you'll run into a familiar face.

Students Walk In The Shoes Of A True Parent

By: Kalli Fabrikarakis

Have any of you noticed baby dolls being carried around from class to class and around the halls, in the arms of WHS students? The reason behind this sudden appearance of toy dolls is due to a project that is given in The Child Development Class, taught by Mrs. Hannon.

Students in the class are assigned a baby, which they must carry around, care for, and protect, just as a parent would for their newborn. All students must carry their babies from class to class, never setting their newborn down, and experience life as a parent, especially a young teenage one.

What's so hard about carrying around a baby doll you might ask? These dolls have been filled with fish tank rocks to resemble the real weight of a newborn child. For this reason, some parents, carrying around an 8 pound baby all

day may get tired after climbing flights of stairs around the high school, or even trying to accomplish the once simple task of opening their locker.

The lesson that Mrs. Hannon hopes to teach her students by assigning this project is the responsibility that is expected from all parents. Being a young parent with a newborn baby is not always a walk in the park. It requires hard work, patience, and the loving bond between a parent and their child. Mrs. Hannon also hopes that her students can learn from this experience even if the dolls aren't real newborns. "I hope to teach my students that although the babies are not real, it still requires the skills of a real parent, and I hope to see them naturally bond with their babies."

Although a select few students have been directly assigned the babies

for their project, it is obvious that the babies have affected the entire school as well, in a positive way. Ciera Walls, a junior who has been assigned premature twins for the project, shares, "Every time I walk in the halls with my babies, I would always have someone come up to me asking if they can hold them, whether it was for a few minutes, or an entire period. It was surprising to see so many students want to help and hold the babies, and they were surprised at how real their weight was."

Some students can the parenting experience by baby-sitting a friend's baby, and have even expressed that they have been affected by the project personally. Mane Harutyunyan, a sophomore, shares, "I would baby-sit a baby for a friend of mine, and I was so surprised at how I would automatically treat the doll as if it were a real true

baby. It surprised me to see how I would rock the baby and actually cradle it in my arms, even if the baby doll wasn't real at all."

This project requires all of the students to carry around their baby dolls for 3 days and 3 nights. Each day that they care for their babies, they must write a journal entry of their experiences with their newborns, from the perspective of a real parent. Students document how often their baby needed to be fed, whether their babies had slept well, or what type of sleeping patterns they had during the night. All in all, the students put their hearts into creating the most realistic and adorable journals.

Mrs. Hannon shares that her students have all had a positive outlook on the project and have had the most rewarding experience, just as she had hoped.

Vietnamese Speaker Phuong Nguyen

By: Julia Brennan

Several WHS English classes sat in the lecture hall, waiting for the start of another presentation. This time it was not a journalist or poet, but Phuong Nguyen, a Vietnamese woman, who came to speak with us about what her early life in Vietnam during the war was like.

One of the first things she explained to us was that what we know as the "Vietnam War" is known as "The Resistance Against American Imperialists to Save Our Country," which ended in 1975. But to Ms. Nguyen, her childhood was not consumed directly with the war, as people might have previously assumed. She recalled two evacuations that the war brought. The first one caused her to move to the mountainside with her grandparents. The second moved her out to the countryside with her siblings. She says that she had a happy life in the countryside and she enjoyed the simplicity that nature had to offer. There was not the influence of computers, iPods and cell phones that we have today.

Ms. Nguyen lived in a small town with her family, but attended the school in the city because her parents did not want her going to the village school. Now, she is a student at UMass

Boston, working on her Ph. D.

Famous figures from American history are well-known in Vietnam. Bill Clinton was welcomed into their country because the people had moved on from the war and they no longer thought of him as their enemy. Richard Nixon

brought money with him into their country, and that was the main reason they liked him. Over the span of his last visit, he remained only on military bases, though. Obama, she said, is loved by the Vietnamese people.

American influence (with

CNN, Cartoon Network, and MTV) and French influence (bringing the alphabet) are in their infant years compared to the Chinese influence which has been present since the tenth century. The two Asian cultures share similar philosophies and traditions, such as their festivals. But with the influences, there are negative aspects, as well. The Vietnamese people accept these influences and are used to them, but that does not mean that they support them.

"They accept it, but they don't," she said, trying to explain. There is currently no actual occupation in Vietnam today.

Ms. Nguyen and Mr. Sheehan took the time to show us a presentation of the time that they had recently spent in Vietnam over the summer. This helped us to visualize some of the places that she was trying to explain.

The bell rang just as students in the audience had finished asking questions. It gave insight to a time currently being studied by Mrs. Piscatelli's students who are reading The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien and it helped give further understanding to the students who read In the Lake of the Woods, also by Tim O'Brien.

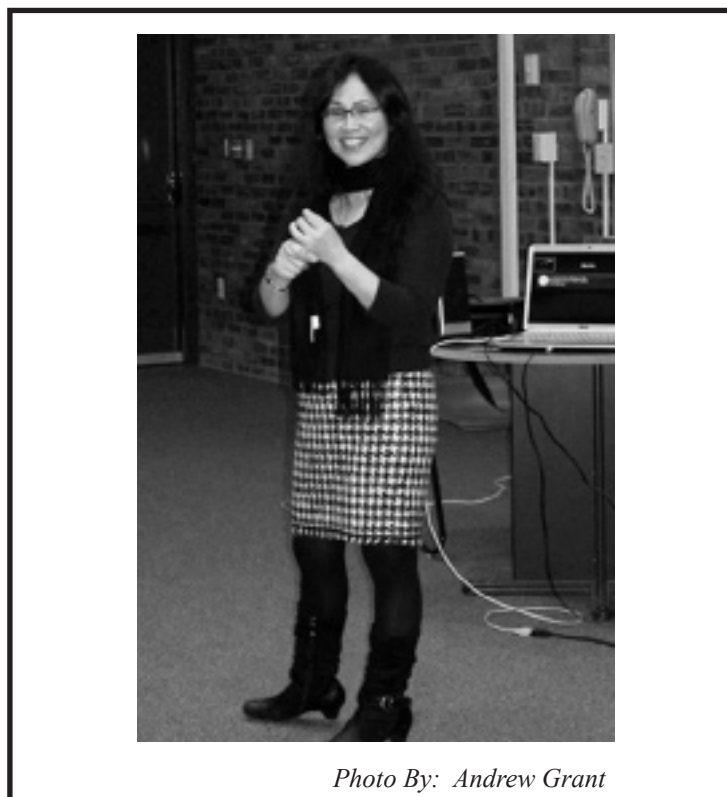


Photo By: Andrew Grant

Feature

Some Fashion Comments for Prom Season Prom Dresses

By: Taylor Connors

One of the great stresses of nearly every senior female student in high school is finding the perfect prom dress (with jewelry, shoes, hair and makeup to match, of course). For the female population at Watertown High School- here are some helpful hints.

Color is, of course, always a big factor in choosing the perfect dress. For 2009, turquoise, light shades of orange or gold, and nearly any shade of blue is "in." On www.promgirl.net, the dresses are mostly designer with prices ranging from about \$175 to \$599. They have a selected bunch voted top ten prom dresses for 2009. Out of the ten dresses, five of them were a shade of blue or turquoise. Long dresses are the best way to go for prom since it's a much more formal approach. V-neck and halter style dresses seem to be dominant for this upcoming prom season. Strapless is "out" and rhinestones are "in." The materials are becoming more and more lightweight; most of the dresses are able to move freely, fit for dancing and movement.

As for prices... most people prefer to shop at department stores for the best deals on evening gowns. For this season's dresses, most prices are ranging from \$139 to \$259. The average price for a prom dress- not including shoes, jewelry, makeup and hair- is about \$175. For those women

searching for an affordable prom dress that is still going to be very fashionable, www.promdresses2009.com may be very helpful. They have a large selection of dresses with some prices near \$100. Although there are some very fresh new styles in the designer world for 2009, unfortunately, prices can get up to around \$600, and that's just the dress!

Accessories can "make or break" a prom fashion. Jewelry is key in completing your look; diamonds, chandelier earrings and simple, elegant styles are great. Necklace/earring sets are very popular and with diamonds, dazzling. When thinking of jewelry, keep in mind the style of your dress. Too much dazzle can take away from the beauty of your jewelry or your dress. If a prom dress is beaded with rhinestones or faux stones, then flashy jewelry is not a good choice.

Another thing to keep in mind when looking for jewelry is shoe choice. For the 2009 prom season, diamond patterns seem to be a popular trend among jewelry and shoes. Gold or silver high-heel rhinestone sandals are perfect for most dresses, because they can match most any style dress. The most popular specific design is a waterfall pattern down the front of the foot. They are elegantly dressy, and can spice up nearly any dress. It is typically a better look if the jewelry and shoes

can somewhat match. If you're unsure about the jewelry matching the dress perfectly, sometimes if the shoes and jewelry match, then it will tie it all in, while still looking unique.

