

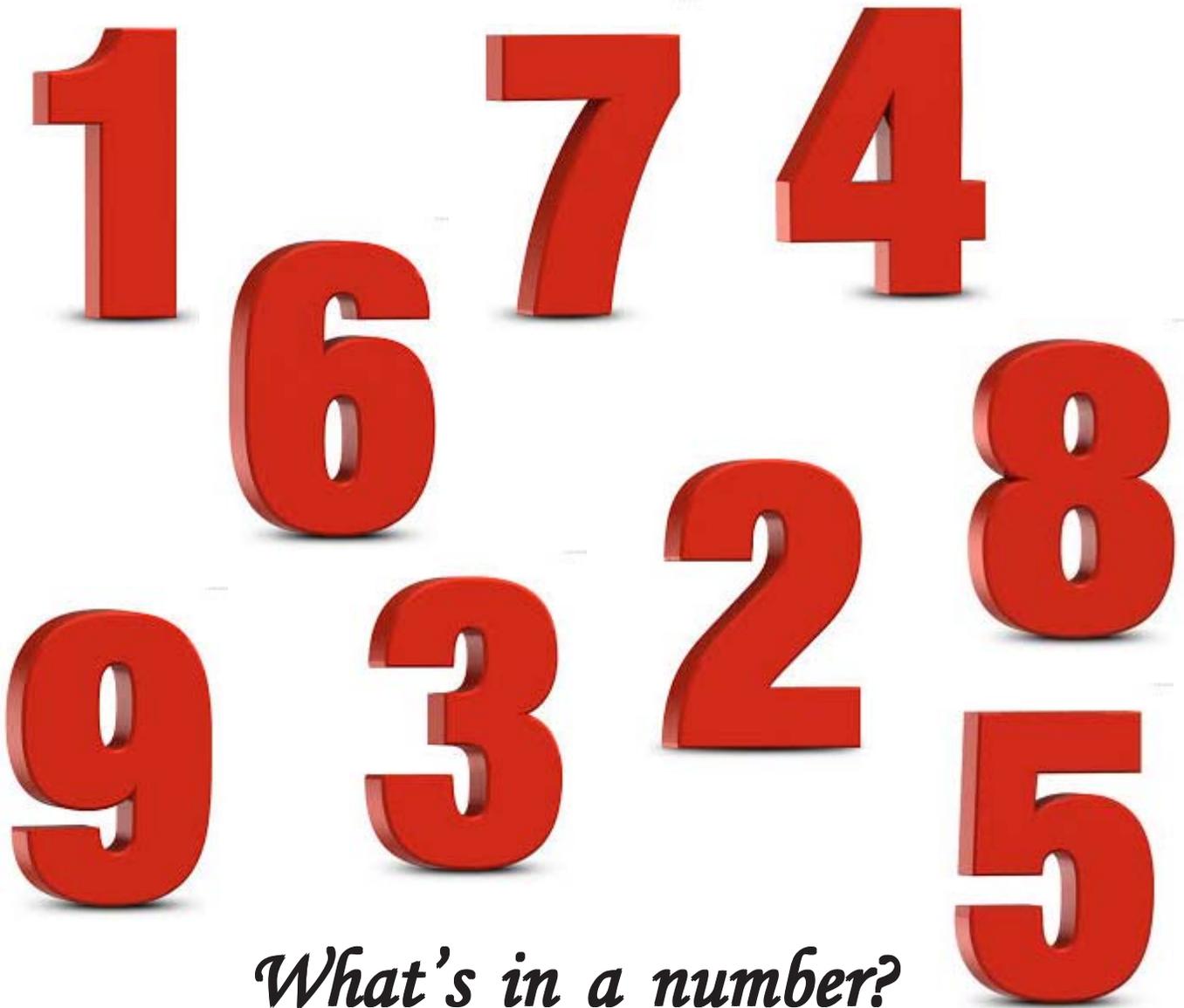
The Messenger

New Richmond High School, 1131 Bethel-New Richmond Road, New Richmond, Ohio 45157

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What's in a number?

The importance (or not) of class rank

Is the title “Valedictorian” overrated?

Some upperclassmen are rethinking their focus

By: Claire Burns

The highly respected valedictorian of everyone’s high school class is looked up to and admired for their ambition and motivational drive which has compelled them to their success. However, have you ever questioned that if the countless hours and the amount of stress that the valedictorian has dedicated to their studies ever pays off?

According to the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), more than half of all high schools no longer report student rankings. Most small private and competitive high schools have done away with it because they feel it penalizes many excellent students who are squeezed out of the top 10 percent of the class and then overlooked by elite colleges.” (c o l l e g e s . h t t p : / / professionals.collegeboard.com /)

When considering whether to focus on achieving the highest class rank or improving their standardized test scores such the ACT or the SAT, the counselors here at New Richmond High School, Carol Ann Coulter and James Reaker, believe that both are valuable sources of information used by almost all colleges.

Reaker stated: “We believe that the value which colleges place on a student’s class rank and standardized test are equally weighted; it’s simply an evaluation of a student’s talent and worth ethic. The college essays and recommendation letters are also key factors in the college application process which express a students’ academic ability and performance.”

If colleges still put an importance, then why are high schools beginning to refrain from revealing students’ class ranking?

Coulter stated: “High schools believe that class rankings cre-

ate a tense and competitive environment. Students begin taking the valedictorian status overboard and take classes which will have no value to their future career. We believe that students should concentrate on putting forth their full effort and take classes which will serve and benefit their future careers the most.”

The term valedictorian can create a distraction for students and pressure them to take pointless classes which are no benefit to their future career, according to Coulter: “I believe that the title “valuedictorian” creates a mindset for students which causes them to refrain from taking non- weighted classes such as electives and music, which may benefit their future career. Instead, in order to achieve the highest GPA in their class, students choose to take weighted AP classes which sometimes have no use toward their college credits.”

Even though high schools are beginning to turn away from class rank, this information is still important and relevant to colleges. Reaker stated: “Especially concerning selective colleges, class rank is used to provide a valuable reflection and compares students with their peer classmates, which summarizes and evaluates their overall high school career. It is crucial for one to stay in the top ten percent of the class, which is what really competitive colleges base their scholarships on.”

New Richmond High School student senior Cheyann Fletcher places a high importance on her class rank. “I work hard for to keep my class ranking high. I have always wanted to be in the top five in my class. Accomplishing this goal makes me feel confident that my hard work has finally been paid off and was well

worth it.”

Fletcher also believes that a student’s class rank provides an accurate evaluation of that student rather than standardized test scores. “I think as far as work ethic and determination class ranking provides a fair evaluation of a student. I also believe that it represents a student’s level of determination to excel in their education. On the other hand, standardized tests do not accurately represent a student’s work ethic or how much they care about their education. Just because a student can score high on standardized tests, that does not necessarily mean that he or she will work hard in college.”

However, from Fletcher’s personal experiences, her own class ranking has not had a major impact on her scholarship money. “I still think that class ranking is related to the level of classes you take and the grades you receive, which has entitled me to academic scholarships to colleges to which I’ve been accepted.”

