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W.C. MEPHAM HIGH SCHOOL'S

## The Buccaneer



VOL. 78 NO. 4

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BELLMORE, NY

# Valedictorian 2016

By: Hannah Weibley

Imagine for a second it's September again (although at this point in June, that is a horrifying thought), and the day has just begun. Walking into school as a senior and feeling good about what is to come this final year in high school, there's an announcement that you are being called to the principal's office. Though initially

worried, you discover you were asked to come because you've been named the valedictorian of Mepham High School for the class of 2016. Well, way back when in September, that's exactly the scenario John Grover encountered.

Upon being told being told he would represent this year's class of seniors, Grover said he felt "ecstatic and very grateful for the honor." During his time here at Mepham, he has been on the boys' varsity tennis team for four years where he played doubles. In addition, he was a member of math league, science club, and the boys' badminton team. He says of his extra curricular activities the "greatest part of all of them was the group of friends I had within them. It proves that the only thing more important than where you are is who you are with." Grover also participated as well on the science and physics olympiads where he received awards for his contributions to the teams. As for the future, Grover will be attending Cornell



Photo courtesy of yearbook.

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# Access for All

By: Rina Sarfraz

On May 13, 2016, the Obama administration granted approval for transgender students to use school bathrooms of whichever gender identity applies to them. Public schools received a letter from the Departments of Education and Justice. The letter stated that all students "enjoy a safe and discrimination-free environment."

Before this decision, there was and is still an ongoing debate over LGBT rights everywhere. Each side of this debate has been attacking the other, and, as tension rises among the decision on whether or not the LGBT community should gain its rights, many states have decided to go around the rights of transgender people, which has resulted in both negative and positive reactions. Most of the news coverage has focused on North Carolina which has been very vocal on the subject.

According to CNN, Attorney General Loretta Lynch stated, "There is no room in our schools for discrimination of any kind, including discrimination against transgender students on the basis of their sex. This guidance gives admin-

istrators, teachers and parents the tools they need to protect transgender students from peer harassment and to identify and address unjust school policies." Lynch argues that this approval will greatly help and strengthen the transgender community by protecting them from discrimination and showing the school staff what they need to do to protect them. While the letter is not a law, the implication is that funding will be impacted if schools do not comply. This, of course, caused an unrest to the opposing side.

Also according to CNN, Texas Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick said the Obama administration was blackmailing public schools and that it was unfair. "The families in America will not accept it," Patrick said at a news conference. Similarly, Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant called the decision outrageous and did not want Mississippi taking any part of it. "The directive is nonbinding and does not carry the force of law," Bryant said. "Because these decisions are better left to the states, and not made at the point of a federal bayonet, Mississippi's public schools should not participate in the president's social experiment."

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# So Long, Farewell... For Now

With only a mere few days left of my time here at high school, I have been doing a lot of reflecting on the four years I spent at Mepham. There were good days, for sure, and of course, there were always some bad. But at the end of the day, or maybe I should instead say senior year, Mepham became home.

I want my fellow seniors to think about something for a second. As of right now, we are young, we are set for whatever future plans we've made, and we run this school. We are the class of 2016: filled with friends from childhood, familiarity, community, and support. When

again in our lives will we feel like this? So comfortable in our social lives, at the top of our schools and so excited with anticipation about life and the future? Cherish these final days. Photograph your friends, go on the adventures together that were discussed but never executed, and reminisce in the memories of your classrooms the next time you go to English.

I can say full-heartedly that I loved my time here, and I left my mark. I hope the majority of you can say the same. And if you are ever feeling nostalgic, just remember you can always

come back to visit these halls and expect to be greatly welcomed.

To the underclassmen, don't think I forgot about you; my best advice is to be involved. It doesn't even have to be clubs or sports (although I do recommend that to those who are interested). Go to Mepham events, do volunteer work at the school, or even go out and make friends with the kid that sits next to you in math. As much as I wish I could say I remember everything I learned in the classrooms, what happens after school is where I have the strongest memories. Don't let this time simply pass you by because

these moments can be really special just with a little effort to make it so.

Before I leave you, whether you're a student, teacher or staff member here at Mepham reading this, I want to conclude with a thank you. No high school is ever the same, and I am so honored to say, despite all the hard work, the late nights working, the stressed out days, and the lack of air conditioning, I will be a graduate of Mepham High School. I am so lucky, as I'm sure many in my senior class feel, to have spent four years here, and I can't wait to start new journeys only to look back on this place with a smile.

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*The Buccaneer* is the student newspaper of W.C. Mepham High School. Responsible letters and guest editorials are accepted from anyone affiliated with Mepham High School. Any articles should be submitted to *The Buccaneer* via our email: [mephambuccaneer@gmail.com](mailto:mephambuccaneer@gmail.com)

Expressed opinions are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the beliefs of the administration, the student body, the staff, the advisors or any advertisers. *The Buccaneer* reserves the right to edit all articles for veracity, brevity and propriety.

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# Tips to Prepare For College

By: Kayla Schneider

As the nice, warm weather approaches, it means summer is right around the corner. It feels as if yesterday, I was walking into Mepham for the first time as a freshman. Somehow, a whole school year has passed, and my time as a freshman is almost up. It is never fun when parents remind us that college is coming, and we need to prepare, yet it's the truth. If one year can go by so quickly, then just think about how fast three more will come and go. Before you know it, college applications will be due, and everything that you have done throughout the years at Mepham, will count.

It's a common misconception for people to think that colleges only look at grades. As that is partly true, it is just as important to be involved in school activities. Whether it's clubs, sports, or both, colleges like to see participation.

One example of a student that made the most of her time at Mepham is Sarah Schneider. She is a senior that will be attending Princeton University next fall. Schneider, a very dedicated and driven student, worked beyond her full potential during her years at Mepham. Not only did she maintain a high average while taking the most rigorous courses, she is also a member of the track team and orchestra, did tons of community service, and participated in over seven clubs consistently for all four years at Mepham. Although it is not necessary to take on that many activities, it proves that hard work truly does pay off. Schneider said, "One of the biggest mistakes people make when trying to get into college is that they present their application to look like it's what they think the college wants to see, rather than who they are. So the biggest thing is to be true to yourself and make sure that the college application reflects who you are as an individual." This helped her achieve

her dream of getting into Princeton.

In addition to getting involved with school, community service is always beneficial. It looks great on a resume, but it is also nice to simply help out with your community. There are many opportunities to get involved in our area. Volunteering at local animal shelters, visiting residents at nursing homes, cleaning up parks and raising money for charities are a few examples of ways to help out our community. Schneider also advised, "Don't do things just because you want to get into college, do an activity because there's real value in doing it. Make sure you do everything with passion and stay motivated."

Though college may seem far away, all the activities you do throughout high school make an impact in getting accepted to schools. It's important to maintain grades, be involved, work hard, and do your best. This will not only help you get into the college of your dreams, but it will also make you a better you.

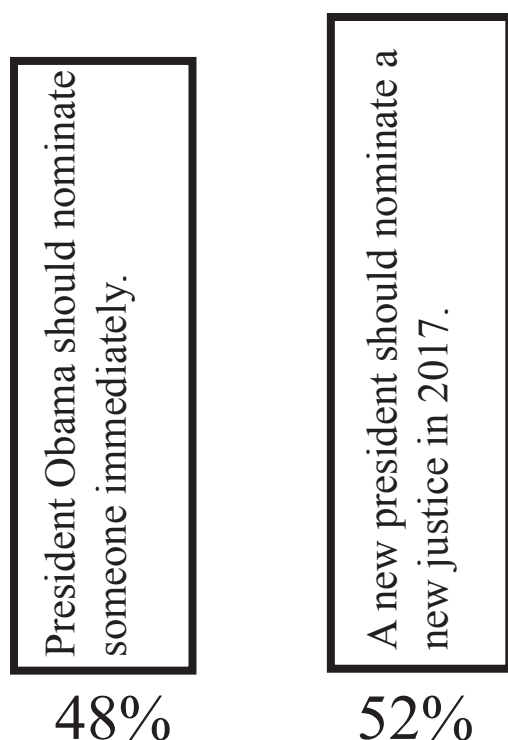
## Thank you!