Now, for the hair and makeup. Having the perfect hair-do shouldn't be something to stress about. Prom hair-dos used to typically consist of a hairspray-filled, twisted, too tight to even blink kind of "up-do." However, times are changing. With this new prom season, loose and tousled hair is a much more popular approach. Big, loose curls, waves, and tousled, romantic up-dos are all easier, quicker, and more fashionable ways to make your prom beautiful, while sticking with a classy hairstyle. With classy hair, of course, comes classy make-up.

Heavy eye make-up can oftentimes take away from a prom style and thick dark eyeliners can take away from your eyes. This prom season, use a darker shade of eye shadow as a liner on your top lid and smudge it towards the crease, doing this all the way around your eye-top and bottom. It will add just the right amount of color and fade to your lids, making your eyes stand out in prom lighting. Popular shades for eye shadows this 2009 season are turquoise, purple, and gold. Always try a shadow with a touch of shimmer to dazzle it up a bit. For the lips, natural color and clear

glosses are great for this prom season. A pale red or pink gloss will be a great accent for any make-up choice.

Prom shopping is supposed to be fun, so try to make it that way- rather than stressing out about what to wear, relax and take one step at a time. Find a style that is original, affordable, and lets your personality shine through.



Photo by: www.promgirl.com

Some ideas from last year's Junior Cruise...



Junior Cruise Dresses

By: Chloe Anderson

As spring rolls in, so does the nice weather, fast-approaching summer, and school coming to an end. One thing on all of the junior girls' minds

is Junior Cruise. The stress of finding a date is nothing compared to the stress of finding a dress. Girls tend to get so worked up and worried about finding a dress. Boys have it easy; they just throw on a shirt and tie that matches the girls' dress. Finding the perfect dress is essential for junior girls who have been waiting their whole high school career to attend the Junior Harbor Cruise.

Unlike prom dresses, Junior Cruise dresses are usually short, formal dresses. Though all short last year's dresses consisted of many different styles. "I like a lot of the girl's dresses from last year," says junior Kelsey Prendergast. For the tops, halter tops, strapless, spaghetti straps and a plunging neckline were very common. "A lot of people wore all different kinds of halters last year" says senior Liz Russo about the last junior cruise. Also, open back and criss-crossing straps were common on the backs of the dresses. In '08, designs

became very popular. Many dresses had bright, colored designs and stood out in a crowd. "So many people wore bright colors", Russo comments on last year's dresses. The ever-popular beading, glitter, and sparkles made their way onto many of the dresses.

This year, many of the same styles are reappearing. The open backs, the designs, and sparkly dresses are always coming back but, this year, there are a few new styles hitting stores. All the high fashion magazines featuring new '09 spring collections of dresses have featured many of the same styles. Many new 2009 dresses are one-shoulder dresses or off-the-shoulder dresses. The one-shoulder dresses come in all different colors and designs. Also big for '09 dresses is animal print. Many new dresses feature cheetah and zebra print.

"I got my dress at Cache, a lot of people went there too," Maddy Herzog

says about her junior cruise dress last year. Cache is always a popular spot for formal dresses and will probably be another store to shop at this year. Other popular stores to keep your eyes on and check the dresses are the popular department stores Nordstrom, Macys, Lord and Taylor, Bloomingdales, and Nemian Marcus.

"I have a pretty good idea about my dress," Junior Alexis Keuchkarian says. Maybe she's one of the lucky one who has a vision of her dress. For some people, finding a dress can be as easy as finding it in the first store you walk in. For others, it can take several trips to the mall to finally find the perfect dress.

"One thing I know for sure is I think we are all going to have a lot of fun," Alexis Keuchkarian continues. That might be something all the junior girls are sure of no matter what dress they finally choose.



Photo by: www.promgirl.com

Rotary Club Reaches Out to Seniors

By: Jenna Gilreath

The college search is coming to an end for seniors and the flags are being hung out in front of the guidance department. Although some know where they will be continuing their education in the fall through early decision, others are still making choices and narrowing down. One of the factors that students and parents look out for is the amount of money that they receive and what scholarships they can receive. Fortunately, at Watertown High we have many opportunities for financial aid. The Rotary Club in Watertown is a great outreach; they hold an annual Student Speaker Program every year and I was lucky enough to take part in it and also interview one of the members of this organization to find out more about their scholarship program.

In October, seniors were invited to congregate in the library for information about the Student Speaker Program. While there, we met Miriam Jaffe and Mary Greene, Rotary Club Members or "Rotarians" as they are called. At the meeting we learned that the Student Speaker Program involves selecting a topic of high interest to you, attending a lunch at the Oakley Country Club (where meetings are held), and speaking to the Rotarians about your topic.

Paul DerBoghossian, a Watertown High School graduate and now a member of the Scholarship Committee for the Rotary Club, gave me some background about the program, saying that when he attended Watertown High, the Student Speaker Program was "started to help encourage students to have the opportunity to gain experience in 'public speaking'". As

far as he knows through his research, this program has been in effect since the late 60s or early 70s. At that point in time, students were selected through recommendations to speak during a Rotary meeting and only a small amount was selected to do so. Now, however, students just have to sign up and submit their topic of discussion, and they are then able to speak and be eligible for the scholarship.

Fundraising to support these scholarships is run by the Rotary Club and includes events throughout the year such as raffles, selling Christmas wreaths, having a booth at Faire on The Square, and also the membership fee that is due from the members each year.

The selection process of the recipients of scholarships is done by the scholarship committee, who, after hearing all of the student speakers, selects recipients based on variables such as how well students spoke, their enthusiasm about their topic, presentation, and how well they captured the audience.

As a student that has gone to speak to the Rotary club, I myself can say that I felt very comfortable. The Rotarians welcomed me with smiles and friendly greetings as soon as I walked in the door. Student speakers are welcome to join the Rotarians until just before Awards Night, when the awards are given to the students. Between the paperwork for applications to schools and government financial aid, this is a great way to try and earn some money to put toward school while also working on your speaking skills and representing Watertown High School.

New Bells Ring At WHS

By: Andrew Grant

On February 2, 2009 as the second lunch bell rang, heads lifted with confused stares. An interesting "tune" caught the ear of just about every high school student and teacher. The age-old mundane buzz signaling the change from period to period had become a catchy four note, door-bell-like jingle.

But why the sudden change in bells after four years? The change came about because of a repair needed on the clock and bell system. (You may recall Mr. McDermott asking classroom teachers to call the office if they could not hear him on the loud speaker).

A representative from the company which sold the bells and clock system came to access and fix the problem. It was then that Mr. McDermott recalled that the purchase from this company included nine possible bell tones (we had been set on their default bell). The repairman from the company gladly offered to change the bells, but he lacked the resource that would allow Mr. McDermott to choose a ring based on sound. Instead Mr. McDermott could only make a ring tone decision based the nine different names. So the first time he heard the new tone was first time students at the high school heard it. The Westminster Chime was the winner.

Heard 13 times throughout the average school day, many students find themselves humming it in the hall between classes. The majority seem to like the change in bell sound. Junior Majed Abbas says, "the new bells are much nicer now, a better sound, more original." Junior Joe Lepara comments, "the new bells offer a sense of peace and calming that make the transition between classes smooth." Some even enjoy it, but find it comical in comparison to the old, deep drone of the previous bell. Senior Faye Hisoler says, "I like them. They make me laugh."

Not everyone liked the sudden change in bell sounds. Senior Maddy Herzog says she waits patiently for the "song" to end but says "it never does!" Others also call say it is "mildly annoying" and wish that it changed from day to day.

Since there are varied opinions on how the bell should sound, Mr. McDermott hopes to give each student a chance to vote on which bell they like best (out of the nine possible choices) next year. With nearly 780 more bell rings left this school year the current catchy jingle will have to ring us through the last days of the school year until a new bell decision is reached in September.

Classy Cafe for Watertown Faculty

By: Liz Russo

Many wonder what the wonderful smell filling the second floor hallways and creeping up the stairs to the third floor is during forth period. It is Ms. Johnson's chefs cooking up a storm preparing for their Raider Café.

The Raider Café was first introduced last year when Mr. Noftsker asked Ms. Johnson about holding a luncheon for Watertown Public School's faculty. So far, there have been five Raider Cafés held at Watertown High School. The most recent one was held on January 15, a few weeks after winter vacation. The café is run by the students while Ms. Johnson supervises to make sure everything runs accordingly.

The students prepare the room next to Ms. Johnson's (room 246), to make it look like an actual restaurant. They set up the tables with plates and silverware and glasses filled with lemon water. On the tables, there are menus which the students have created themselves, showing the teachers their lunch options. Two students dressed in proper waiter attire stand at the door with a guest list and seat the guests after checking them off to see if they have paid. The Raider Café only costs seven dollars for the staff members to eat a wonderful meal cooked by their own students.

Once the guests are seated, they are approached by one of the three servers who check on the guests to see if everything is to their liking.