Senior Caleb Hayward also places a high importance on his class rank. “I believe that one’s class rank shows a student’s potential and hard work; however, it does not provide a complete evaluation of one’s intelligence. Comparing the importance of standardized test scores and class rank, I believe that each displays a different type of ac-

complishment. Colleges obviously prioritize test scores over class rank. The constraint that makes the standardized tests difficult to receive a high score is not the test content, but the limited amount of time given to complete the tests.”

Senior Eleanor Wildey places a higher value on her standardized test scores rather than her class ranking. “I believe that colleges look more at students’ GPA, grades, and standardized test scores. Standardized test scores play a huge role according colleges because they use the scores to gauge how well a student will perform in college.”

Senior Nick Gilman believes that class rank indeed has its role. “Class rank is important, but only in a general sense. The difference between first and second is decided by such small matters like; who received an A- rather than a solid A freshman year, or who took health in the summer versus during the school year. However, it is valuable information which ranks the class based on ability and determination.”

Senior Amanda Nguyen believes that class rank provides a fair evaluation of a student. “Class rank provides a sense of accomplishment to students who are high up in their class. I think that it provides a fair evaluation of a student because if you are willing to take hard classes and

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work hard for your GPA, then you deserve to receive the recognition of being in the top of your class. Class rank does not only evaluate one's academic ability, but also other important aspects such as work ethic. "

Senior Paige Anderson believes that class rank grants many students valuable scholarships. "Usually more ambitious students tend to take harder classes, which raise their GPA causing their class rank to increase as well. I believe that one's class rank truly represents work ethic, determination, and how hard students apply themselves."

Senior Courtney Roberts is not particularly concerned with her class rank. "The colleges which I have applied to have not requested to see my class ranking; therefore, I do not put a high importance on it. Also, I do not think that it is fair for colleges to look at students from two different schools and assume that the ranking systems are comparable."

Senior Abby Jewell has always placed a high importance on her class rank. "Recently, my GPA has been my main concern, but I do believe that a student's rank is a fair evaluation of a student, especially in comparison to the other students in his or her graduating class. Personally, my class ranking hasn't directly affected the amount of scholarship information which I've received. My GPA and standardized test scores have had more of an effect on my scholarship money."

Senior Olivia Behymer believes

that her class rank sets a competitive goal for her to succeed. "I think that class rank is a fair evaluation because of you are going to take advanced or AP classes is a good indication of you as a student."

Senior John Ernst also places a high importance on class rank. "I believe that it evaluates the consistency of a student's work ethic throughout high school."

On the other hand, senior Zachary Fields strives to be one of the top in his class. "Not only am I one to strive to be the best, or the best that I can be. I am extremely competitive and a higher ranking means more scholarship money and a higher acceptance rate for prestigious colleges. Standardized test scores are also very important. I can potentially attend to college for free based on my ACT score alone, however, this does not totally abolish the importance of class rank."

Senior Jessica Nazareth also is not necessarily concerned with her class ranking. "I do not necessarily place a high importance on class rank because I feel that grades and GPA are more important. As much as I like been ranked high in my class, I place more importance on my grades."

Senior Hannah Hall keeps up with her class rank, but is not constantly concerned. "I think class rank helps a student to strive to improve, which is a good way to track improvement, however I do not think that it is a fair evaluation. Some classes have smarter and more competitive students than others, for an

example; I believe that our class is one of the more competitive classes."

Business and Consumer teacher Mary Ann Dalton believes that a number of colleges still prioritize class ranking. "Yes, I do feel that there are quite a few scholarships which are based on student's' GPA/ class ranking, and is a major source of scholarship money."

Even though colleges still prioritize class rank, it is not top on their list, according to Dalton, "I believe that colleges place the highest importance one student's standardized test scores; they are often a requirement for students' acceptance; however, I do not believe that the importance that a student's class rank is valued enough. I believe that class rank is just as, if not more important than standardized tests. Not every student is a "good" test taker. Colleges should look at all aspects of the potential of a student."

Freshman Anna Bennett does not feel that class ranking truly evaluates a student as a whole. "I do not use my class ranking as an assessment of my high school career because I compare myself, to myself, not other people."

Sophomore Emily Belmont also does not prioritize her class ranking. "I believe that colleges place a higher importance on a student's standardized test scores, while making sure that my grades stay up, I am constantly concerned with achieving my highest standardized test score as possible."

Sophomore Adrianna Flood believes that class ranking plays a somewhat important role, but not as important as important as standardized test scores. "Class ranking is important to me, and I am constantly up to date with my current status. It challenges me to push myself and to always try my best, which I believe will benefit me in my future. I am also concerned with achieving a high ACT/SAT test score, which is what colleges look at the most."

Sophomore Jesse Noble also believes that colleges are beginning to avert from basing scholarship on a student's class ranking. "I believe that colleges look at a student's overall GPA, not necessarily their class ranking. I do not believe that this is entirely fair for students, though, especially the ones higher up in their class. Colleges evaluate students by the grade on their standardized tests, which is not fair to those who are not strong test takers."

All, in all, before students organize their schedule around their goal of achieving the title of "valedictorian" of their class, they need to evaluate the impact that that title will have on their future career. Based on the advice from New Richmond High School's counselors, students should organize their schedules around the career that they wish to pursue in their future. Yes, it still is crucial to stay in the top ten percent of the class, but not necessarily first. The main focus of anyone's high school career is to achieve the highest possible test scores and prepare for a future career.



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Sleepless in the Cincinnati area

Citizens of New Richmond feel the toll of lack of sleep

By Chelsey Fawley

Everyone knows the feeling. You wake up, sluggish, hardly able to open your eyes. You stumble towards the coffee machine, desperate for a boost of caffeine to get you going. Through the day you doze off, barely being able to pay attention to even the things you actually enjoy. It seems that America is being plagued with sleep deprivation on all levels, and the older you get the less sleep you get.

According to surveys conducted by the National Sleep Foundation, an overwhelming number of Americans reported being unhappy with their sleep habits. In the released results of the Sleep Poll Exploring Connections with Communications Technology Use and Sleep the foun-

dations stated, "The poll found that 43% of Americans between the ages of 13 and 64 say they rarely or never get a good night's sleep on weeknights. More than half (60%) say that they experience a sleep problem every night or almost every night - i.e., snoring, waking in the night, waking up too early, or feeling un-refreshed when they get up in the morning." (<http://www.sleepfoundation.org/article/press-release/annual-sleep-america-poll-exploring-connections-communications-technology-use->)

According to a poll taken at New Richmond High School, a high percentage of students and teachers are dissatisfied with their sleep habits as well. The surveys also showed a negative

correlation in a lack of sleep, as the older the person surveyed, the less he or she slept.

In the fifteen freshman surveyed, only five reported that they feel unhappy with how much they sleep. That means only 33% of students in the age group of 14-15 felt they didn't get enough sleep. In fact, most were pretty happy with how much sleep they got, saying that they didn't get tired throughout the day at all.

Freshman A.J. Hobbs said, "I get about eight hours of sleep a night and I feel that's enough

really. I'm not very tired when I get up and I don't waste time napping during the day."

The sophomores showed a higher percentage of both participation of surveys and of lack of sleep. There were 33 who volunteered to share their sleep habits and of those students, 15 were unhappy with how much rest they got. That means 45% of kids between the ages 15-16 were unhappy, and their feelings were much better expressed.