*The Buccaneer* staff would like to thank everyone who made this paper possible. We look forward to the letters, pictures, artwork, and articles next year!

## Buccaneer Poll #4

By: Jennifer Raclaw

With the passing of Justice Antonin Scalia in February 2016, should President Obama nominate someone to fill the vacancy, or should the nomination be made in January 2017 when a new president is inaugurated?



Thank you to all who participated in *The Buccaneer* polls this school year.

## Common Problem

By: Annie Zomback

As the end of the year approaches, the halls of Mepham High School are filled with excitement. As we count down the days until the final bell, students only have two things on their minds: their summer plans... and finals. The bitter-sweet feeling has never been more real, especially as exams have become harder and quite controversial.

In particular, most students preparing to take the Common Core Geometry Regents are feeling anxious, especially after the brutal Algebra Regents they experienced the previous year. Statistics show that a colossal 37% of students failed the Algebra Common Core Regents last year, while the previous year, the percentage of students failing was 28%. According to the New York Times, in addition to the Algebra Regents (no pun intended), students taking the English Common Core Regents faced a very challenging test.

This evidence displays just how challenging Common Core can be, and it can be very discour-

aging for students taking these standardized tests. Fortunately, our district is aware of how unreasonable these tests can be and is issuing a new policy. For the 2015-2016 school year, students taking full year courses with a final/Regents/FLACS will see a change in how their grades are weighted. Now, each quarter is worth 21%, rather than 20%, and the final/Regents will be worth 16%, rather than 20% (according to the district website).

Ninth grader, Kayla Schneider said, "After experiencing the regents for the first time last year, and realizing how difficult it was, I'm apprehensive about taking them again this year," regarding the topic. Additionally, Kristen Jozwik's opinion on this matter is, "I don't know why we're given tests that are designed to trick us. I either know the information, or I don't, so I hope this year's Geometry Regents will test our knowledge and not our skills."

While everyone has his/her own thoughts on the difficulty of Common Core Regents, it is evident that a significant increase of standards for New York State testing has been set.

# Obama Approves Transgender Access

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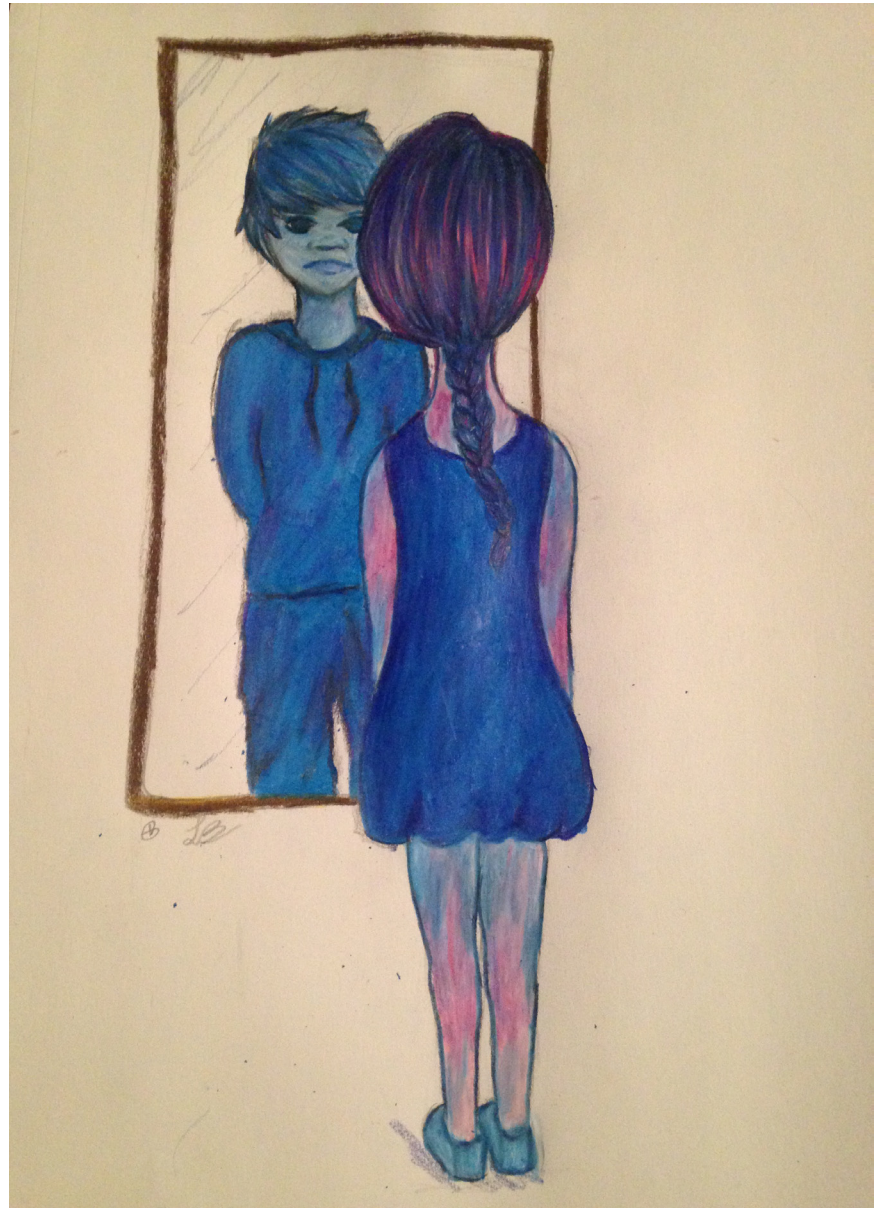
The LGBT community at Mepham High School is one of the many groups across the nation that is pleased upon hearing the news. Storm Keeler, president of the Gender and Sexuality Alliance Club, said, "I am overjoyed by the Obama administration for their efforts towards ending discrimination against LGBTQIA students. Very few people realize what a colossal leap forward this statement is for the entire community as a whole. I am extremely proud of this nation

"The letter strongly shows federal opinion that schools should treat transgender students fairly."

we live in today for its steps towards equality for the LGBTQIA."

The letter strongly shows federal opinion that schools should treat transgender students fairly. The BMCHSD district has received the public notice from the White House. It explains all of the public schools' requirements for the transgender students. One of the obligations in the letter states, "Treat students consistent with their gender identity even if their school records or identification documents indicate a different sex." Another obligation in the letter states, "Allow students to participate in sex-segregated activities and access sex-segregated facilities consistent with their gender identity."

The Obama administration may have issued a letter and enforced its obligations upon public schools, but will the LGBT community eventually gain its full rights, or will it still have to suffer against discrimination in the upcoming years?



Artwork by: Lauren Bifulco.

## Unprecedented Unanimous MVP

**By: Jake Friedlander**

When it comes to the greatest basketball player of all time, there is little debate that it is Michael Jordan. A 14-time All-Star, 5-time regular season MVP, 6-time champion with 6 Finals MVPs, 10-time league-leading scorer, a Defensive Player of the Year, and career averages of 30.1 PPG/6.2 RPG/5.3 APG rank him amongst the best. Even with all of these accolades and achievements, he never was able to capture the one thing no one else had done until the 2015-2016 season: win unanimous MVP. That feat was done by none other than the Golden State Warriors point guard, Stephen Curry.