"It teaches them to check on the customers, and also to make sure we didn't forget anyone's meal," says Ms. Johnson. There is a person called the "Front of the House" who is appointed by Ms. Johnson to work in the dining room and see that all guests are attended to. Then, there is the "Back of the House" that preps the meals, plates the salads, gives the waiters the rolls and butter, and makes sure the soup is hot before it gets served. Ms. Johnson also appoints a head chef who is in charge to make sure everything in the kitchen is all set and running smoothly. Just like in an actual restaurant, the head chef goes into the dining area to make sure the guests are enjoying themselves.

The luncheon consists of three courses. The first course is a salad that the students put together with their homemade dressing. Following the salads, the waiters will bring out the

main course of chicken noodle soup and whole wheat bread rolls. The café also has a meatless alternative for vegetarian guests. The last course is dessert, consisting of a low fat cheese cake which Ms. Johnson describes as "very good".

It is not mandatory for the students in the food services and hospitality course to take part in the café but the students "get into their own element when they start to cook," Ms. Johnson says. The students begin first period to prep and start cooking the main course.

"The hardest part is getting ready to serve everyone," Ms. Johnson states. The luncheon is not until first lunch, and the students must serve eighteen people, and serve three courses within the thirty minute period. After the lunch, the guests are welcome to stay and relax while the students clean up the kitchen. Afterwards, the students are introduced one by one to the crowd of guests and are given a round of applause.

Some of the staff who have attended the event include: Mr. Noftsker, Mrs. Hannon, Mr. Carter from WMS, Ms. Kramer, Dr. Baker, Mr. Cooke, Mr. Lahiff, Mrs. DiNardo, Mr. McCarthy from the Hosmer School and more. Mr. Noftsker usually invites all of the principals from the elementary schools and the middle school to the event. It's a way for them to see how their former students "have grown over the years," says Ms. Johnson. The event is also attended by one of Mr. Dressler's photography students who takes picture throughout the event. Mr. Dressler is very good with getting the pictures up quickly onto the WHS school website.

The chefs cook enough food so that they can taste what they have actually made and most students seem surprised at how good it is. It's like a reward for all their hard work in the end.

"They make it happen, they make people come back. Without my students there wouldn't be a Raider Café," Ms. Johnson boasts. "Also, I want to thank their teachers who let them miss class. Without them I'd have no chefs!" The third and final Raider Café of this year is going to be held on March 27th during first lunch period.



Mrs. Johnson shows a student how to roll out sugar cookie dough.

Photo by: Elizabeth Russo

Feature Teacher: Mr. Brewer

By: Maddy Herzog

Entering as an undergraduate at Boston University, Brian Brewer envisioned a life of building prosthetic limbs in a laboratory, a seemingly perfect career for him, incorporating his love of athletics and engineering. However there was one staggering disadvantage he had not foreseen: lab work involved minimum human interaction. He discovered that he would make a better teacher just in time to switch his major, and Watertown High School has been thankful ever since.

WHS was the first school district to hire Mr. Brewer; he started working here in 1994 and never left. He teaches Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, and this year added rigorous AP Biology to his course load. Teaching courses relating to the body comes naturally to Mr. Brewer "since it is very easy to make connections with students." He says, "Many students have had injuries or play sports and use their muscles," he explains. People seem to have only good things to say about Mr. Brewer's teaching. "He always made learning fun," said senior Libby Emery. "We played Jeopardy before tests and his projects were original, such as the 'Big Book of Anatomy.'" Students also appreciate his sense of humor. "He's really easy to get along with and likes joking around. Also, you should probably stay on his good side because he benches like 500 pounds," said senior Brian Field.

Mr. Brewer's contributions to the high school don't end there, though. After school, you can find him hard

at work, training students in our very own fitness center. "In my opinion, not enough of our students take advantage of the fitness center," Brewer notes. "The great thing about working out with weights is that if you show up consistently, and train properly, you will get results!" He helps athletes improve in particular areas as well as helping anyone who wants to get in shape. Based on their specific sports or goals, Mr. Brewer dedicates time to create specialized workout schedules and nutrition plans for each student.

Up until last year, Mr. Brewer also lead popular club, Sports Management, and headed school events such as the pep rallies and Mr. WHS. He thinks school spirit is very important and loved working with the group of students, but he left for a noble reason. His late nights didn't leave sufficient time to spend with his three kids at home.

So, after all these years, Mr. Brewer did end up with his ideal profession of a combination of science and athletics. He clearly chose the right atmosphere as well; there's nothing boring or isolating about Watertown High School. His general opinion on public schooling is, "Parents give us their kids and trust us to educate and take care of them. That is a tremendous responsibility, and I hope that I am doing a good enough job. I certainly am trying my best." We do not doubt that in the least. His efforts and their results are tremendously apparent.



Photo by: Liz Russo

**To nominate a
"Feature Teacher" or "Feature
Class," see Ms. O'Grady in room
345!**



Feature Class: Psychology

By: Shelby Austin-Manning

Psychology has always been a popular choice for seniors. Whether they decide on a Level One, Honors, or an AP class, they are certainly faced with a challenge. Most seniors pick the class because it fulfills the history requirement, but it's unlike a regular history class. Instead of learning about dates, and important people, you get to learn about memory, and behavior. To some kids, this proves to be more interesting because they can relate the topics back to their own lives.

We are very lucky to have such a great psychology teacher, Ms. Kazarosian. A while ago, our school had another teacher, Mr. McGovern, and between them, they taught all the psychology classes. Mr. McGovern eventually decided to just teach 9th grade history, while Ms. Kazarosian continued to take on a tough work load of Psychology, World History, United States History, and Exploring Human Nature classes.

In college, she studied history and psychology. "At that time, in high schools, psychology was not commonly taught. Even today, when I tell people outside of a school environment that I teach psychology, they usually say that they are surprised that the subject is taught in high school," said Ms. Kazarosian. Her students are able to tell how passionate about the subject she really is during every class. She knows so much about psychology, and can always answer their challenging questions.

There are three levels of psychology offered in our school that all cover the same topics, and mostly do the same work. The AP Psychology option was only added to our choices of classes to take eight years ago. It has proven to be such a popular AP class that some years the administration has had to split it into two different periods. It provides students with the opportunity to get college credit for taking the class. Most colleges only give you the credit if you get a four or five on the test. Being in the AP class myself, I know that the whole year is based on studying and preparing for the test. With every chapter we study, we have a test that includes a challenging essay. After the corrected essay is passed back to us, Ms. Kazarosian explains everything we should have included to do well. She also tells us what the examiners would be looking for on the AP test. This way,

were not studying all at once for a test, but instead learning what we can do to give us the greatest chance of passing the test, and receiving college credit.

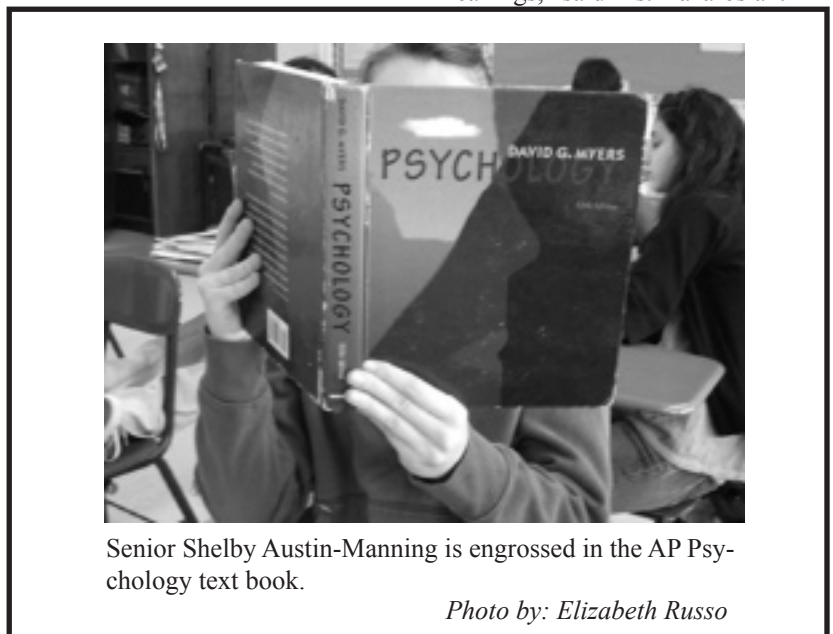
So far in our AP class, we have covered the Introduction, and the Thinking Critically with Psychological Science sections, which introduced us to some of psychology's main components such as experimenting, controls, observations, and research. We've also covered Neuroscience, Genetics, and Behavior, Learning, Memory, Stress and Health, Social Psychology, and Statistical Reasoning. Right now, we're working on Motivation and Emotion. The year is only half way over so we all have a lot more to learn before we can even begin studying for the AP exam!

A project that all the classes are working on now is the personal conditioning project. All the students had to pick a behavior that they were going to change about themselves. If the student followed through, they were to give themselves a reward, and if they didn't, present themselves with a punishment. The point of the project is to see whether the rewards and penalties influence whether the behavior is changed or not.