Sophomore Zyx Kahn said, "I get less sleep this year than I did last year for sure. Between foot-

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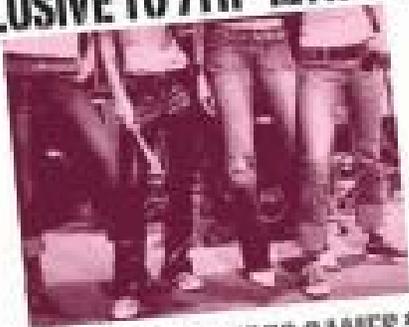
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ball, wrestling, school, and my girlfriend, I have way too much to do. Sleep just doesn't come first any more."

Some psychologists believe that as kids enter puberty they become increasingly sleep deprived. Cornell University psychologist James B. Maas, PhD - one of the nation's leading sleep experts- said, "Almost all teenagers, as they reach puberty, become walking zombies because they are getting far too little sleep." (<http://www.apa.org/monitor/oct01/sleepteen.aspx>)

New Richmond results supported Dr. Maas, as 56% of juniors who answered said they need more sleep along with 84%

of the seniors. Of the nine teachers that responded, eight of them said they could use more sleep. That translates to an astonishing 88%. People all across the country are sleepy and grumpy, and it's happening right in our home town.

Senior Priya Patel summed up the afternoon of a senior pretty well in sharing her sleep habits. "I get enough sleep to get me through the school day," she said, "but by the time school ends, I'm dead and need to take a nap."

English teacher Malissa Cornette admitted to rarely getting enough rest as well. "I don't get to sleep until about mid-

night," she said. "Then I have to get up at five. I never have enough sleep. I mean, have you SEEN me? My lack of control over my hair should explain my sleep habits on its own!"

Science teacher Logan Minning had similar feelings, saying, "I'm the kind of person who really does need their full eight hours. If I don't get it, I'm grumpy. With having kids, I never get enough sleep and end up grumpy at night. I wish I could function on five hours of sleep instead."

Juniors Mariah Corbin and Ella Neess have begun to feel the pains of sleep deprivation as well.

Corbin said, "I sleep from 12-6:30 and it's certainly not enough. The average teenager is supposed to get nine hours of sleep. I wish I could go to bed earlier but I can't because I have homework, and a job and I participate in after school activities."

Neess is in a similar boat. She said, "I get about six hours of sleep every night. I'm always tired during class and it makes me want to die. It would help if I

didn't have after school activities, responsibilities at home AND a boatload of homework to combat with every night."

Senior John Ernst summed it up well; saying, "We should all sleep more. 'Tis bad for the soul not to sleep."

True enough, Ernst. Psychologists have tied lack of sleep to several mental disorder including depression, ADHD, anxiety, and even bipolar disorder. According to studies conducted by Harvard Medical school, "Sleep problems may increase risk for developing particular mental illnesses, as well as result from such disorders. Treating the sleep disorder may help alleviate symptoms of the mental health problem." (http://www.health.harvard.edu/newsletters/Harvard_Mental_Health_Letter/2009/July/Sleep-and-mental-health)

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NRHS weighs in on ancient dispute

Intelligence vs. common sense

By Joe Maxwell

Intelligence v.s. common sense, book smart v.s. street smart, whatever way you look at it, they are always rivals. Not many people are blessed with both or sometimes, either one of them. It is an ancient rivalry about whether it is better to be smart or if it is better to have common sense.

Which helps now? Overall,

which is better and why is it better? Only one way to find out, take it to the students.

Collaborated ideas of the students of New Richmond High School point out that common sense helps out the most as of now, in high school, but intelligence will eventually become more useful throughout life.

Senior Olivia Behymer said, "I

believe as of right now, having intelligence will help you get work done and get into a good college as well as graduate from high school with a good GPA. Although, in the long run, I believe you will need common sense to be able to solve real-time situations and progress through life with efficiency."

"I think during high school you

life, but later if you need to know something you could just look it up on the internet or in a book, instead of requiring the intelligence to already know it. If that makes sense," said senior Hannah Hall.

Sophomore Karl Greifenkamp said, "I believe at our age it is a million times better to have common sense because you need to be sensible and smart and you need to be able to take care of yourself; intelligence isn't really where it's at right now. We need to be smart and not make dumb decisions at our age that could negatively affect our life later. It is more important to have intelligence later in life; you don't need more common sense because you already learned the basics when you were younger, and now that you're wiser and more mature, you can think for a more stable precision anyway. That's why it is best to focus on intelligence more as an adult rather than as an adolescent."

It seems to be common sense is more important as an adolescent considering most of the students interviewed all agree.

Junior Tucker Schweickart said, "Common sense is more important as a teenager because you will soon develop intelligence and when you're older you will have both. But, using common sense will increase your ability to make smarter decisions that will further develop your intelligence."

"I honestly think that common sense is more important, right now, at our age. We need the common sense to realize when it's right to study and do our work so we can gain the intelligence that we need later in life," said sophomore Jade Kunz.

Freshman Peyton Schweickart said, "I would say common sense



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is more important at our age because if you have common sense, then you are less likely to make stupid decisions that will affect your life down the road. Although, later in life, I'd say the same as long as you have common sense you will be able to function as a well-rounded adult."

So, as you can see, many students here at New Richmond High School believe that it is more efficient to have common sense has a teenager advancing through the ranks in high school. Whether it is because they want to make good decisions or whether they think common sense is better because they want to have basic studying and working skills, almost all students agree it is best to have common sense throughout high school.

English teacher Shelby Pride agreed and said, "I believe common sense is more important because it comes in a lot in English and it's good for a lot of prob-

lem-solving situations throughout life."

"Like the argument for fair versus equal the answer for intelligence over common sense will always vary based on who you've asked. As I am a believer in fairness, meaning I think things should be rewarded to those who work for it, I am also a believer that common sense is more vital than intelligence. Intelligence is something that is acquired over time, while common sense is something one is born with. Based on the acquisition of these qualities I think it is more important that one has common sense because anyone who puts their mind to it can become intelligent," said senior Chelsey Fawley.

"Without common sense, however, people would not even have the knowledge they need to gain intelligence nor would they be able to function successfully in society."

Author of *The Power of Prime*, Jim Taylor, Ph.D., said that com-

mon sense is not only something most people possess, it's actually not the best way to make sound judgments. "Here's the catch: common sense is neither common nor sense!" he said. "The unfortunate reality is that trusting common sense, in point of fact, causes us to make poor rather than sound judgments. Perhaps the biggest problem with common sense is that it falls prey to the clear limits of personal experience." (<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-power-prime/201107/common-sense-is-neither-common-nor-sense>)