Coming off a season in which Curry broke the all-time 3-point record for a season with 286, won the MVP of the league, and beat the Cleveland Cavaliers in the NBA Finals, he still looked to improve. Somehow, he did. Curry managed to improve almost every facet of his game, trailblazing a number of records. He increased his scoring by 6.3 PPG (23.8 to 30.1) to lead the league, which is the biggest increase in scoring from a reigning MVP. Curry was able to

do this while playing less than 35 minutes per game, which is unbelievable. Also, Curry led the league in steals per game, became the sixth player to have a 50-40-90 slash line (field goal percentage-three point percentage-free throw percentage), broke his own record of 3-pointers in a season, eclipsing 400 3-pointers in a single season (no one, not even himself, had ever even had 300 threes in a single season). Curry brought his team to win its first 24 games of the season and break the all-time best record in an NBA regular season by going 73-9, beating the record of 72-10 by the 1995-1996 Chicago Bulls. These broken records have solidified his status as one of the best in the game today.

These records are phenomenal in their own, special way, but his achievement of being the MVP has allowed his records and feats to live on eternally. Not only did he win the MVP award, but he was unanimously chosen. None of the great players to ever set foot on the hardwood have ever been able to accomplish this, placing him right there with the elite. Even with amazing players like LeBron James, Kawhi Leonard, Russell Westbrook, and

Kevin Durant, he was still able to garner all 131 first-place votes. Michael Jordan, who is regarded as the greatest of all time, got only 109 of the 113 first-place votes in the '95-'96 season during one of his greatest seasons. The closest players to ever win unanimously were Shaquille O'Neal and LeBron James in 2000 and 2013, respectively. They both fell one vote shy of unanimity, despite their fantastic seasons.

Curry accepted his MVP award on May 10th, thanking his family, teammates, coaches, management, and others. He displayed his gratitude and took the time to make sure he covered everyone in his speech. In regards to his teammates, Curry told announcer Craig Sager, "You guys inspire me to keep getting better, so that we can get the most out of our potential every night." Though he was the clear leader of his team, he humbly gave his thanks to his team, who helped him achieve all of the goals he set out for this season (and maybe even add a championship ring). Also, Curry was asked by a reporter how he would define what he has done for the game of basketball and how he wants to be remembered when

his career ends. As humbly as he accepted his award during a pre-game ceremony at Oracle Arena in Oakland, California, he expressed, "I never really set out to change the game. I never thought that that would happen in my career. I didn't know how to describe that. But what I want to do is just be myself." Being that he is the undeniable face of the NBA with his infatuating dribbling, shooting, and passing, it is great that he is able to stay modest and not let all of this fame and success get to his head.

Stephen Curry is tearing up the NBA, as evidenced by his superb play which allowed him to win the honor of unanimous MVP after already winning the award the previous season. Though he does not look as overpowering as most basketball superstars, many people still look up to him and associate with him as he looks so ordinary. Winning this award is incredible, but doing it unanimously, which no other player has ever previously done, is a whole other accomplishment in itself. NBA fans appreciate what he does and cannot wait to see what he does in this year's playoffs as well as in the years to come.

# Valedictorian: John Grover



Photo by: Mr. Grover.

(continued from page 1)

University come this fall where he will be studying mechanical engineering. According to Grover, this particular major allows him to combine his love for math and science while also incorporating “[his] desire to work with [his] hands and create physical solutions to problems.” He is most excited about meeting new people and being involved, possibly in the outdoors club where he hopes to take advantage of Cornell’s location: the beautiful area of Ithaca, New York. And when it comes to advice to his fellow seniors about next year, Grover recommends “[dedicating] yourselves to your work in college and you will never regret the outcome.”

Looking back on his time at Mepham, his most influential class was AP Macroeconomics because it taught real world skills and knowledge, while also incorporating how

to manage one’s own personal finances. Along with that, the most valuable thing he learned within the classrooms of Mepham was that “no test, grade, or a single day can define [a person], and [one] doesn’t need to be held back by a single bad experience,” which he credits to Mr. Zogby, his AP U.S. History and Macroeconomics teacher.

Just like the rest of the senior class, John Grover will no longer be found on the tennis courts or the physics room everyday. However, he will be leaving his final mark on his fellow classmates during his valedictorian speech come graduation day. To the underclassmen that will not be in attendance that at ceremony, he suggests making the most out of the time remaining in high school with extra curriculars and Mepham run events, while also advising students to “lead the way for the classes that follow you, and remember that you were once in their position as well.”

# Salutatorian: Kristina DiMiceli

**By: Hashir Siddiqui**

When Kristina DiMiceli walked into Wellington C. Mepham High School in the fall of 2012, little did she know that she would be the outgoing Salutatorian she is today. Born and raised in Bellmore, Kristina describes herself as an average student who put in the amount of effort as you and I. She would make sure to hand in all her homework on time and study for every test. In freshman year, Kristina considered herself an introvert. She would often be too shy to raise her hand in class, and other students wouldn’t even know she was in their classes. Now, as time has progressed, she still isn’t one to be the center of attention, but has learned to be more comfortable with her classmates and experience new things.

Since freshman year, Kristina has always had a passion for music. Kristina plays for the Mepham and the District orchestra and often plays the piano in her free time. Other than an instrument, a birdie, ball, and racket are items often found in Kristina’s hand. She has played tennis for three years and badminton for two at Mepham. Although it may seem like she does it all, Kristina also makes sure to give back to the community around her. She has been a peer tutor since freshman year, making sure her classmates and other students live up to their

full potential. Kristina also has sacrificed a summer to be a volunteer at Camp ANCHOR. Camp ANCHOR is a camp which attends to the needs of citizens with disabilities through organized recreation. Volunteers like Kristina help citizens with special needs to play sports, make arts and crafts, join clubs, and more.

As the class of 2016 goes their separate ways, Kristina will miss how close the community of Mepham is and how it can’t be replicated anywhere else. “I think we’re such a strong community, and everyone kind of knows each other, even if we’re in different grades. Obviously, college will have a community, but [Mepham] I think is much more close-knit because we all grew up with each other.”

Going to the University of North Carolina, Kristina hopes to try new things and have new experiences to define her. Kristina hopes to start doing research in college with a mentor and take up opportunities not taken in high school. She also hopes to study abroad to meet new people and places. To further expand Kristina’s horizons, she may also try new sports and maybe even join a new band.

As she walks out of the circle doors one last time, Mepham knows Kristina DiMiceli will walk onto the campus of UNC and continue adding to her long list of accolades she started here four years ago.