A favorite topic of the students is the Child Development unit. It's interesting to see how children become who they are. During that unit, the students actually make their own cup babies. A cup baby is a fragile egg placed in a small cup, and then the students are able to dress it up. They are expected to carry it around like it is a baby, and it is hoped they will learn some kind of responsibility for caring for a child.

When I asked Senior Kenny Holt, (who is in the AP class), what his favorite part about it was he said "The class teaches you about the human brain and human behaviors, unlike your typical history class."

Another popular topic is Sleep and Dreaming. Sleep and Dreaming is something everyone does, so it's easy to relate to. It's also very interesting to think about your dreams and where they come from. "Over the vacation week, psychology students will be making an effort to record their dreams. During vacation, with more relaxed schedules and without waking up to an alarm, a person is more likely to remember dreams. Students will be looking for patterns in their dreams, but we do not propose to be able to interpret meanings," said Ms. Kazarosian.



Senior Shelby Austin-Manning is engrossed in the AP Psychology text book.

Photo by: Elizabeth Russo

Infamous SATs Are Here Again

By: Shelby Austin-Manning

That time of year is here. It's time for juniors to wake up early on a Saturday morning to take the infamous SATs. They arrive at the test site with their ID, pencils, and a calculator in hand, ready to do the best they can. They get divided up into different rooms, sit in their assigned seats, and realize they can't do anything else to prepare now.

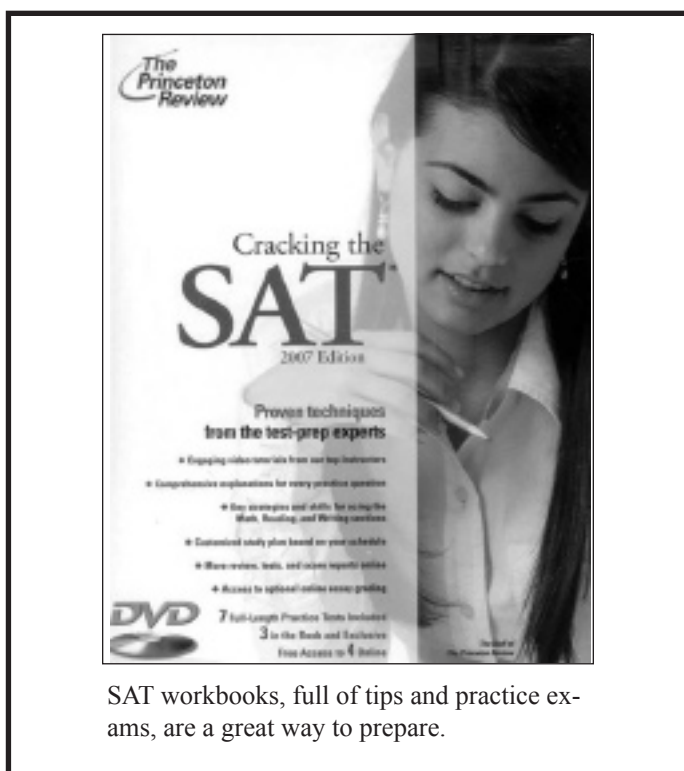
It's hard to know how to prepare for the SATs. They are different from everyday school tests, because they are not about one thing that you have learned about in class. Instead, the test is broken into three categories: Critical Reading, Math, and Writing which includes an essay. The Critical Reading section tests your ability to comprehend and draw information from a story you have just read. It has three different sections including two twenty-five minute, and one twenty-minute section. Critical Reading questions are passage-based, where you read and answer questions about a story, and sentence completion questions which test your vocabulary and grammar. The Math section consists of two twenty-five minute sections, and one twenty-minute one. The questions vary from multiple choice to open response. Lastly, there is the writing section. It consists of two twenty-five minute sections, and one ten minute one. The questions revolve around improving sentences and paragraphs, and identifying errors.

Thinking about the test causes many people to become stressed, because we all know colleges look at the scores, and use them as a factor to determine whether or not you get in. However, now that college acceptances are being announced, some students are coming to the conclusion that they don't

matter as much as we thought they did. Senior Boris Osipov said, "They don't mean much; I was a decent amount below the average SAT expected by the school I applied to and I got in. I took the SAT reasoning test two times, and only went up ten points the second time. Honestly, it wasn't worth waking up at 6 a.m. and taking a five-hour long test for ten points. Just take the test once, get a good amount of sleep, eat breakfast, do your best, and submit your scores."

The best advice for preparing for the test is to start studying a couple months before it. If you can try to set aside some time each week to dedicate to it, you will find yourself prepared when it comes time for test day. Also, an SAT class can benefit many students in the process. The night before the test, make sure you get into bed at a reasonable hour, and eat breakfast the next morning.

During the actual test it's most important to keep track of time so you can get as much done as possible. Also, answering the easy questions first is a good strategy, because if you know them, they are guaranteed points. If you become stuck on a question, you should circle it and come back to it. Don't answer the questions you really don't know, because for every wrong answer, a 1/4 of a point gets taken away from your score. Skipping a question doesn't penalize you in any way. Senior Kenny Holt's advice is to: "Make sure to give yourself enough time for each section and take some practice tests to get familiar with the time limits." Lastly, it's good to always check your answer sheet to make sure you are answering the right questions.



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

SAT Test Dates for Spring 2009:
May 2nd
June 6th

Why Do Teachers Teach?

By: Jenna Gilreath, Julia Brennan, Keith Singh

Respect, passion and a continuous need for teachers. All of these reasons justify the thinking behind future, past, and present teachers and why they have chosen their profession. Teachers have never been given the respect that they deserve, but Mr. Mastro, or "Mastro" as his students call him and President of the Teacher's Association explained that teachers do not go in it for the money. They go into because they want to teach and they have unique passion for their subject matter.

Peg Cassidy, a now retired teacher of 30 years, and Ms. Zeikel, a current teacher at Watertown High School both teach and taught in the math and technology fields. Ms. Cassidy retired from teaching seven to eight years ago and Ms. Zeikel left her job as vice president at various marketing and finance companies so that she could share her knowledge and business experience with kids.

Mr. Buck and Mastro both teach history and both are well-known at Watertown High School. Mr. Buck for his kind demeanor, and Mastro for coaching the Girls's Track Team. Though history has shown recessions and tough economic times have decimated people's lives, Mr. Buck is not worried, and encourages people to go into teaching overlooking the country's current financial situation.

"Teaching is a profession that will always be in demand. Education is always an important investment," he said. He also added that many teachers are protected from losing their jobs, because of their experience in schools referred to as being "tenured," which most teachers have achieved easily. Students new to the career may face tough times, but most will make it through.

Teaching is a very rewarding job. The "ah-ha moments" (as Ms. Zeikel calls them) when students finally fully understand an important concept, and giving kids a different view on the subject matter are both treasured parts of teaching. But with every pro comes a con. Seeing the kids give up, telling them they have to repeat the course and dealing with conflicting administrators are among them. Mastro admits that for the school day teachers play a parental unit role and in some cases they know the kids better than their parents do. Both he and Ms. Zeikel agree that it hurts to watch kids give up because they feel like they should and could have done more. Yet teachers like Mr. Buck insist that a teacher must not give

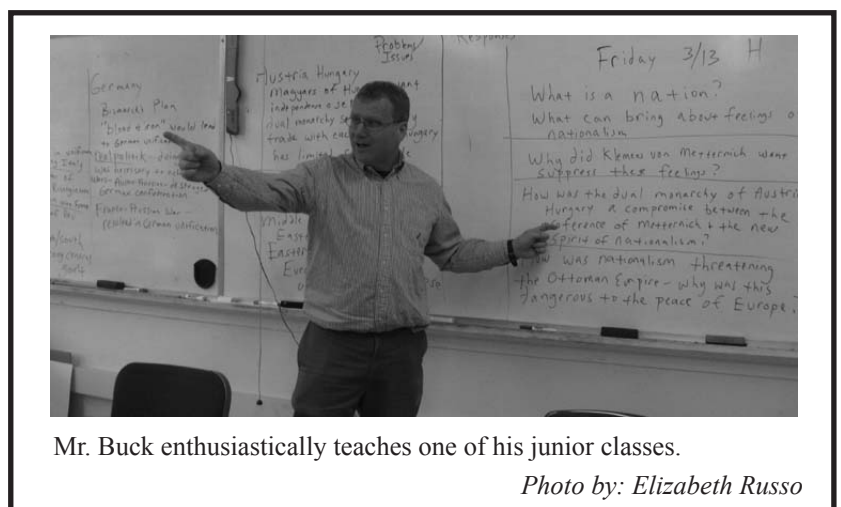
up their standards.

Though teaching can be a rewarding job, standards for the teachers are getting higher. Public school systems are asking teachers to take up harder tasks such as helping students meet unprecedented standards, being held accountable for students' standardized test scores, competing with charter school and voucher supported education systems, using new technologies for teaching, and instructing students in the matters of character as well as academic.