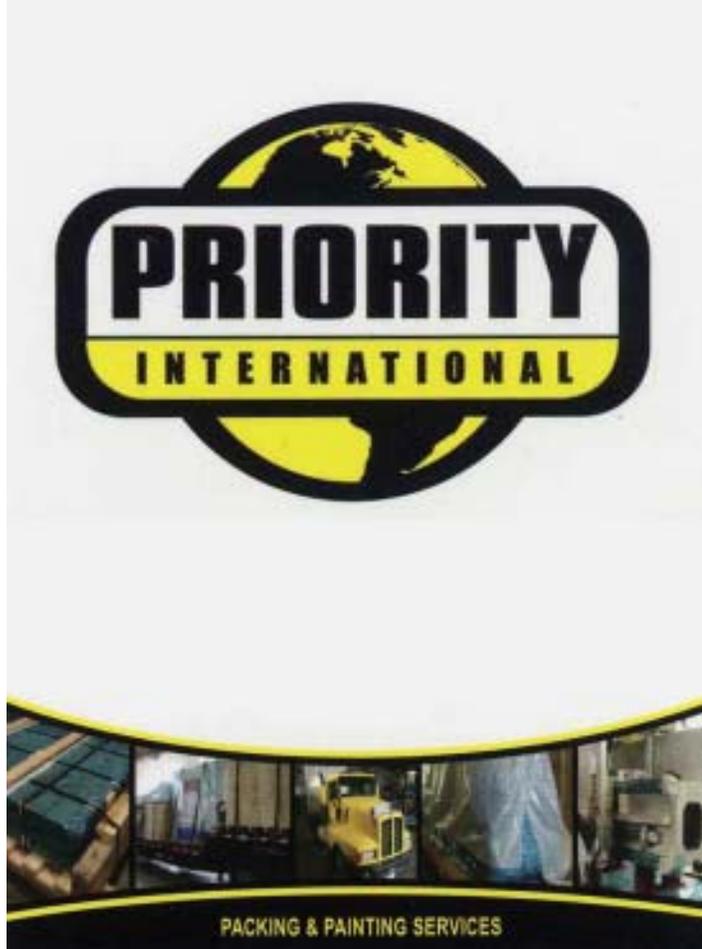
Science teacher Lauren Wilkins, played the fence, she claims both are very important.

"I believe it would be best if everyone had at least a little bit

of both. Common sense is great all the way throughout life, especially later in life. Common sense will help you figure things out in your life that you just can't use intelligence for. Whereas intelligence is helpful throughout one's whole educational career, which is also very important," she said.

On the other hand, a few students did support the side of intelligence and think it is the better quality to have throughout one's life.

Senior Chandler Cochran said, "I believe it is better to be smart than to just look smart. Intelligence can be used on about everything. Have a problem? Think of a logical and intelligent way to resolve it, of course!"



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Should seniors really rule the school?

"Senioritis" is going around

Do you believe that the issue of "seniority" has gotten a bit out of hand in most high schools. Personally, I believe that many seniors have used their class status inappropriately.

The title "senior" does not necessarily apply to every upperclassman, only the ones who have truly gained experience, knowledge, leadership, and skill throughout their high school careers. Many upperclassmen believe that their final year of high school unquestionably entitles them to be better skilled than the lowerclassmen, a statement which has been proven to me to not always be the case.

The seniors are also granted many privileges which they have not truly earned, but which are given to them anyway because of their superior title of being a "senior". The truth is that, many seniors' final year of high school is a time when they believe that they should already be finished with high school, which results in poor motivation, and most likely causes both their academic and athletic performances to greatly suffer. I believe that I speak for a lot of underclassmen

when I say that this lack of ambition classifies many seniors as not the best school or team leaders.

Many seniors are unfairly granted the title of team captains and automatically put on the varsity team. I believe that this creates a biased situation. There are indeed several equally talented underclassmen who share the skill level of the seniors; however, as a result of seniority, the underclassmen are still put on a lower team or given less playing time.

Titles such as team captains are privileges, not rights, and should never be awarded without demonstration of quality leadership and performance.

Another subject that goes along with senioritis is unfair treatment toward underclassmen by the seniors. Seniors often feel

that since they are given several privileges such as the ability to park in the senior lot, the option to leave/ come into school early/

late, and several other entitlements, that they are entitled to bully underclassmen unjustly.

Several of these examples appear in sports.

Under-

classmen are often called out to do the "dirty" work of the team including carrying the waters, cleaning up the team equipment, etc. However, just because someone is a underclassmen, it does not label him or her to be given less respect by the seniors.

As a matter of fact, all of the seniors are right in line to become freshmen at the colleges they will be attending the following year.

All in all, it is just best to treat each and every individual, upperclassman or not, with respect, because believe it or not, seniors too, were underclassmen at one point.

Classy Claire

By Claire Burns



All in all, it is just best to treat each and every individual, upperclassman or not, with respect, because believe it or not, seniors too, were underclassmen at one point.

A remedy to all seniors' "senioritis" is that coaches and teachers should not automatically assume that athletes or students are more experienced/skilled because they are seniors.

If seniors are not given excessive privileges just for being seniors, then the problem would be simply solved. I also believe that seniors should not be the only ones given the opportunity to be team captains, but underclassmen as well.

In a way, this suggestion will be beneficial to the seniors, too, because once they enter college and pursue their careers in the "real" world, they will have to work for anything and everything that they want and will soon learn that nothing in life is free and that hard work will pay for itself.

Family life changing with modern times

Marriage, divorce effects shown

In today's world, things are a lot different than they used to be in many different aspects. People are changing how they live in numerous ways. Life views have changed and specifically, marriage has changed. Views of marriage and divorce are nothing like they used to be.

I've seen many failed marriages happen all the time, but at the same time I've seen extremely successful marriages. Today there's about a 50-50 shot at having a successful marriage, or

having it end in divorce.

After experiencing the same thing with my family several years ago, it doesn't seem like such a different thing. I've been accustomed to the change in my life and it seems normal now. But how can something like that seem so normal and casual?

The way I look at it now, I just want everyone to be happy, although, there will always be other people affected, especially if children are involved. But in time, it does get better. Now, the

way I see it is that both parents are happy. Sometimes happiness may just be found with another spouse.

Divorce changes people. It changes the couple, children, and people involved in their lives. I've seen both of my parents change in many ways over the years that followed their divorce; some good, some bad.

I've come to accept the fact that the world is changing so much today. It is still changing and will continue to do so. Di-

The Buck

By: Josie Buckingham



orce is so much more common now. While this still saddens me to see divorce rates so high and so many people hurting, I've been able to come to terms with it. The world is a different place and relationships definitely aren't the same as they used to be.

Edited and photoshopped images are everywhere

Images seen everyday make people feel bad about own looks

Every day we see pictures of celebrities online, in magazines and on TV which change the way we think we should look. The pictures of these celebrities are mostly PhotoShopped to make them look perfect and flawless, but in reality, they look no different than anyone else. The images are edited to make the person in the photo society's idea of what people should look like.

I see pictures of a bunch of celebrities on a daily basis and many are edited. The PhotoShopped pictures put pressure on people, especially teenagers, to look like the celebrities do. Personally, I feel bad about my own looks, mostly because of seeing so many edited images. They only serve to make me more insecure.

I may be skinny, but I'm not perfect. It's not possible for the average person to look like the celebrities in the PhotoShopped images, so why is society's idea of beauty to look that way? It's because of the PhotoShopped images we see every day.

People are being brainwashed into thinking that the way those photos are the way they should be. The ideal body that people want to have, skinny, tan, and flawless, is causing more and more people to become more insecure and develop eating disorders. People shouldn't be pressured into being skinny and thinking that if they don't look like Victoria's Secret models, they aren't attractive. I have friends who have eating disorders because they think they aren't

skinny enough and want to look like celebrities like Jennifer Lawrence or Selena Gomez.