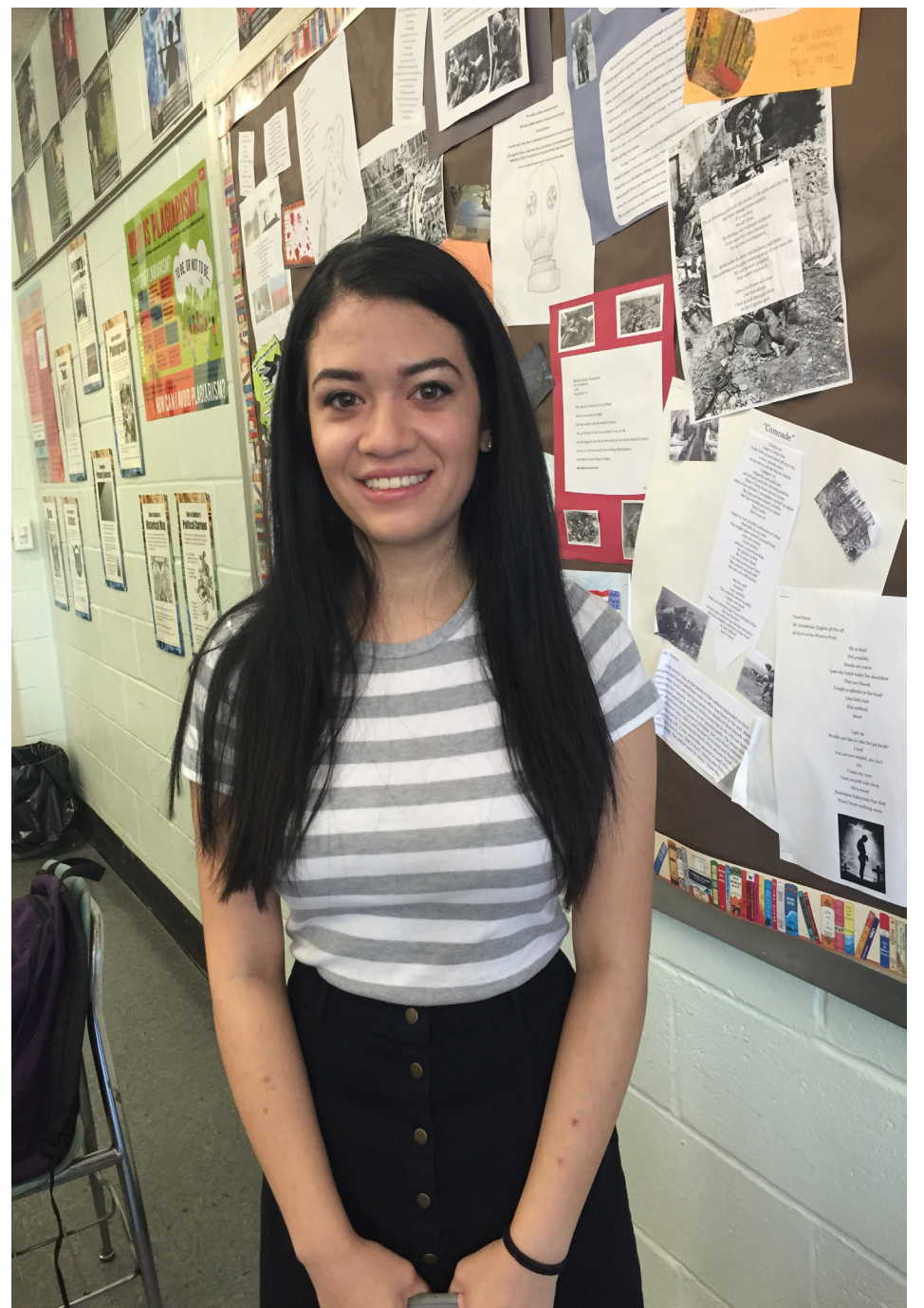


Photo by: Hannah Weibley.

Abbas, Fatima	Brooklyn College of the CUNY	Cayaban, Jamie M	Long Island University, Post
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Abramson, Nicole	Not available at time of printing	Cestaro, Sereena	Not available at time of printing
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Agoglia, Nicholas E	SUNY College at Cobleskill	Cilio, John P	Hofstra University
Ahmed, Nowmi	University of New Haven	Cimorelli, Jack	Hofstra University
Ahmed, Suniya Sohail	Binghamton University	Cipriano, Carmela	Wentworth Institute of Technology
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Amato, Casey	SUNY College at Cortland	Collins, Ryan N	Farmingdale State College
Amato, Emily Anne	Nassau Community College	Connolly, Ryan T	Adelphi University
Amberge, Matthew J	NJIT	Conway, Leah	Nassau Community College
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Arispe, Christian	Binghamton University	Cote, Casey	Farmingdale State College
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Bartolino, Amelia A	SUNY Plattsburgh	Davies, Danielle Lorraine	Not available at time of printing
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Berman, Melissa	Hofstra University	Deering, Cathaline N	Sierra Nevada College
Bernhardi, Anne M	New York University	Dempsey, Mikayla	The Ohio State University
Bettex, Nicole	Nassau Community College	DeNicola, Patrick J	Nassau Community College
Blake, Kelsey Tatianna	SUNY College at Old Westbury	DeRosa, Julia	University of Central Florida
Blasucci, Jordana	Nassau Community College	DeSena, Danielle	Nassau Community College
Bonagura, Cameron L	Nassau Community College	Dhsan, Tabish	Hofstra University
Boyle, Bradley C	Salisbury University	DiMaio, Jason C	St. John's University
Bramwell, Tionnei Natasha	Farmingdale State College	DiMiceli, Kristina G	UNC at Chapel Hill
Brandes, Rachel A	University of Tenn., Knoxville	Egland, Zachary M	SUNY New Paltz
Brief, Stacy	Adelphi University	Eisenberg, Elizabeth	SUNY Buffalo
Brill, Austin S	SUNY College at Cortland	Ellis, Brandon	SUNY College at Old Westbury
Brocks, Alexandra L	University of Rhode Island	Ellis, Justin	SUNY College at Old Westbury
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Calder, Alicia Nicole	Binghamton University	Friedlander, Jake W	Stony Brook University
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Campagnuolo, Andrew	Farmingdale State College	Galgano, Katherine	Marist College
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Carrano, Christopher A	Syracuse University	Geelan, Erin K	Marist College
Carter, Vanessa Athena	Hofstra University	Geller, Zachary J	SUNY Albany
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Casale, Justin	United States Marine Corps	Gibbons, Matthew	Molloy College
Casanova, Veronica N	Monroe Community College	Gilberg, Joseph S	Hunter College of the CUNY
Casatelli, Gabriela E	DePauw University	Gilroy, Erin	University of Tenn., Knoxville
Casco, Amanda N	Nassau Community College	Giustino, Andrew M	Nassau Community College
Casola, Peter	Binghamton University	Goodman, Kha-lil	Endicott College
Cates, McKayla R	SUNY College at Oneonta	Groth, Megan S	Farmingdale State College