As a profession, the pay is not great. Jess DePamphilis, an education student in her sophomore year at Framingham State College, has a positive outlook. She said that there are a lot of teachers from the Baby-Boom era that are about to retire so she will "always have a job" and as long as the economy doesn't change dramatically in the next few years there "shouldn't be a problem". Her outlook is positive but correct as well because 40% of the nation's classroom teachers are now 60 or older and an unprecedented number of them will likely retire in the next five years, especially in the areas of math, science and special education. The public schools of America will need to hire two million teachers during the next ten years to accommodate the retiring teachers and increase in student numbers.

Other teachers, such as Ms. Cassidy, have had to work several jobs in addition to teaching to be able to afford things such as a house. Mastro said they "don't go in it for the money" and that teachers would "rather have respect" from people who think that teaching is not a real job. Teaching affects go father than just salaries. Mental stamina is an unwritten requirement for someone who intends on being a good teacher. Teachers work far longer than the average student's day. Most teachers will come in more than half an hour before school starts. Ending their day around 5, teachers stay after school roughly three hours. The work isn't done yet though. Many teachers bring their work home, often grading late into the night, only to get up early and go to work again.

As for advice to people who want to become teachers: study hard, be understanding, trusting and show tough love. Students should be looked after but reminded that teachers are not there to be their best friends. As for reasons to become one, above all the cons, it is a rewarding job that allows you to give back to the community every day.



Mr. Buck enthusiastically teaches one of his junior classes.

Photo by: Elizabeth Russo

The Working Student Body

By: Kalli Fabrikarakis and Mane Harutyunyan

What responsibility is it that teenagers are committing themselves to? The high school scenario that consists of homework, sports and hanging out with friends has a new addition. 70-80% of teenagers are working or have worked for money at some time during their high school careers. Teenagers usually focus their activities around things such as shopping, watching movies, going out to eat, and spending time with their friends, all of which require one thing; money.

Under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, the minimum age for employment in a non-agricultural job is 14. It seems like students were eagerly waiting for their 14th birthdays, looking forward to all the perks of working. "I couldn't wait. I thought it would be great. I thought it would be fun, a good experience. But it's much harder than you expect and not always a walk in the park," says Grace Gallant, sophomore, who works at Shaws Supermarket.

There are definite pros and cons to working. Teenagers agree that there are perks to having your own money to spend, but they come with strings attached. Nearly every single working teenager complains of the actual workload they have, the responsibilities that come with it, and how much time it takes up. In one study, experts found that teenagers who work in excess of 20 hours a week suffer from a decline in academics, and a general increase

in drug/alcohol abuse. However, work, undeniably, has taught them something. "It's helping me improve my people skills, my time and money management skills, and it's teaching me responsibility," says Jacqui Tresca, sophomore, who works at The Verona Restaurant. People personally take what they learn out of working as respect for others and how to become part of the adult world.

A very hardworking senior, Mariam Chobanyan, is also an employee at Shaws Supermarket. Chobanyan claims that by working she has "gained numerous skills such as handling difficult customers and working with large amounts of money" and has learned how the "real world" and the "business world" operate through her work. She also confirms the difficulty of juggling work and school together. Chobanyan has shared that juggling the two is something she has learned to handle, even though she admits she probably could have done a little better in regards to schoolwork if she wasn't working.

Every teen has a reason behind their ambition towards receiving a job, whether it's the extra spending money on clothes, or saving it in a savings account for the future. Chobanyan tells us, "I try to save as much as I can for college; working has taught me very important lessons for college. I have learned to be independent, which is what college is all about. Nobody is

there to hold your hand, and at work if you come in late or over sleep, they don't care for the excuse, which is most likely how college professors would react as well."

Vanessa Van Petten, the founder of TeensToday.com has a different view about where the money earned from part time jobs is going. Petten once said, "man, are they [teenagers] spenders! They'll work a job where they make maybe \$10 an hour and they'll go online and buy a shirt for \$39.99. That's five hours of work and they have no concept of that." Even so, teenagers are adapting more and more to the world and expanding their minds to see the bigger picture. Nearly 2/3 of parents say that their teens have savings accounts. Teenagers are definitely grasping the concept of their futures and planning ahead, many of them depositing a part of their paycheck into a savings account for their college educations. "Every other paycheck I get goes to spending, the rest goes into my college savings," Gallant says. Tresca agrees saying, "Most of the money I earn goes into the bank, I'm saving for a car and for college. It's only the tips I keep as spending money." A junior, Erik, has also expressed that by having his job, he is able to manage money, and make car payments, so that he can keep his car. As a part of teenagers' concern for the "bigger picture," some have decided to not have jobs entirely. The teenage labor force is slightly

decreasing, the top three reasons being more focus on college preparation, more competition, and higher minimum qualifications. The problem many teenagers encounter is that employers often reject their applications because they are seen as too young to take on the commitment seriously and because of schoolwork and sports, there isn't much time available for them to work. Yet, truly, teens are highly motivated people who are consumed with a desire for power, independence, and entrance into adulthood. Having a job can teach kids to become more confident, and provide them with the skills they need for college.

All in all, teenage kids have been affected to a big extent through life-learned lessons they encountered by having a part time job. They have learned the "value of a dollar" and have learned how to save their own money in order to secure themselves for the future. Having a job isn't something they find as a temporary hobby, but something that can potentially help them grow from a teenager into a well-valued adult some day. Through part time jobs, teenagers have come to realize how important college is, and have taken a more serious approach to understanding what it takes to live in the real world before actually having to be left in it. By having a part time job, teenagers have embedded in themselves a desire to further advance themselves into the world of adulthood, a reality everybody comes to face. Better sooner than later.

Where Are They Now?

By: Chloe Anderson and Kelsey Prendergast

Five or ten years ago Watertown High School was a completely different atmosphere. The halls and classroom may be the same, but there is a whole set of new students roaming around them. There were different star athletes leading the sport teams and class presidents leading their grades. What was Watertown High School like for them? What is life like after high school? What advice do they give about high school and about college?

Statewide 74,380 students enter high school as ninth graders. 79.9% graduated high school within four years. Of the remaining students 6.4% are still in school, 8% got their GED, 11.7% dropped out of high school and 2% were expelled. The average high school student faces an assortment of stresses. Graduate of 2005 Stacey Caruso says, "The most stressful thing about high school is senior thesis, final exams, mid terms, projects, filling out college applications and essays." High school can be very stressful, between balancing social life, sports and most importantly schoolwork. "When I was in high school it seemed hard, but now looking back it was a lot easier than I initially thought." Graduate of 2005 Jerry Barbato says about his experience at Watertown High. The National Governors Association held a survey asking high school graduates if high school was easy or hard. 38% said high school was easy and only 6% said it was very hard.

After high school, students

have a wide variety of options. Most students head straight to college. Some get a job right out of high school. Other students decide to take a year off. Studies show that by taking a year off it allows the high school graduate to save money, gain career experience and travel. Some students head to the armed forces. Three Watertown High School graduates from the class of 2007, Charlie Beagan (Marines/Norwich

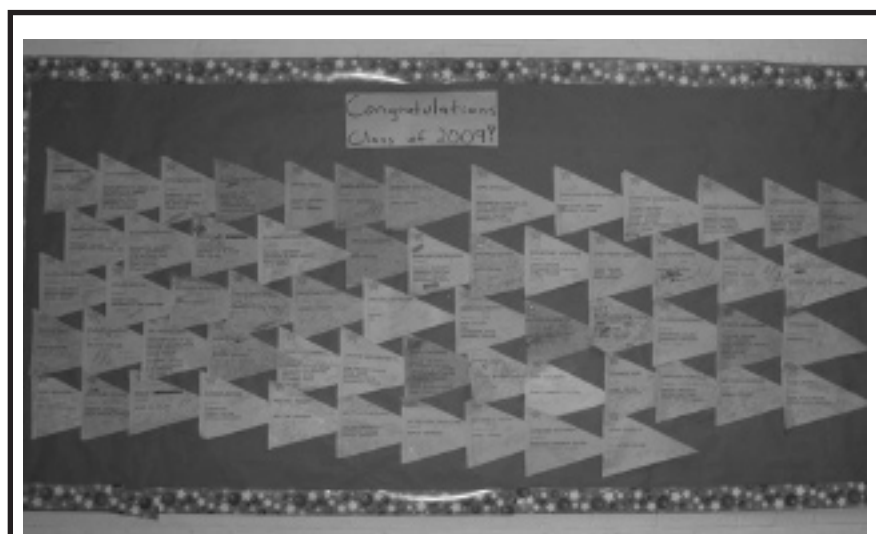
High students. College is a big step up from any high school. College can mean living in a new place with a new roommate, hard classes, a whole lot of stress and of course infamous college parties. Barbato admits to attending college parties but encourages that he knows, "when to get work done and when to go to the parties because there will always be parties." 300,000 of today's college students will eventually

admit to have missed at least one class because of alcohol or drug abuse. On average college students drink more than non-collegiate peers.