The PhotoShopped images are normal in today's world, but the effects of these photos is not okay. Everyone seems to think that they have to be scrawny and flawless to be accepted, which isn't the case. I don't think that people should be judged based on their looks because depression, suicidal thoughts, and eating disorders are the result of the seemingly neverending number of judgmental people in society.

There's no reason that people should have to feel so insecure about themselves that they become depressed and develop eating disorders.

If PhotoShopped images make you feel bad about yourself,



avoid social networking sites and reality TV shows. Social networking sites, especially tumblr, are notorious for edited photos of famous people, so if that makes you insecure about yourself, stay away from the website. You shouldn't have to be insecure about your own looks because of the way other people.

It's okay to not look like runway or fashion models because everybody is beautiful, whether or not they look like those models.

I always feel like someone's watching me

Rockwell and MJ might have been right

They're reading your emails and texts, and listening to your phone conversations, that's right the National Security Agency is watching you. But is that a bad thing? No.

I see hardly anything wrong with being watched by the NSA, yes, it's creepy and echoes Orwell's 1984 prophecy, but I see no problems because of one simple fact: I'm not doing anything illegal!

If I were doing drugs or hiring a hit man, I would be nervous, but since I'm being the law abiding citizen everyone's supposed to be, I'm OK. On top of that, they don't technically watch you, they record you.

The NSA will only read or watch your records if you are being tried or being suspected of a felony such as murder or

treason. These records can be very useful in solving a murder, such as reading the victims texts/email from the days before the death and questioning those he or she has had phone calls with.

If a person unfortunately commits suicide and sadly, doesn't even leave a note explaining their death so the family and friends can at least know why he or she did it, family members can find out through seeing the texts/emails/social media activity of the person to see if things like cyber bullying were involved. I believe the family and friends would be able to mourn easier and rest assured why their family member left all too soon.

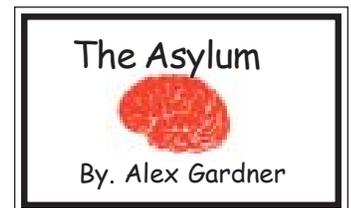
But the main goal of the NSA is to protect the citizens of the United States. The team behind it must deal with countless

threats every hour, from terrorist plots to war mongering anarchists.

Are there flaws in the system? Yes, indeed. Take, for example, the recent scandal involving other countries. The NSA hacked foreign leaders' phones causing several leaders, mainly the German Chancellor, to speak out against the United States.

NSA workers can also cause problems, such as Edward Snowden, who is basically globe trotting with secret information.

Who can we trust with information as private and important as the information stored in the NSA? The system we currently have has obviously failed so how do we decide? Should we train people from birth? Maybe, but that's essentially stealing someone's life. Maybe we



should have a specialized test the NSA passes out to high schools that tries to separate trustworthy and non-trustworthy individuals and go from there.

But the simple fact is the NSA is a good organization that protects us from terrorists and anarchists, but the information collectors create a huge risk and sometimes the NSA workers can take their ways too far.

The NSA is a good thing overall, though, and it is there for the protection of all American citizens, a purpose I appreciate. I hope it stays around.

Is technology making you dumber?

“I fear the day that technology will surpass our human interaction. The world will have a generation of idiots.” -Einstein

Ever wonder what would happen if you woke up one day and no one in the world had access to the internet? The world today definitely revolves around the availability to use the internet for multiple purposes. Knowledge used to be limited until Google and Wikipedia. Nowadays, it is simply too easy to obtain information. Anything you want to know is just at your fingertips, but do you feel we have been relying on it too much?

The internet is an opportunity for individuals to be self-directed and independent, using it intelligently is the key.

I believe that the internet is taking over our lives, especially those of adolescents. When it comes to researching information for a class or writing a paper, you won't often see a teenager going to the library to pick out a book. Most teenagers will take the easy way out and just use what is available to them at their fingertips. Checking out a book certainly will not be their

first option.

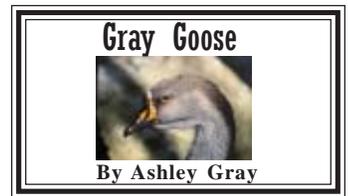
Technological resources don't only come from the internet; there are devices such as calculators, too. Sometimes I find myself challenged doing simple addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division in my head because I have become so accustomed to just putting it in a calculator and it feeding me the answer.

There is also the wonderful thing called spell check. Writing a paper and making sure all the end marks, capital letter, and words are all spelled correctly is a breeze. Even with smart phones today, a majority of words spelled wrong are automatically spell

checked. There have been times while I am writing a paper and unsure of how to spell a word, and without hesitation, I move along writing it and leave it to the computer to fix it for me. Revision after writing anything on the computer is always good, right? Instead of reading everything I just typed, I just feel confident that the computer is smart enough to just do the work for me. I know I have the mind of a teenager, but this is how technology makes us lazy.

However, I believe becoming so dependent on the internet classifies us as lazy at times. Simply to get more out of what you are learning, read a book. Don't just resort to the internet because it is quick and easy, because a lot of times we are all guilty of believing that the majority of the information on the internet is true. False. People don't realize there is sometimes a huge risk of inaccuracy with information presented on the internet.

There is a simple solution to this problem. Be a smart user;



don't trust everything you read on the internet. An ample amount of apps out there are educational, such as Quizlet, Google Drive, Google Translate, Prezi, etc., all of which are useful for making flash cards for different concepts for school, studying, and writing papers. The internet is an opportunity for individuals to be self-directed and independent; using it intelligently is the key.

Let's face it, technology will continue to evolve and because of it, we are becoming less independent and self directed. It is just human to depend on it, but people should also be prepared for the possibility of technological collapse. Technology can not be our only source of information; sometimes we have to rely on ourselves.

Book smart vs street smart

Ancient dispute between types of knowledge

Intelligence vs common sense; the ancient dispute about which is more important to have; intelligence being “book smart” and common sense being “street smart.” Most people have either one or the other, extremely gifted people have both, and there's always a few unfortunate cases where a person has neither.

Most of the time, people will realize pretty quickly which trait they have more of, if any, and will argue that trait they have obtained is more important, but which really is more useful to

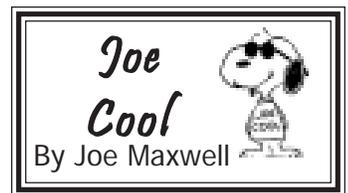
have?

I am usually indifferent on the cause, but when it comes down to it, I would have to say that I believe common sense is more important. This is strictly because it will help anyone to make more real-time decisions throughout life, which will overall lead to a successful future. Although it isn't bad to be more intelligent, I believe that I have more intelligence than I do common sense; actually, I don't know if I have any common sense at some times. My dad always says to

me, “You're the dumbest smart kid I know!” Obviously, this remark is usually made following a dumb stunt with my friends or one of my infamously terrible problem solving instances.

The reason common sense is important is to be able to solve problems at short notice and be able to act efficiently on cue. One who has common sense will be able to not only work out situations effectively, but also be able to use it later in life to solve everyday problems.

I'm not trying to say having



intelligence is bad by any means. It's a gift! People who have intelligence will most likely make it through school easier, get into a good college, and get a good job. All I am saying is, in my opinion, it would be more useful throughout life to have common sense rather than intelligence.