Grover, John	Cornell University	Morales, Haley	SUNY New Paltz
Guarascio, Ashley	University of Rhode Island	Morris, Dillon	SUNY Buffalo
Hagarty, Patrick L	Rochester Institute of Technology	Moshou, Darien	Not available at time of printing
Harasek, Brendan	Nassau Community College	Mulligan, Katelynn	SUNY New Paltz
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June, Caitlyn Noelle	SUNY College at Old Westbury	Perillo, Andrew T	Bowling Green State University
Kazokas, Kristen N	St. John's University	Perillo, Christopher G	SUNY Albany
Khan, Aden N	Hofstra University	Pflaumer, Jennifer	Towson University
Khan, Iqra N	St. John's University	Pincus, Rachel	Stony Brook University
Klein, Alexander H	Employment	Pineda, Jose G	Nassau Community College
Klein, Leena R	SUNY College at Oneonta	Pomeranz, Marissa	SUNY New Paltz
Kreku, Melisa	Adelphi University	Qadeer, Subhan Ahsen	Nassau Community College
Lainez Molina, Ronald	Nassau Community College	Raheb, Alexa	University of Rhode Island
LaMagra, Sebastian	Nassau Community College	Ramirez, Alexander D	University of New Haven
Lambert, Matthew	SUNY Buffalo	Rattoballi, Christopher	New York Institute of Technology
Lamster, Matthew	Nassau Community College	Riiska, Courtney	Molloy College
Lamster, Victoria	Molloy College	Roa, Xavier D	John Jay College
Laupheimer, Gregory	SUNY Maritime College	Rodas, Roxsana Carolina	Mercy College
Leroux, Jacqueline A	Nassau Community College	Rofe, Jacqueline J	Pennsylvania State University
Leroux, John J	Nassau Community College	Ronan, Kathryn	Manhattan College
Levine, Kimberly A	Nassau Community College	Rosner, Stefen P	SUNY College at Cortland
Levyns, Jacob M	SUNY Plattsburgh	Roth, Daniel	Not available at time of printing
Limbog, Raymond	St. John's University	Rozea, Katiann M	Molloy College
Liriano, Eliza	UNC at Chapel Hill	Ruan, Janice	St. John's University
Lozada, Isaac M	Liberty University	Ruggiero, Alexandra	Farmingdale State College
Lucas, Christopher	Employment	Rullo, Thomas J	Binghamton University
Lunavictoria, Andrew W	SUNY Albany	Ruziak, Tyler J	Nassau Community College
Lyman, Jessica S	Hofstra University	Ryan, Jared	Adelphi University
Lynam, Kyle R	SUNY Oswego	Santos, Leonardo	Nassau Community College
Maas, Kaitlyn	Brittney Beauty School	Sass, Miranda R	Massachusetts College of Art & Design
Maddalena, Danielle G	SUNY College at Cortland	Scalice, Samantha	Not available at time of printing
Malone, Frank	Buffalo State College of SUNY	Scalisi, Jessica	SUNY College at Oneonta
Manning, Harrison J	Employment	Schad, Taylor B	The University of Tampa
Marchese, Salvatore N	Nassau Community College	Schneider, Frederick	Suffolk Community College
Marciano, Josephine	Delaware State University	Schneider, Sarah N	Princeton University
Marion, Elizabeth L	Nassau Community College	Schneider, Thomas A	Sacred Heart University
Maroney, Kevin E	Not available at time of printing	Schroeder, Kelsie	Indiana University at Bloomington
Marschall, Brianna R	Nassau Community College	Schwartz, Kevin E	Nassau Community College
Marshall, Lindsey A	Binghamton University	Sculley, Kathryn	Not available at time of printing
Massaro, Anthony	Nassau Community College	Serviss, Jessica D	Wagner College
Massaro, Joseph F	University of Connecticut	Shamenek, Sara A	Williams College
Mateyaschuk, Scott A	Adelphi University	Shen, Janan	Stony Brook University
Mauro, Michael J	University of Connecticut	Shevins, Thomas M	Farmingdale State College
McArdle, Troy R	SUNY Oswego	Shiple, Emily	Fordham University
Metz, Patrick	Nassau Community College	Sierra, Victoria L	University of Hartford
Meyer, Olivia	New York University	Silver, Alexa M	SUNY College at Oneonta
Meyers, Michael	SUNY College at Brockport	Simone, Steven G	Nassau Community College
Miano, Stephanie	Northeastern University	Singleton, Maura K	Queens College of the CUNY
Mikowski, Sean T	Nassau Community College	Sonner, Emma	The New School - All Divisions
Monaco, Alexis	Adelphi University	Soto, Michael Antonio	Adelphi University

Spector, Evan  
 Spickerman, Brian  
 Spickerman, Patrick  
 Stark, Kaylin M  
 Stark, Matthew S  
 Stasio, Danielle  
 Stasio, Joseph  
 Steinkamp, Rachel  
 Stender, Elizabeth  
 Stribula, Olivia M  
 Style, Hannah  
 Sultan, Jasmine  
 Sutphin, Brianna Lin  
 Syed, Haniya  
 Tarantino, Michael  
 Taratko, Nicholas P  
 Tavolino, Joseph D  
 Teller, Justin  
 Thomas, Marissa  
 Thompson, Jake  
 Tucci, Julia R  
 Tzorzis, Ekaterina Georgia  
 Udolf, Laura Juliette  
 Ulanoff, Sophie R  
 Vacchio, Rory  
 Valentin, Catherine E  
 Vandewater, Colin S  
 VanMeter, Kerry M  
 Villabona, Miguel Angel  
 Villani, Luigi R  
 Viola, Nicolas  
 Virgona, Kaitlyn  
 Wagner, Claudia A  
 Weibley, Hannah C  
 Weller, Joanna  
 White, Olivia  
 Wilson, Gabrielle

SUNY Buffalo  
 Molloy College  
 Hofstra University  
 Nassau Community College  
 SUNY Maritime College  
 Nassau Community College  
 Nassau Community College  
 SUNY College at Brockport  
 Marist College  
 Molloy College  
 Savannah College of Art & Design  
 Hofstra University  
 Florida State University  
 Farmingdale State College  
 Not available at time of printing  
 James Madison University  
 St. Joseph's College - Long Island  
 Not available at time of printing  
 Adelphi University  
 Not available at time of printing  
 Molloy College  
 Nassau Community College  
 SUNY New Paltz  
 SUNY New Paltz  
 University of Hartford  
 SUNY Albany  
 Roberts Wesleyan College  
 Fashion Institute of Technology  
 Nassau Community College  
 SUNY Oswego  
 Stony Brook University  
 University of Connecticut  
 Nassau Community College  
 Ithaca College  
 Stony Brook University  
 The University of Arizona  
 East Carolina University

Yates, Kyle  
 You, Kehong  
 Zahid, Mashal  
 Zaidi, Haffi A  
 Zaretsky, Jenna M  
 Zigdon, Yonatan

Nassau Community College  
 Stony Brook University  
 SUNY College at Old Westbury  
 Stony Brook University  
 Binghamton University  
 University of Florida



## Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. Siegelaub

**By: Katie Loewy**

Our beloved language teacher, Mrs. Siegelaub, is retiring after this school year ends. As a freshman, it was a phenomenal experience to have had her as a teacher in her last year. I got the opportunity to interview her and get her thoughts on leaving Mephram and her plans for the future.

**K:** What is something you want your former students to remember about you when you leave?

**S:** When I leave, I hope my students will remember the passion I have for my languages and for teaching, and will remember to always do their best in everything they do.

**K:** What has been your favorite moment(s) at Mephram?

**S:** My favorite moments include recognizing the accomplishments of many talented students (language contests, for example), ob-

serving students' progress and pleasure in learning, knowing students who share my passion, "adopting" a family at the holidays with the French and Italian Honor Society members and observing their joy at helping others as well as in other activities with them as well, receiving the Harvard Club of LI award, having heart-to-heart talks with so many students over the years, being asked to students' games and concerts, getting to know such a diverse, interesting and talented student body, bonding with my department members, and being part of the fantastic "Mephram family."

**K:** What are you planning on doing during your retirement?

**S:** I plan to read, take walks along the beach, bike ride, visit it more with family and friends, travel, learn piano and yoga, and do some more volunteer work.

**K:** What will you miss most about Mephram?



Mrs. Siegelaub with her husband, Marc, and son, Nathan. Photo by: Mrs. Langevin.

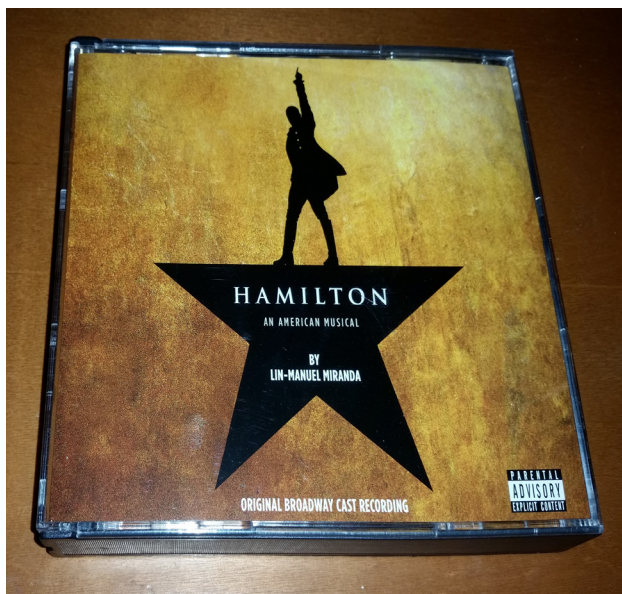
**S:** I will miss just being at school (my "home away from home") to interact with my colleagues and students and follow their lives more closely; I'll also miss sharing my love of languages

with others, and miss providing an important service to society.