Barbato also played hockey at Endicott college where he attended his freshman and sophomore years of college before transferring to Bentley. Since he was a part of a sports team, he was exposed to drinking and alcohol abuse more frequently than other students and saw what students were willing to do in order to fit in with the team. Students at smaller colleges tend to drink more than students at larger colleges. They also drink more frequently. Adjusting from high school life to college life can be a very difficult change. Seniors may be nervous and anxious for their freshman year in college.

As for Caruso who recently graduated from Mt. Ida, she gives the seniors the advice to, "make sure you use time management skills, know how to work well with others and know how to adapt to your roommate's schedule and don't procrastinate. Also, try to get to know your professors like staying after class and e-mailing."

All current high school students and high school graduates can agree high school year can be very stressful. High school graduates also agree freshman year of college is a big change. Whatever path you choose once you graduate your high school years will influence you greatly.



Every year, the beloved college flags tell the school and community what the senior's future plans are.

Photo by: Elizabeth Russo

University), Tom Huff (Army) and Jason Cormier (Air Force) all followed that path. The military is a way of achieving their goals in life. Yet, college is most common path chosen by Watertown

die of alcohol-related causes. 159,000 of today's first year college students will drop out of school within the next year for alcohol or drug related causes. Almost one third of college students

Arts & Entertainment

A Captivating Twilight Alternative?

By: Julia Brennan

Fans of Twilight, the new vampire series by Stephanie Meyer, may not recall the publication of Interview with the Vampire by Anne Rice. In this novel, Lestat, Louis, Armand, Claudia and all the rest of the vampires are not at all like the Cullens. These vampires cannot go out in sunlight, as the legends say, and they do sleep in locked in coffins during the day.

Louis's life as a vampire starts in Louisiana, where he lived when he was human, in a time when slaves still worked on plantations. As he gets used to his new nocturnal life, he begins to question some of the things that Lestat never talks about. In fact, Lestat is very unwilling to give *any* information to Louis and Louis can only assume that it is because he does not know anything about their kind. A slave uprising drove them out of town and their real adventure begins. Lestat needs Louis because he knows nothing about finances and business as Louis does and Louis needs Lestat for the information that he might hold. As they travel all over the United States, particularly staying in the east, Louis realizes that he can never have the aggressive nature and ease that Lestat does when taking a human life. While in New Orleans, Claudia is created when she was a five-year-old human child so that she would not have to die a sick child as she was. As time goes by for the rest of the human population, tensions build between the three of them

Many fights later, Claudia and Louis are off to Europe to find out if there are more vampires out there

somewhere. The little information that they are able to find leads them to Europe because they realize that they could not be the only ones in the world. New knowledge from these international vampires, namely Armand, gives Louis a new view on his life and he has to make the decision whether to leave Claudia or not.

Interview with the Vampire is quite literally an interview with a vampire. Louis is telling his story to a boy who records the story of Louis's life on a tape recorder. In between chapters, Louis and the boy pause for questions, because a story quite like this one is bound to bring about some questions.

The Washington Post and The Cincinnati Enquirer both said that Interview with the Vampire was "unforgettable" and The Hartford Courant called it "a chilling and thought-provoking tale". The story line, full of love and violence, will leave an impression on the readers because everything is so thoroughly described. This was a really good book with great detail that gives the reader so much to think about.

In 1994 the movie was released, starring Brad Pitt, Tom Cruise and Kirsten Dunst. Sequels include The Queen of the Damned and The Vampire Lestat.

**Note: The movie information was found on the Yahoo Movies website and the quotes from the papers were found in the cover of the book and on the back cover.*

"The Uninvited" is a Welcome Scare

By: Mane Harutyunyan

"A Tale of Two Sisters," a horror movie set in South Korea and released in 2003 hit instant popularity among fans. It is now placed alongside "The Ring," "The Grudge" and "Dark Water" for best horror movies of all time and is the highest grossing Korean horror film to date. The movie was granted several nominations as well as 12 wins some of which include "Best film," "Most popular film," "Best picture" and "Best actress." The question now is: who's going to top that?

Directors Charles and Thomas Guard stepped up to the challenge. "The Uninvited," starring Emily Browning, Arielle Kebbel, Elizabeth Banks and David Strathairn, is the remake of "A Tale of Two Sisters." The "Series of Unfortunate Events" star, Emily Browning plays Anna Rydell, a young, distraught girl, put in a mental hospital after being unable to deal with the death of her mother. After she's released, Anna goes home to a surprise. The nurse who had taken care of Anna's mother, Rachel Summers (Elizabeth Banks) had moved in and was helping the father cope. Both Anna and her sister, Alex (Arielle Kebbel) do not trust Rachel and base their suspicions on a series of dreams Anna has that lead to one conclusion: Rachel had intentionally set the boathouse, where Anna's mother had been staying, on fire. Unable to convince the father to their side, Anna

and Alex set out to find proof. In a series of thrilling experiences, Anna and Alex unravel the mystery behind Rachel Summers. But the truth is a little more than what either of them can handle.

Although "The Uninvited" was a clever, gripping and well cast movie, I wouldn't be quick to place it alongside the best. The individuality of the plot is what makes it enjoyable. The storyline has a shocking, unpredictable twist that leaves the audience hooked until the very last scene. In no way will this film be quick to be forgotten. The director's angle of the movie is interesting enough to keep you talking about it long after the movie is over. The cast was also well thought out, introducing new faces to the horror movie industry. Browning and Kebbel brought played exceptionally well in each of their roles, embracing the characters completely and realistically. Banks was also impressive as Rachel Summers. The movie in general was more of a thriller than a horror movie. It played more on paranoia and depression rather than violence and gore. The suspense is what keeps the viewer watching and the surprise ending is what leaves them satisfied. "The Uninvited" was a success on its own but fell short of the standard it had set with "A Tale of Two Sisters."

2009 Grammy Awards Satisfy Fans

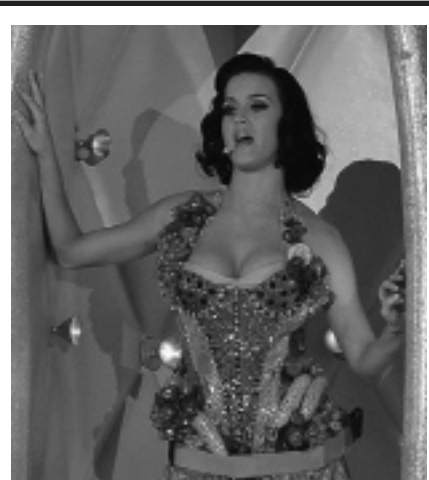
By: Harrison Ford

As I put on my pajamas, popped some popcorn, and got ready for music's biggest night on February 8th, many questions were running through my head, such as: How many trophies will Rihanna take home? What kind of stunt will Katy Perry try to pull off? And which music veterans will be resurrected to perform with today's current pop stars? I had no idea...but I did know that the 2009 Grammy Awards would be something wild.

U2 kicked off the show in a performance so special, Bono took his sunglasses off. A healthy-looking Whitney Houston presented Jennifer Hudson with the award for Best R&B Album in an emotional hand-off. As a duet, Robert Plant and Alison Krauss sent shock waves, by beating the likes of Madonna, Justin Timberlake, Rihanna, Maroon 5, and Leona Lewis to win Best Pop Collaboration, Album of the Year, and Record of the Year.

Much like last year when Amy Winehouse swept up five golden

Grammys, the night proved to be a success for musical Brits, with winners including Adele (Best New Artist, Best Female Pop Performance), Coldplay (Song of the Year, Best Rock Album), Radiohead (Best Alternative Album), and Estelle (Best Rap/Sung Collaboration) which she won with



Pop singer Katy Perry wows the crowd in her fruit-covered costume.

Kanye West). The radical British spirit of the night was personified when the legendary Sir Paul McCartney rocked the stage in a stunning and fast-paced rendition of his Beatles hit, "When I Saw Her Standing There".

The performances this year were as flamboyant and wacky as ever, with some collaborations putting only one word in my head...Why? Stevie Wonder was forced to accompany The Jonas Brothers and sing their song. Shouldn't it be the other way around? Robin Thicke performed some sort of ballad with Lil' Wayne. If Weezy knew what planet he was on, I'm sure he would have been as confused as I was. Al Green sang his hit "Let's Stay Together," but was forced to share the stage with Justin Timberlake, Boyz II Men, and Keith Urban. I came to the conclusion that they're trying to form a super group that only plays elevator music.

But, there were some performances

that stood out in a good way. Katy Perry emerged from a giant banana to sing her smash hit "I Kissed A Girl" on a generally fruit-themed set. Estelle and Kanye West literally sparkled while they breezed through a super cool performance of their hit "American Boy." Without question, the best performance of the night belonged to Kanye West, T.I., Jay-Z, and Lil Wayne who were joined by a very, very pregnant M.I.A. in a super-slick rendition of their super-collaboration "Swagger Like Us." The fab five brought the crowd into a frenzy, especially M.I.A., who was due to give birth that night.

Overall, the night was certainly entertaining. With my old questions answered, I had even more new ones to ponder, such as: What really went down between Chris Brown and Rihanna?; When is the new Blink-182 album coming out?; And why wasn't my girl Britney Spears there? The only thing I can honestly say is goodbye Grammys, see you next year!