Out late, and in trouble

Why kids should stick to their curfews

Curfew, the great dreaded curfew. Almost every child is given a curfew that he or she is expected to follow. There are some that are given punishments if they violate these restrictions, but unfortunately, there are teens who run wild and do whatever they want to do.

Teens that don't follow curfews subsequently get into more trouble than those that do. They think that they can do whatever they want or their parents don't punish them for being late.

If teens do follow this curfew rule, they usually do not get into much trouble with their parents or any authority figure. But there are teenagers that don't listen at all and do whatever they want, whenever they want and completely disregard a curfew rule. They can end up in places like juvenile detention or under house arrest by their parents. While these teens are breaking their curfew, they may also be violating property, or underage drinking, which are just a couple of examples. There's a variety of excuses they might give for being late, some of which are reasonable, but they're not always late because they can't find a ride home.

If kids follow their curfew, they do not get into as much trouble as those who blow it all off, most of the time. If kids follow the rules, they may be looked at as "goodie-goodies", but in reality, they are just more mature. They understand that breaking a rule results in consequences of any kind and they are mature enough not to break these rules.

Many teens who ignore curfews end up in loads of trouble, and not always with their parents. Violating the curfew of parents isn't as bad as a curfew of the place teens live. Some neighborhoods that have curfews and violating those

could put them in a lot of trouble.

If teens have been violating the curfew that their parents give, they need to be punished. If they are already being punished, then the punishments need to become stricter every time there is a violation. Things that could count as punishment could be an earlier curfew, no free time, or a grounding. If this doesn't work, then often times they will be in more serious trouble that involves law enforcement.

If teens are late, but are trying to get home, this can also cause a lot of problems. Trying to get home can result in speeding, which can cause a serious accident. This not only endangers the teenager getting home, but anybody else that is in or around the car they are speeding in.

Overall, curfews should and need to be obeyed by all kids. When they are not being followed, there are many problems that can occur, such as accidents or ending up in trouble with local law enforcement. Before teens go out, they should understand the consequences of violating curfew.

Parents need to make it clear that there will be consequences, and if they do not follow their curfew their parents must follow through with their punishment. Teens should not be given the idea that they do not have to listen to their parents because then they will break not only curfews, but every other rule.

Moore is More

By Ciera Moore



Letters to the editor are always welcome and we will print them as space allows. Please submit any correspondence to the high school office or drop off in Mrs. Griffin's mailbox, or email at griffin_s@nrschools.org. Questions should be directed to Sue Griffin, x10204.

The Messenger
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The Messenger would like to remember Mrs. Betty McKenney as we begin our 74th year, and once again, thank

her for her many contributions to our paper.

We would also like to remember Ms. Diana Spinnati, for her support and encouragement of our student journalism program.

The Messenger also expresses appreciation to our administrators, both past and present, who have supported both the newspaper and the journalism program at NRHS.

Opinions expressed in *The Messenger* are the opinions of the writers only and not necessarily the opinions of the adviser or administration of New Richmond High School.

The Messenger accepts letters to the editor and guest columns and will publish both at the discretion of the newspaper staff and as space permits. Both items must be signed by the writers.

The *Messenger's* regular monthly issues are now online only and are available on the high school's and district's web sites. The Senior Issue will be printed, and will be available for purchase at school at the beginning of April. The cost of a senior issue mailed directly to your home is \$8.



Please direct comments or questions about the paper or its contents to the adviser, at 553-3191, x10204 or at griffin_s@nrschools.org.

Being a freshman isn't always easy

What do you wish you knew?

By Ashley Gray

Everyone knows that the freshman year of high school usually stinks. As students escalate through the education system, they gain incredibly valuable information. By senior year, if they could live their freshman year all over again, they could rule the school. Here at NRHS some of our students share what they wish they would have known their freshman year.

Students surveyed from NRHS said they wish they knew more about how much the high school had to offer for students.

"I wish I would have had more courage freshman year to ask questions because I knew there were people willing to help me when I need it, but I stopped asking for help because I felt weird asking," said sophomore

Miah Bayless.

Sophomore Morgan Huddleston, said she wished she would have known academic team was open to freshmen. "I was too scared to join it, but I would have last year, had I known it was available and not too difficult," continued Huddleston.

As for senior, Chandler Cochran, he wishes he would have known that high school had so much to offer. "It would have helped me knowing this because I would have been more active in school activities and would have put more effort in making school fun," added Cochran.

Other students surveyed said freshman year they wish they would have known to stay out of other people's business be-

cause all that comes out of it is unnecessary drama.

Sophomore Hali Stamper said she would have liked to have known that drama is not worth it and would have chosen to stay out of it. "Knowing this piece of information would have helped me to keep friends," said Stamper.

"I wish I knew that I was not supposed to be so immature and that there is so much drama and so many cliques," said sophomore Bailey House. "If I knew this freshman year I could have a lot more friends if I didn't get involved in so much drama," continued House.

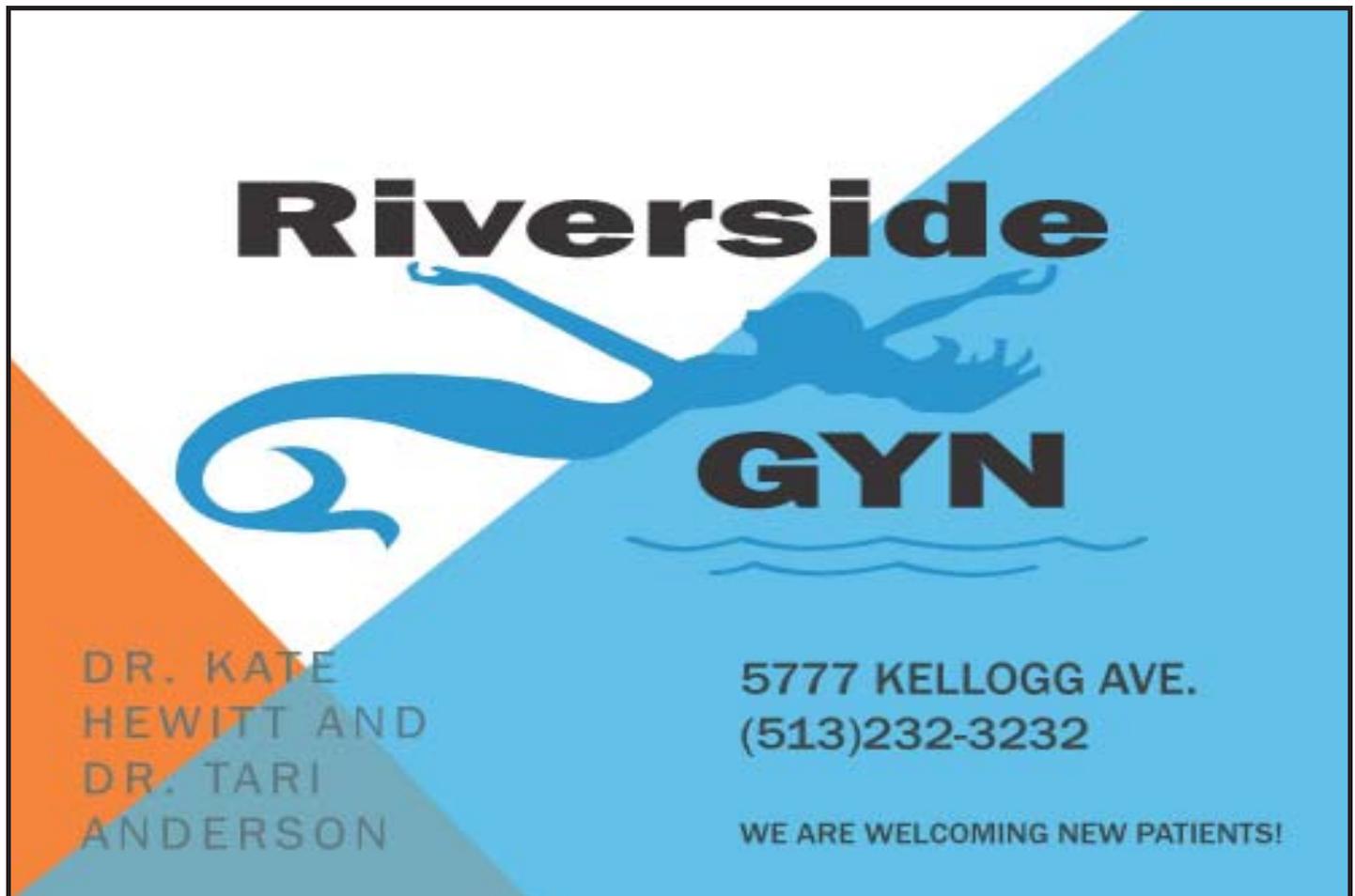
Sophomore Stephanie Medeiros said, "I would like to have known that drama is not worth your time because my life would have been easier and I