Mrs. Siegelaub will certainly be missed and will be remembered in many years to come.



# Album Review: *Hamilton*



By: Jake Levyns

Now, our next candidate needs no introduction, but should still have one. Not only is this new soundtrack one of two counterparts to the hottest (and most expensive) ticket on Broadway, it's also, quite honestly, one of the best Broadway soundtracks of the decade.

For the majority of patrons who may not have the opportunity to see *Hamilton* on Broadway for its run at Richard Rodgers Theatre (like me!), the soundtrack might

be the closest to Times Square we can get without being bombarded by the people who go. But that's beside the point; it's all about the song and dance. The show's story might not be the most immediately appealing, but it really is a genius idea; the raw, untold story of one of America's founding fathers, Alexander Hamilton. In very in-depth detail, the story of one America's most influential men starts to

unfold, in a form of music unseen from any Broadway stage: hip hop.

In numerous interviews, actor and curator Lin-Manuel Miranda explained that after reading the first few chapters of a Hamilton biography he picked up, it was as if the idea almost jumped out at him. He was surprised to know that nothing of the sort has even been attempted before, and it seemed only right to him to go through with it. About a year later, *Hamilton: An American Musical* made its

Off-Broadway debut, and would continue to grow into more of a phenomenon! The opening track, the rightfully named "Alexander Hamilton," aims and ignites; with its simple beat but profoundly complex wordplay, it pushes all expectations out the window and gives all of the company especially shining moments. The plot thickens with every song; the introduction to what will become Hamilton's marital family, "The Schuyler Sisters," is a beautifully composed number that isn't afraid to show a little skin and stand up for the women of America.

As wartime rears its ugly head (in this case, very ugly), the music itself gets equally ominous; the transition from the snippy "Ten Duel Commandments" into the serious "Meet Me Inside" catches everyone off guard to the point of not knowing what's true. And then, through a battle of the masses, "Yorktown (The World Turned Upside Down)" brings everyone up, down, and up again through a series of amazing feats. All that's just the first act!

The second act welcomes in a wave of heavy competition. The

lingering questions left in the punch of "What'd I Miss?" gives proper leeway into exposing the darkness of Congress in 1789, starring none other than secretaries Hamilton and Jefferson. And what better way to do this than with a battle of the masses in, you guessed it, a rap battle! This is "Cabinet Battle #1," where Jefferson completely dismembers Hamilton's plan to establish a national bank, but nearly gets punched in the face with his rebuttal. The moral of the story is, don't mess with the big kahuna!

To tie it all together, the company joins in song and dance for one of the more fun numbers of the show, gathering in "The Room Where It Happens." This is a perfect vantage point for the rest of the show, so instead of me running it down even more, why don't you all give it a chance? *Hamilton*, the Original Broadway Cast Recording is available in stores and online everywhere. And to those of you who are still searching for tickets for the real thing, I wish you the best of luck. Here's to an amazing year for music, and to many more to come!

## *How Big, How Blue, How Beautiful*

By: Jake Levyns

Quite honestly, no year would be complete without going back to two of the most successful albums of 2015. This one is from a band that is basically stripped from old paintings, coming to life with something very rare for their time. Dubbed by *Rolling Stone* as hands down the greatest live performers in music, this is the story of Florence + The Machine.

*Lungs*, the full length debut, was a revelation in 2009 and pushed the group to the top of the Alternative genre as one of the best new acts of the year. A few years later, they unleashed the real beast: *Ceremonials*. Filled to the brim with haunting sounds and mesmerizing chords, it nearly broke the mold for an entire new genre of music for the next generation. And now, after a 12-month breather for lead singer and undeniable talent Florence Welch, the band is finally ready to captivate audiences and fans worldwide once again. On Tuesday, June 2nd, 2015, individuals numbering in the multi-millions rejoiced in tremendous pride for their most incredible release to date, *How Big, How Blue, How Beautiful*. Written over two years between

London and Los Angeles, Welch actually had time to hone in on her surroundings and concentrate on just herself and her music. She allowed herself to move outside of her comfort zone and let her new intimate lyrics speak to her. Tracks like "Queen of Peace" and "Various Storms & Saints" prove that Welch is able to do this, while at the same time staying true to her roots. On this record in particular, the heightened focus is clear from the cover art. The group's first two albums featured Welch posed in a melodramatic side view with her eyes closed. This one finds her eyes open for the first time—and staring straight into the eyes of millions. This sense of release and urgency infused this record, the band's most mature, cohesive album yet, as seen by recent chart toppers "Delilah" and "Which Witch." She has previously mentioned a big argument with her producer that allowed her to not have any songs on the album pertaining to repetitive subjects, such as demons and wa-

ter, heavily put into the other albums *Lungs* and *Ceremonials*. In some interviews, she explained that she was very fortunate to have "Ship to Wreck" to make the final copy of the album because of these provocative stories. It obviously wasn't a bad thing, considering it was one of the highest rated songs on it when released as a download with the pre-order on iTunes. If you have ever heard any of Florence + The Machine's music in the past and actually liked it, this album will be an excellent segway to the world of the band never seen by the

naked eye. I will tell you truthfully that it is well worth your time to just give it one listen; it truly opens your mind to so much, and brings you to a very special place. What are you waiting for Mephem? This album will change your life! This summer, Florence + The Machine is set to embark on their much anticipated How Beautiful Tour, the last legs of a huge multi-part arena tour in pursuit of *How Big, How Blue, How Beautiful*. Their stops all over the United States end with two performances at Barclays Center this June with very special guest, Grimes!



Photos by: Jake Levyns.

# Daughter of Smoke and Bone

By: Lindsey Marshall

“Once upon a time, an angel and a devil fell in love. It did not end well.” *Daughter of Smoke and Bone* tells the age-old tale of forbidden love with a beautifully constructed mythological twist. Karou and Akiva are a Romeo and Juliet unlike any other, and author Laini Taylor has managed to capture love, loneliness and desperation in a masterpiece of a novel. The world that Taylor creates is intricate, bright, original, and it will stretch your imagination. The characters are layered with concealed motivations, and they are heartbreaking and real.

A girl grows up in the world, knowing not where she came from or who she actually is. Her memories amount to those she has gathered while being raised by a group of monsters, one of whom served as a father figure to her. Karou is a seventeen year old art student living in Prague. She gossips with girlfriends, works on her art and has an ex-boyfriend who will not take the



Photo by: Lindsey Marshall.

hint. But behind all of this, Karou has a secret. She was raised by and frequently runs errands for a demonic 'wishmonger.' In this secret world, wishes are the currency, and monsters will do anything for their ultimate wishes to be fulfilled. Living between worlds, Karou senses that she does not quite belong in either... then one day she runs into the

angelic Akiva, who not only makes her question where she belongs but who and what she actually is.

Laini Taylor never patronizes her readers, and she writes with a magical flair and sophistication that is a true rarity. The thing that really struck me most was the way Taylor uses old, often clichéd, ideas like: forbidden love, the di-

vine battle of angels and devils, and fallen angels, yet she manages to turn them into something entirely new and extraordinary.

However, this is not a stereotypical angel/devil story about good vs. bad. In fact, this novel shows how something can be perceived as evil by being different and how it is possible to be born and raised into the hatred of something else just because they are what they are. It is an incredible and touching story that explores prejudice as well as romance in a spectacular fantasy world.

There is also a wicked sensuality amidst the darkness. The love story is tragic and intense. The writing is emotional, lyrical, shattering. But perhaps the most astonishing thing about this book is its complete lack of cynicism. This book is all about love, peace, and the magic of hope: “Hope can be a powerful force. Maybe there’s no actual magic in it, but when you know what you hope for most and hold it like a light within you, you can make things happen, almost like magic.”