2009 Mr. WHS: Alfonso Anzaldi



By: Taylor Connors

It was an unforgettable night for the contestants that competed in the 9th annual Mr. WHS competition at Watertown High. From swimwear to formal wear, the six brave men who fought for the crown weren't disappointed at all to see Al Anzaldi walk away with the prize.

Casual wear was off to an exciting start with Dylan Aucoin's wild police chase off stage. However, it was Al Anzaldi's giant Elmo suit that caught the judge's eyes. Up next was beachwear for the contestants. Alfonso stunned the audience and judges with his racy cheetah string bikini and cut-off Daisy Dukes. He rolled out dancing on rollerblades-a sidesplitting presentation. The audience was also impressed with Dylan's "Jaws is Real" t-shirt and rather graphic representation of a shark attack victim. While Pat O'Brien came out strong in his "mermaid man" suit from the popular kids show "Spongebob Squarepants."

Next up was the talent portion of the show. Dylan was up first with

his unforgettable "Lunch Lady Land" performance. Brendan Shaughnessy's crowd-pleasing ribbon dance wasn't enough for the next round. Jake Murray's stand-up comedy act was impressive but just short of making it to the next round. Al's Backstreet Boys performance was very well rehearsed and left the audience in awe. Nick Lappen had a hard act to follow but got quite a few laughs with his "Risky Business" dance. Last but not least was Pat O'Brien's rap about life at Watertown High, which seemed to win the judges' approvals.

Next, the contestants dazzled the judges with formal wear. Dylan was fortunate enough to have Ms. Fitzpatrick on his arm. Mia Depaolis and Ryan LaVache escorted Brendan. However they were no competition for Al who was wheeled out on a platform with Alison Holland like Simba from "The Lion King." After all six contestants got to "strut their stuff" in their formal wear, it was time for the chop block.

The eliminations were quick and finalists came down to Dylan

Aucoin, Nick Lappen, Pat O'Brien and Al Anzaldi. It was time for the nerve-wracking question and answers portion. Mr. Brewer already intimidated Al when he shot him a look before the questions.

As the final four contestants cruised through the questions, the judges started to tally. The four remaining stood patiently awaiting the results. "I didn't think I was going to win [after the questions when they were standing on stage] - I thought Dylan was," Al said the next day about the competition. Nonetheless, the judges quickly finished tallying; the runner up was Dylan Aucoin. It came as no surprise that Mr. WHS 2009 was Alfonso Anzaldi.

Al opened up about the competition and about how it felt to be named Mr. WHS. "It feels great because I finally achieved something at WHS, it took me four years to achieve something- and now I can say I did." All of Al's hard work paid off in the end. He had about a week of preparation when he would "lock himself in his room to get

focused." The other five contestants were naturally disappointed for not winning, but they were glad to see Al walk away with the crown. If Al wasn't the winner he would have liked to see Jake Murray win because he was very supportive of Al winning. "I would've liked to see Jake win," Al said of the competition. Al said a special "thanks" to Mrs. Hoffman for "putting him through, for the win." It was a memorable experience for Mrs. Hoffman who was one of the five judges for the competition. She found it to be "extremely entertaining" and had a lot of fun. "I discovered some hidden talents among our senior boys" said Hoffman about the contest.

For the 9th year in a row, Mr. WHS was a great success. On behalf of the student body- we are proud to have Al Anzaldi as Mr. WHS 2009. Congratulations to the rest of the competitors for being nominated. Next year's contestants have a hard act to follow.

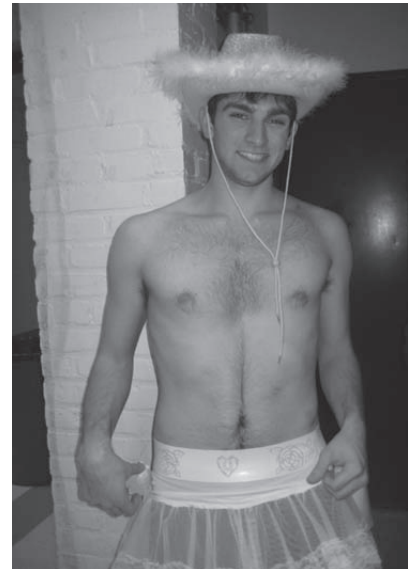


Mr. WHS Al Anzaldi, getting ready for his casual wear portion of the pageant as Elmo.

Photo by: Lifetouch Studios



Contestant Brendan Shaughnessy smiles with one of his beautiful formal wear dates, Ryan Lavache.



Nick Lappen poses in his favorite "sexy cowboy" outfit.

Photos by: Lifetouch Studios



The happy couple, Ms. Fitz and Dylan Aucoin, smiles for the camera.

Photo by: Lifetouch Studios



Mr. WHS 2008, Sean Taverna, and Mr. WHS 2009 bond.

Photo by: Lifetouch Studios

Opinion

A-Rod Tests Positive

By: Raffi Kazanjian

On February 7, 2009, Sports Illustrated reported that Alex Rodriguez tested positive for steroids in 2003. The report came from an MLB list of one hundred and four players who tested positive for steroids in a mandatory random drug testing program.

The news shocked the baseball world as Rodriguez became the latest player to be thrown into the list of steroid users whose names have been tarnished. Rodriguez joins the familiar names of, McGwire, Bonds, Canseco and Clemens who have been the primary targets for baseball's steroid investigation. The recently crowned home run king, Barry Bonds, has been ridiculed for his denial of steroid use. Many believe that his career home runs should have an asterisk next to it because he was cheating.

The three time MVP chose not to deny the allegations of steroid use and instead confessed and apologized to the media. Many hoped that Rodriguez would save baseball from the steroid era and erase the past twenty years of steroid use by eclipsing Bonds' home

run record. Red Sox fan or not, it would have been great to see A-rod as a steroid free player to beat the home run record unfortunately A-rod brings more controversy to steroid use.

Does Rodriguez's steroid use lead us to believe that the rest of baseball was also using steroid? From my perspective, baseball needs to put more effort into stopping steroids from getting into the hands of current players and future players. To maintain the integrity of the game the MLB should reveal the rest of the names on the list and put asterisks next to their names. In order to make a fair comparison with all past baseball greats, baseball must recognize the accomplishments of steroid users but note that their records were achieved with performance enhancing drugs. All of this eventually comes down to the fans. Clearly baseball fans will describe how serious the consequence of steroid use will be with ticket sales and product endorsements. Baseball needs to focus on the next generation of baseball greats who will play the game the right way and get rid of the steroid era forever.

Student Call for Vending Machines

By: Maddy Herzog

If you're like me, and most other teenagers, you are always hungry. You snack all the time and rarely make it an hour without eating. Unfortunately, our daily school schedule only complicates things. Not only does it require eating an early breakfast and an unnaturally early lunch, but as boredom increases sitting through class after class, food cravings do too. With two broken Aquafina vending machines, that often eat your money offering nothing in return, experiencing hunger before or after lunch is a real problem. A simple, reliable food vending machine would solve everything.

In the past decade, media has attributed rapidly increasing childhood obesity to food in educational institutions, whether it be hot food served in cafeterias or chips and candy bars purchased from vending machines. With this unflattering attention, it's no wonder that schools like Watertown High School are not eager to install a vending machine. However, vending machines themselves cannot be blamed for the growing obesity numbers in our country. If our school had a machine that distributed healthy snacks, like pretzels, trail mix, or popcorn, it could actually help solve weight issues. Periodic snacks in between meals actually accelerate metabolism, which triggers the body to burn more fat and calories. I realize that it isn't exceedingly difficult for students to bring their own snacks to school, but a vending machine would not harm anything.

Also, breakfast, proven again and again to be the most important meal of the day, can easily be overlooked in the busy life of a high schooler. Skipping breakfast results in lower academic performance, less attentiveness, and health risks. Yes, WHS serves breakfast- if you can wake up early enough to get it. Usually that's the exact reason why students skip breakfast in the first place: they're striving to sleep until the last second possible. The cafeteria is unarguably closed before and after lunch, so what is a hungry student supposed to do in the mornings, especially if they have to wait until third lunch to eat their first bites of the day? A vending machine could sell healthy breakfast alternatives, such as cereal bars, yogurts, and juices. On the other end of the spectrum, if a student has first lunch, it's a long three periods until they can go home and eat again. That's assuming that they are going home. If they have sports or another extracurricular activity, there's another dilemma. Handi Variety isn't exactly a hike, but again, a vending machine would be more convenient for everyone.

A vending machine would provide numerous benefits to our thriving high school. A growing teenager needs nourishment all day long to function optimally in six, hour-long classes. Easily accessible snacks would not create a school full of morbidly obese kids, but rather 750 alert, cheerful students, ready to learn.