would have had less of my time wasted over it."

For sophomore, Kelsey Nichols, she expressed similar ideas that she wished she would have not wasted her time brooding over broken friendships. "I wish I knew how high school changes people. Knowing this would have helped me to realize how to act when the people I once knew as my best friends suddenly became strangers to me."

Additional students surveyed said that they wish they would have been more familiar with the high school, whether it be the teachers, the teachers' personalities, or where their classrooms were.

Sophomore Jacob Branson said, "I wish I knew where all the



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teachers' classrooms were because I got lost looking for them constantly. Being familiar with the classrooms would have helped me to not be late to class so much."

"I wish I would have known more about the teachers. This would have benefited me by knowing how the teacher teaches the class and being aware of what to do in their class," said senior Christine Lutz.

Senior Star Rutherford said she wished to have known more of the teachers. "Knowing more of the teachers would have helped me because different teacher teach different ways, and you need to know how they work to pass their class," Rutherford added.

Senior David Larkby, however, wishes that he would have known how to dunk a basketball because he feels he would have been a much better basketball player. "I am not exactly sure how knowing this would have come

to my benefit, but it just seems cool," explained Larkby.

Sophomore Hannah Calvert wishes she would have known more freshman year about how much effect grades are on a school transcript. "If I would have known that, I would have tried harder and would have a higher GPA," said Calvert.

Students at NRHS were also asked if they were given the choice, for whatever reason it may be, if they would go back to their freshman year of high school or not.

A majority of the students responded saying they would not go back to freshman year because they like to move forward and not focus on their regrets.

"I decided to get more involved this year and join Academic Team; I am also in drama club and was in the fall musical," said Huddleston.

Nichols said, "I would not trade anything to go back. Life is how it is and I would not change the past. I like to just

keep moving forward."

Sophomore Cassidy Adams would not take back her freshman year and do it all over again because she believes that she would not possibly have the friends she does now.

The other half of students said they would like to go back to their freshman year because there are a couple things they would do differently.

"I messed up my freshman year and I stopped caring at one point. I started getting really bad grades and I would like to go back and care more and get better grades," said Bayless.

Stamper said she would have chosen to play a different sport. "I would have played soccer instead of cheerleading because I miss it."

"I would do anything to go back to my freshman year because almost near the end of the year it was terrible and I wish I could just take it back and fix it," said House.

As for Cochran, he has a toss up of whether or not he would go back to freshman year. "I would most likely go back to relieve my entire high school career, and definitely to pass Spanish the first time," said Cochran.

Teachers at NRHS also shared what they wish they would have known their freshman year.

History teacher Josh Stratton, said he wish he knew how his decisions, doing just enough to

get by, and study habits freshman year was going to affect him later on down the road. "If I would have known this, it would have made life easier down the road because I would have developed better habits and values," continued Stratton.

"I wish I would have known that there was nothing I could do to change the boy I really liked for the better," said Spanish teacher Sharon Nehls. "If I would have known this, I would have recognized the other fish in the sea," added Nehls.

Science teacher Lauren Wilkins, said she wish that she knew that freshman year was the easiest her life was going to get. "The only way I would go back to freshman year is if I was guaranteed to end up where I am today," said Wilkins.

Teachers also shared whether it would be worth it to go back to freshman year or let their past remain their past and keep moving forward.

"I would go back to freshman year if I didn't have to deal with the pimples, hormones, and the self centered people," said Nehls.

Stratton said, "I would not go back because I am pretty happy with my life now. Don't dwell on the past, simply focus on the future."

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Groups form in high school for many reasons

Cliques can have positive or negative effects

By Lily Cahall

Cliques. This word can have either a positive meaning, or a negative meaning. A clique can be just a group of friends that have the same interests, or it could mean an isolated group of people who look down on others.

Alix Miller, a tenth grader, said she does believe there is a clique problem and believes it needs to be stopped. "I think some people believe they are better or not as good as someone, and I think that is what starts a certain clique. I am who I am and I shouldn't be judged because I am not in a certain clique. Cliques make people feel bad about themselves. Ignore them to the best of your ability," stated Miller.

Carlie Treat, a tenth grader, also believes we have a clique problem here at New Richmond High School. "Many people do not talk to each other because they are in a more popular clique. said Treat. I don't fit in any category. I like being my own person. People need to realize that being in a certain clique doesn't make you better than everyone else. If you ignore the problem, the problem will ignore you," Treat explained.

Maryann Wuerdemann, a tenth grader, thinks there is a clique problem at New Richmond. "There are people who get into arguments because they are not in the same clique, so they disagree with each other. Also, the different cliques have their own

tables at lunch, so if you are not in their clique, you feel like you cannot sit with them. I am in the Gothic-Band geek clique. Just don't acknowledge the people in cliques who are treating you badly."

Alex Gardner, a freshman, thinks New Richmond has a clique problem. "I do believe we have a clique problem, but only in people's minds. People in certain groups are stereotyped in other friends' groups, so basically, if you don't know someone, you can be stereotyped. I am a nerd and a bookworm. I don't want to be popular, it's not who I am. Just try your best to not get in the way with mean cliques and you should do just fine. Since they will always exist, there is no point in even trying to stop them," stated Gardner.

Miah Bayless, a sophomore, believes there are certain kinds of cliques. "There are the popular people, the goths, smart people, and many others. I'm in one of those other cliques because that's where my friends are. I honestly stay with my clique; if I stay out of people's business, they will stay out of mine. There should be an end to high school cliques. Everyone needs more friends, then you could be with the friends you want.

There is another group of students at New Richmond High School who do not believe we have a problem with cliques.