## Make Donald Drumpf Again

By: Jennifer Raclaw

Late night hosts Conan O'Brien, Stephen Colbert and John Oliver, have a lot to say about the presidential election. The potential candidates include: a man with little to no political experience; a man social media believes, “looks like the guy who no one takes seriously in a disaster movie”; and a woman with a background of scandals, both her own and her husband’s; and a man who lost delegates to another nominee in his home state. Each host has his favorite target and his own way of criticizing the “final four.”

Comedian Conan O'Brien has had fun poking at the campaigns. Hillary Clinton a “victim.” Diane Sawyer interviewed Clinton on her health after an issue in 2012. Clinton claimed she had no lingering effects, but O'Brien recreated the interview, moving her eyes around, making it appear that her mental health was not in perfect condition. With eyes that can't focus on any one person, this creates doubt about her ability to focus on any one issue.

Donald Trump was also mentioned in one of Conan O'Brien's monologues. He announced that Trump still “had not announced any of his plans for his presidency” and ‘quotes’ Trump as saying, “When I announced I was running for president, I had no idea people would take me seriously.”

John Kasich also made an appearance in O'Brien's mono-

logue. O'Brien jokes that “Kasich gave a speech in New York City,” and, after his speech “the crowd applauded,” and then put “\$8.34 into his hat.” It was doubtful that anyone would listen to anything else Kasich has to say after this analogy to a street performer. This was proven true as Kasich is no longer in the race.

Bernie Sanders is yet another victim of O'Brien's jokes, with such ideas as both Sanders and Atlantic City both being “in their prime in the 1920s” and Sander's belief that “great victories [were] coming,” O'Brien claims Sanders had eaten a “large bowl of fiber” and predicted that at Sanders' age, he will likely pass away during his presidency, before any potential assassination attempts can be made.

Others have had their fun as well, particularly Stephen Colbert of *The Late Show*. Colbert, as a way to understand Trump's campaign strategy, interviewed a school bully on his tactics, creating doubt in Trump's ability to debate with other candidates without resorting to juvenile attacks. Trump uses these attempts at bullying, as opposed to having definite political plans and attacking his opponents on theirs.

Colbert sat down for lunch with Clinton and asked her what type of grandmother she was; he also taught her how to eat cheesecake. Maybe because she is the only candidate to play the “woman card,” her policies aren't as important as her role as a grandmother.

Sanders participated in a sketch on *The Late Show* in which he compared his campaign strategy to a vending machine. In the skit, Colbert gives up on the vending machine after he does not get his candy bar, but Sanders still tries to get the candy, and believes he has a chance. Maybe Sanders should give up his dreams of having the candy bar and focus his efforts on gaining more electors than Clinton to win the nomination.

Last, but not least, there's John Oliver, a British accented host who has garnered thousands of viewers around the world and highlights important events, on a weekly basis, on his show *Last Week Tonight*. The most famous of his targets are Trump and Clinton. Oliver mentions that somewhere along Trump's ancestry, his last name was changed from “Drumpf,” and Oliver has since been on a campaign to “Make Donald Drumpf again.” In this campaign, hats, tee shirts and hashtags were created to support the change. Oliver also called Trump a “serial liar” after lying to the press that he invited Trump as a guest on his show and had “supported a former Klan leader,” David Duke. The idea of Trump befriending a former KKK leader isn't so ridiculous; after all of the accusations he has made over the length of his campaign.

Oliver also mocked how Clinton announced her campaign. Oliver sums up her two-minute long speech announcing her presi-

dential goals, in four simple words: “I'm running for president.” Given that most of the candidates tend to skirt around any concrete idea, Oliver's summation of Clinton's speech would have been simpler if Clinton had said it simply herself.

The campaign has impacted our school community. Many students are either supporters of Sanders or Trump, and relatively few have sided with Clinton. A Trump supporter, age 17, thinks that Trump has led an exciting campaign and is glad he is not a politically correct candidate. He supports Trump's beliefs, particularly the building of a wall on the Mexican border because the supporter “likes walls.” A Sanders supporter, 18, says he believes the election has been fair, although he thinks Trump has received too much publicity. The supporter agrees with Sanders' policies and ideas, and believes them to be “fair to all Americans.” The only gripe the supporter has is that Sanders does not go into explicit details.

Since presidential debates have been televised, starting with Kennedy v. Nixon, television hosts have had fun poking as many holes as possible into their arguments and making fun of the candidates. These jokes range from attacks on political policies to sarcastic statements about morals, or lack thereof. But, the television show hosts' reach only goes so far, and every person has one vote that can alter the future of our country.

# Bright Future for Mepham Lacrosse



Photo courtesy of yearbook.

**By: Taylor Drew**

The Mepham Girls' Lacrosse teams finished up their seasons on Tuesday, May 17, 2016. The varsity team finished with a 8-3 record in conference and made playoffs, which they did not make last year.

Varsity head coach Melissa Rohr described this year as a "hard fought season" and is incredibly proud of her team for making playoffs. Many varsity players will receive awards this year. Junior midfielder Maeve Testa will receive All County. Junior goalie Hope Kotowski and sophomore attacker Erin Chalich won All Conference, with sophomore

midfielder Sarah Bayer getting honorable mentions. Senior attacker Melissa Frobosilo will receive the scholar athlete award, and senior attacker Alexa Raheb will receive the unsung hero award. Eight seniors graduate this year, and the entire team wishes them good luck in college.

The JV team finished the season with an impressive record of 13-1. JV coach Meghan Milhaven is very proud of her team and the season it played. As a member of the varsity team, I can tell you that both JV and varsity worked extremely hard these past few months to achieve these results. As the season draws to a close, I can safely say that every returning player is looking forward to next year.

## Undertale Review

**By: Madeline Kraemer**

*Undertale* is an RPG created by Toby "Radiation" Fox. It has recently been a huge craze on the internet and received overwhelmingly positive reviews. It has even been given awards such as the overall best indie-game award in 2015 from The Independent Games Festival. It has an amazing story, lovable characters, unique gameplay and a soundtrack that's absolute ear candy. *Undertale* was a project that had been successfully funded on Kickstarter on June 24th, 2013. Fox asked for a contribution of \$4,000 to make the game. Instead, people pledged \$51,124 to him. He released the full game on September 15th, 2015.

In the game, monsters and humans do not get along very well. They have endless wars. The humans won these battles and sealed the monsters underground in Mt. Ebott. The monsters longed to return to the surface. In the year 201X, the player is a human child that falls down to the underground, hoping to escape home. The player manages to meet many friends and enemies along the way. My favorite character would be The Great Papyrus. He's a confident, determined skeleton who hopes to achieve his dream of joining the royal guard. He lives with his older brother, Sans. Sans is a lazy, laid-back skeleton who

happens to drive Papyrus crazy by telling him puns. I guess this shows that Papyrus doesn't have a funny bone.

*Undertale's* gameplay is quite unique. When the player encounters a monster, he/she has an option to either fight, act, use an item, or to spare it. Keep in mind when one is playing, each decision made will affect the story path. Also, when a monster attacks, the player has the ability to dodge the attacks, which is a lot of fun (that is, until one has to fight a boss). When the player fights a boss, he/she has to dodge attacks in certain ways, making the fights a lot of fun. The music accompanying everything is great as well. The creator manages to capture the appropriate mood to each point in the game. Some of my favorite songs on the soundtrack are "His Theme," "Home," "Waterfall," "Song That Might Play When You Fight Sans," "Hopes and Dreams," and "Dummy!"

Overall, *Undertale* is a beautiful game. I highly recommend this game. Even if you may not like RPGs, this game may hopefully impress you. This game is available either on the official site, [undertale.com](http://undertale.com) or on the Steam App for PC. It's better to play without knowing any spoilers. Your gaming experience will much better since you will discover many surprises and morals. I give this game a 4.5/5 and I am glad it's getting the love and attention it deserves.