Back Off Phelps

By: Nick Lappen

A picture's worth a thousand words, or a three month suspension in the case of Michael Phelps. The Olympic hero was recently suspended from swimming in any official competitions after a picture of him smoking from a bong surfaced and was published in a British newspaper. The picture was apparently taken at a party Phelps attended at the University of South Carolina, and shows Phelps smoking marijuana from a glass pipe known as a bong. Phelps has admitted to making a mistake and has fully owned up to the situation, saying, "I acted in a youthful and inappropriate way". He stands to lose millions of dollars in sponsorships and the goodwill of millions of people.

People are blowing this way out of proportion. The public needs to cut him a break here. Marijuana isn't that big of a deal. Millions use marijuana every day, including many people who could be seen as "role models". Marijuana is not a hard drug, it's not something that causes addictions or can kill you. Michael Phelps was at a party having some fun, he wasn't doping or doing cocaine

The idea that marijuana is some awful poison, or a "gateway" drug is a foolish and uneducated one. According to Marijuana and Medicine: Assessing the Science Base, "There is no conclusive evidence that the drug effects of marijuana are causally linked to the subsequent abuse of other illicit drugs." It rarely acts as a gateway drug, as smokers often become reluctant to give up marijuana for more expensive drugs like heroin and cocaine. Marijuana is about as harmful as cigarettes and is

less addictive, lacking the nicotine in cigarettes. Our society treats marijuana like a serious problem, when in reality the only reason it is illegal is because it is too difficult to tax.

Our society is too demanding of athletes in general. We expect anyone who excels at a sport to have the morals of a saint, but look at some of today's athletes. Plaxico Burress carried an unlicensed firearm into a nightclub and discharged it. Adam Jones has been in more nightclub brawls than anyone can remember. So is what Phelps did really that bad in comparison?

The fact is Phelps is basically a college kid. Kids in college smoke pot once in a while. It's not the end of the world. Smoking clearly hasn't affected Phelps in the pool. The man holds the record for most gold medals won in a single Olympics, among countless other records. He was Sports Illustrated Sportsman of the Year in 2008. Clearly marijuana hasn't had the "devastating affect" on Phelps's life that all of the national anti-drug commercials claim it has. The only thing that has had a devastating affect on Phelps's life here is the way the media has treated this story.

Many parents think that this picture will somehow influence their younger athletes. Teach your children to think for themselves, No matter their age they are old enough to know how to think. They're not Zombies. If your son or daughter is really so impressionable that they would smoke pot just because Michael Phelps did then you are an awful parent and should probably put them up for adoption.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of the Raider Times or its advisor

Is Watertown Raising Wimps?

By: Julia Brennan

When we hear that there is going to be a snowstorm, we automatically think that there will be school the next day. Yet this does not stop us from hoping that perhaps they will cancel it. A recent Watertown Tab reader wrote a letter to the editor and said that Watertown kids are being raised as wimps because we had a day off of school because "it was too cold."

In the summer we hear that there is level red heat and that the humidity, when combined with the heat is unsafe for people to be out in. Why should it be different for the winter? Simply telling us to put a sweatshirt on does not change the fact that it is sub-zero outside and is just as dangerous as the heat can be.

Many of us still remember the

recent white-out storm that caused some bordering towns such as Belmont and Waltham to close early and be closed the next day. While other schools were being sent home we were still in class and we were given no day off the next day. The roads were not plowed, traffic was at a near stand-still and it seemed like the buses were not running at all that day.

We were given a day off a few years ago because it was supposed to be very cold. That is really no different than being told not to go outside when it is too hot out over the summer. People who think that Watertown kids are being raised as wimps need to realize that we are given off much fewer days than other schools are when it snows.

Sports

Feature Athletes

Mike D'Amico

By: Chloe Anderson

Junior tri-captain of the wrestling team Mike D'Amico has reached new heights in his wrestling career. During the 2009 season D'Amico had a 26 duel meet winning streak something almost unheard of among the team. He was predicted to take 5th at states this year, but D'Amico took 6th. He did well enough at states to be the only Watertown wrestler to move on to All-States. He is the second wrestler in Watertown High history to move on to All-States. He was eliminated the first day at All-States but put up a fight. D'Amico took 4th in the Wakefield Tournament, and 2nd in the Springfield Invitational two very big accomplishments. He is ranked top 5 in his weight class at 130 pounds.

His dedication to maintain at 130 pounds, goes above and beyond a normal high school wrestler, and often D'Amico is puts in the extra hours after practice to keep in shape. After practice is over you can still find D'Amico doing laps around the school hallways in the late afternoon.

"After my match I always enjoy watching Mike wrestle. The way he dominates everyone in his weight class is so interesting to see," says sophomore teammate Collin Geagan, one of D'Amico's teammates.

D'Amico has been wrestling since 8th grade. Since his freshman year D'Amico has really improved his wrestling skills. His first year wrestling at WHS his record was 2-14. He has completely turned this record around. This season he has had 18 pins and counting. "I have really dedicated



D'Amico takes down an opponent.

Photo by: Lifetouch

myself to wrestling by, practicing in the off season and trying my hardest," says D'Amico. D'Amico is known for staying motivated and always being committed while wrestling but also in school. He is also known for his positive fun attitude in the classroom.

"My position in the line up is key to my success because after my bud David wins, he gets me pumped up so I go out on the mat and win so I can keep the motivation going for Cesar [Hagopian] who wrestles after me," says D'Amico about the lineup the team wrestles in. Juniors David Woodland, Cesar Hagopian and D'Amico have 90 wins combined. This "trio" of juniors are the ones to beat.

D'Amico has high hopes for the turn out of his season and his next season to come. He is always trying for the best and if he comes a little short, next year will be the year.

Erika Kelly

By: Nick Lappen

This issue's female athlete of the issue is none other than Erika Kelly, the hockey phenom. Erika is only a freshman but she is already one of the best Ice hockey players to play for Watertown. She also excels at field hockey where she is quickly becoming an integral member of the team. When asked about Erika teammate Bianca Jones said, "Erika has a natural talent, and is not afraid to show it."

Erika has said that her proudest moment as a WHS student-athlete was when she scored a game-winning goal for the field hockey team. Erika is also an assistant captain on the girls ice hockey team. Not only does she excel on the Watertown ice, but also plays for Assabet which is a club team that is ranked number one in the country. In order to make this team she had to succeed through a number of tryouts against some of the most talented hockey players at her age. She is only a freshman but do to her athletic skills she is well known by most of the school.

On the ice, she routinely leads the hockey team in goals scored, but off the ice she is just like any normal girl. When I interviewed her for this article, she was sitting at her lunch table. Every question I asked got 4 responses. Erika's and 3 of her friends. Needless to say her friends are very supportive of her athletic endeavors. Friend Meghan Kelly said she was "very proud of Erika." While teammate Bianca Jones added, "Off the field she's a total goon."



Kelly tears up the ice during one of her ice hockey games

Photo by: Lifetouch.

Although it might seem like hockey comes naturally to Erika, her friends are very aware of how much effort she puts in. Friend Sam Frasier said "she (Erika) strives to be the best, and that's what she is."

Erika says she plans to keep playing hockey in the future. All of Watertown High School is looking forward to seeing Erika out on the ice again sometime soon.

Shotputters Place First at State Relay

By: Kelsey Prendergast

To mark the middle of every indoor track season, Reggie Lewis hosts a state relay meet for Division 4. At the state relay meets, athletes join with other members on their team to compete in relays against other schools. Track is a very individual sport, but this meet allows the athletes to work together with their teammates, instead of competing against one another. Watertown, being one of the smallest schools in the Middlesex League, struggles in track since numbers are important. With so few students in the school and even less involved in athletics, Watertown just does not have enough depth to compete fairly against these teams that have double the athletes. Yet, when Watertown attends the state meets and competes against Division 4 and other schools that are closer to the size of Watertown High, they are able to excel in their events.

This year's state relay meet was a success for Watertown High's shotput team. Well aware that Watertown had some of the top shotputters in Division 4, when they were all put together to form one team and not compete against one another, they left with a first place medal. All three members of the shotput

team, including junior Steven Jewers, junior tri-captain Kris Stinehart, and senior Rogan O'Reilly, have already qualified for the state track meet at the end of February where they are all expected to do well.

Stinehart says, "It feels good to be a big part of the team this year and to get points for the team during the meets." In track, a team wins by receiving points for placing first to third, adding the points up, and comparing them to the other teams to declare the winning team. First place is five points, second is three, and third is one. These three shotputters are frequently receiving points for the track team and on many occasions have swept the entire event, receiving points for first, second, and third place. Jewers does not only rack up the points in the circle while throwing, but also during the dash, where he has placed multiple times.

"In Watertown one of our strongest events on our team is the shotput. We can always rely on their consistent success to keep us in meets," says teammate and tri-captain Chris McDermott. The three are very competitive at meets and during practice. They all like to have the farthest throw of the day and are



A track official gives the boys a talk before their event

Photo by: Lifetouch

always comparing their personal best throws.

Jewers admits, "We are a very competitive team, and that makes us

better. We try to beat each other each week." Even though they enjoy beating one another, they are also there to help pump each other up and keep each other focused.