**By: David Riobo**

This year the Mepham Pirates boys' lacrosse team had an amazing season. The team finished at an overall record of 10-6, and in conference play they finished with a 6-4 record. Thanks to the great in conference play, the team was able to qualify for playoffs as the sixth seed in Nassau Conference B1. It was the first playoff game for the seniors in their entire Mepham lacrosse career. The Mepham Pirates are saying goodbye to 11 seniors this season. One vacancy that is going to be left will be within the defense. Senior Captain Colin Vandewater led this defense throughout the season. Matt Campagna is another defensive player who will be missed. He was a big part of the Pirates' starting defense. The only returning member of the Pirates defense will be Sophomore Jake Fitzgerald, a talented young defenseman with lots of potential ahead of him. Another large loss in the Pirates team will be the midfielders. Seniors Mike Azzariti, Scott Mateyaschuk, and Isaac Lozada were three major players that will leave a gap in the Pirates midfield. Azzariti was a defensive midfielder who was a ground ball machine for the Pirates. Mateyaschuk's dodging ability and shot will be immensely missed next year. Lozada was a productive left handed midfielder with great field vision and speed. The Pirates are also saying goodbye to Chris Carrano, Zack Geller, Patrick Hagarty, Mike Intagliata, Leo Santos, and Tom Schneider. Thank you to all the seniors; you will be missed.

Although the team is losing some key players, there is still going to be a lot of talent left to contribute next year. Since this year's team was very young with lots of sophomore starters, they have a bright future within the next two years. Key sophomore players

such as Jack Gibbons, Matt Wroblewski, Michael McCarthy, Kevin McCleneghan, David Riobo, and Jake Fitzgerald are all going to be returning juniors to the program. Also returning seniors such as Anthony Carrieri, Jon Olson, and Billy Moutafis will be key elements to next year's team. After a year of playing together, the team chemistry will be on the rise and the Pirates look to be even better than they were this year.

The Pirates had six award winning members on the team. Sophomore Jack Gibbons finished with a total of 20 goals and 16 assists and he was awarded an All cConference award. Sophomore Matt Wroblewski ended up with 26 goals and 13 assists, and he was named honorable mention All County. Juniors Jon Olson and Billy Moutafis were also honored. Jon Olson led the Mepham Pirates with 28 goals and 19 assists; he was named All Conference. Billy Moutafis, although he was a very talented long pole defensive middie was also able to tally up 12 points, and he was awarded an All County ranking. Lastly Seniors Scott Mateyaschuk and Colin Vandewater were both named All Conference. Vandewater was the team's strongest defender and certainly earned his ranking, while Mateyaschuk finished out the season with 18 goals and 11 assists clearly earning his rank also.

It is unfortunate that the team has to lose so many seniors, but that does not mean that the Mepham Pirates Varsity Lacrosse team will not be successful. After achieving the goal of qualifying for playoffs this year, the Pirates are setting their standards higher for next year and are looking to win the playoff game. I believe that with all the returning talent and the new players, this is a definite possibility for the team. Congratulations on a great season this year, and good luck next year, boys!



Photo courtesy of yearbook.



## Sports Marketing Visits MSG Arena

By: Kevin Montalti

In mid-April, the sports marketing classes of Mepham, as well as Mr. Slattery, Ms. Scelfo and Mr. Francese took a long awaited trip to the World's Most Famous Arena, Madison Square Garden. During the visit, the classes were given an all access tour from the press area on top of the so called "Chase Bridges" all the way down to the Rangers' and Knicks' locker rooms.

During our excursion to the Garden, we were made well aware of the new changes that occurred

during the previous "Garden Transformation" project. One of these changes is the addition of new seating areas called the "Chase Bridges." These are two fully suspended bridges from the ceiling of the arena in which fans can sit among. These seats have some of the most beautiful views of the Garden; however, they are known to shake during times of extreme celebration. Another cool addition after the transformation project is located in the main concourse of the stadium. This new addition is called "Garden 365." This is a set of 365 pictures which are memories, both good and bad, that occurred in the history of Madison Square Garden, one memory for every day of the year. These memories vary from the retirement of Wayne Gretzky, to the fight of the century between Muhammad Ali and Joe Fraser.

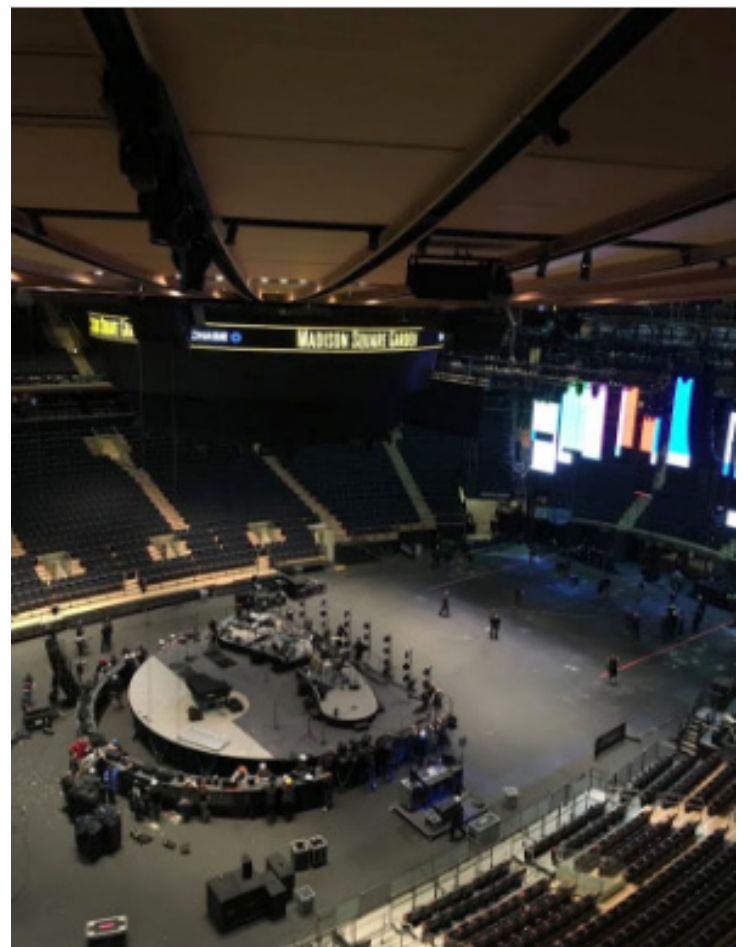
Following our trip to the bridges and the main concourse, we went down to the main floor of MSG. Unfortunately, the stadium was not set up for hockey, and the ice was covered at the time, but that did not stop the groups from learning about it. The ice at MSG is approximately 1" thick, and is only melted and made once throughout the hockey season. Our tour guide, Sal, informed us that when the ice is not covered, there

is a 10-15 degree change in the air temperature of the arena. Along with that, the ice level is located five stories above ground level, making MSG unique from other stadiums.

Finally after visiting ice level, we were taken to the fan favorites; the Knicks' and Rangers' locker rooms. The groups were out of luck with seeing the Knicks' locker room as the season just ended, and it was in cleanup mode, but we did get a glance at the Rangers' locker room. The groups learned about the superstitions of the Rangers'

players which included the covering of the team's logo in the center of the room until the team is present, and how no one is allowed to walk on it, as it would be bad luck.

The visit to Madison Square Garden was surely one to never forget. It was interesting being able to see all elements of the stadium put together and how they work. The students are very grateful for the teachers who put this together as they got to see the many sights visitors do not get to see. This surely was an experience of a lifetime!



Left: This is the interior of the Ranger's Locker Room. Notice how the logo is covered in center of the room for superstition purposes only. Above: This is a view of the stadium from the top of the "Chase Bridge."

Photos by: Kevin Montalti.