Luke Glenn, a freshman, thinks that there is no clique problem at New Richmond. "Everyone just keeps to themselves, well at least that is what I have seen, but if there has been a problem, it has been very minor. I am most definitely in the misfits clique because the people in my friends group don't talk to a lot of people, and we are all different than other people. Just in case there is a clique problem, the best thing to do would just be to leave it alone."

Taylor Harris, a freshman, said she has not witnessed a clique problem so she does not believe we have one. "I talk to all sorts of people and no one seems to care what clique another person is in. I play a lot of sports, so I guess I would be a jock. Cliques are not a big deal so why should there be an end to it," said Harris.

Jim Reaker, counselor here at New Richmond, believes that there is not an issue here with cliques having bad effects on students.

"At New Richmond, there is no negative clique problem; at least no one has come into my office to talk to me about it. People have talked to me about bullying but that is different from a clique problem. Everyone mostly gets along just fine, and I don't think a group of friends needs to be stopped."

Christina Crews, a sophomore, said there is not a clique prob-

lem. "Every school has certain cliques and they should be able to choose who they want to hang out with. I am not in a certain clique because I choose not to be and I don't know what I'm classified as. I usually just ignore high school cliques and just let them be. I don't think that there should be an end to high school cliques because people should be able to hang out with certain groups," said Crews.

The University of Michigan department of psychology has compiled a great deal of published research about high schools cliques, and recognizes that these groups are not only inevitable, but also necessary, and they have a significant effect on high school students.

"Peer groups or cliques, whatever you call it, both are important to the social constructs of high school students. Simply put, peer groups are circles of friends (Orlandi, 2005). From cool kids to losers, there is a large range of different peer groups which various studies have shown to affect not only emotional stability, but also academic performance. High school students who find themselves in more academically motivated peer groups not only have a higher self-esteem and strong sense of self-concept, but also have a higher regard for academic achievement." (<http://sitemaker.umich.edu/356.tran/home>)



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Running out of miracles

Are the Olympics being ruined by professional athletes?

In more recent Olympic years, it has become more and more obvious that the inclusion of players from the NBA, and NHL has had a dramatic effect on the result of both the winter and summer Olympics. It's no coincidence that nearly every winter Olympics, the United States, Russia, and Canada all end up in the gold and bronze medal games.

Want proof? 12 of the 16 gold and silver medal winners since NHL players were allowed in the Olympics in 1995 have been teams from Russia, Canada, or the U.S.

10 of the 11 gold medals handed out in the summer Olympics for men's and women's basketball since the allowance of NBA and WNBA professionals in 1989, have been to teams from the United States.

I think the only way to stop this ridiculous trend of the same nations winning every year is to remove the professionals from the NBA and NHL from the Olympics entirely. It's no secret that the players in the major North American sports are the best in the world and always have been. The allowance of these players in the Olympics has destroyed

all parity in the Olympics, and made it a kind of sad joke as to who's going to win every year. But with the way it used to be, it was anyone's guess as to who was actually going to win, and sometimes the impossible could actually happen (just search for the "Miracle on Ice" on google if you want to see what I mean).

The Olympics have almost completely lost their touch in these sports. It's not fun anymore. Take the pros out, and make the Olympics a place where miracles can happen again. Where the highlight of the century isn't a highlight of a Cana-



**Tristin's
Tales**
By Tristin Baumann

dian team beating a U.S. team. Make basketball and hockey in the Olympics a real competition again, and give the lesser known and underappreciated athletes a chance to show what they've got, instead of letting them be overshadowed by the players who are always in the spotlight.

Down goes D-Rose... again

Chicago Bulls super star Derrick Rose battles injury after injury

Two seasons ago the city of Chicago stopped on a dime when superstar point guard Derrick Rose fell to the ground and did not get up. He suffered a season ending ACL tear in his knee that put him out for what seemed like an eternity. He took off all of last season to ensure a full recovery and to come back at the beginning of the season.

His return was huge for many reasons. Despite the fact that Chicago did make the playoffs last season, the city needed him back. He was also under fire for supposedly waiting too long and abandoning his teammates when he was cleared to play. Nonetheless, he made his return at the

beginning of this season and it was one of the biggest news stories basketball has ever seen, except when Jordan went to the Wizards.

Rose's face was on Adidas billboards all over the country, on pizza boxes in Chicago (I stole one of those things when I was there this summer, because it's really cool) and all over TV in commercials and on ESPN. This hype was so huge that when it came down to the preseason opener, it seemed like everyone was a Bulls fan.

Rose came out on fire even though some were still questioning his ability to play. With the Eastern Conference barely show-

ing up to play, the Bulls were a shoe in for the playoffs.

Then in late November, Rose again went to the ground, this time with a torn meniscus in his knee. I am a big D-Rose fan and felt bad the first time he got hurt. This time was worse. I mean, imagine being on the top of your game, one of the best players in the league, and then have two severe season ending injuries back to back. Emotionally, some people could not be able to handle the stress and would walk away from basketball. In his press conference after the game in which he tore his meniscus, Rose said, "I could get hurt ten more times; I'm never going to

Bow Tie Brigade



By: Chandler Cochran

stop."

He is a relentless player and wants to be the best at his game and that's why I have so much respect for him. He gets so much grief for getting hurt, when in reality it really wasn't his fault. I cannot wait to see him make his second return to the NBA, which could happen later this season especially if the Bulls keep playing like they are now, and make the playoffs.

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Student-athletes in the work place

Working during sports seasons is a delicate balance

By Josie Buckingham

Student-athletes have a lot on their plates during their sports seasons. They have their school work to stay on top of and they also have a team that they are a part of. Some student-athletes are also able to manage a job during their stressful schedules. Time management is an important skill for everyone, and even more so for these student-athletes who are employed during their busy seasons.

Senior John Ernst plays basketball and works at American Blade Source. "I work a mere 5-10 hours during the week and spend 20-25 hours with practices and games," said Ernst.

"It's not easy to manage everything I do, but a mixture of hard work, determination, and responsibility allows me to juggle my busy schedule," explained Ernst.

Another senior, Caleb Hayward, plays basketball runs cross country, and works for his dad on the weekends and during the summer. "I work about 5 hours during the school year and spend around 24 hours at practices and games during the week," said Hayward.

Hayward agreed with Ernst about the difficulty of time management. "At first it was difficult with basketball because it requires so much time, but I have gotten used to it. I like to keep the weekdays strictly business related with basketball and school. On Saturday I work as much as I can and Sunday is my day off," said Hayward.

Alexis Meyer, another senior basketball player, works at Frisch's restaurant. During the season, she works about 4 hours each week and spends about 20 hours at practices and games. "It's not really easy to manage school, practices and games, and

work. I manage it with great difficulty. School comes first, then basketball, then work," said Meyer.

All of these student-athletes said that they chose to hold their jobs during their sports seasons to simply have some extra cash and pay for bills. Ernst said, "I have bills to pay, such as gas, insurance, and maintenance, and I have a hungry mouth to feed."

"I got my job before the season and I am now holding it during the season to help pay for gas," said Meyer.

Hayward added, "I just needed the do-re-me."

Being employed as a student-athlete teaches kids a lot. It helps them prepare for the future outside of high school. "I would absolutely recommend getting a job during sports. It will teach you responsibility and time management skills that you can take with you all through your life. It made and is making a man out of me," said Ernst.

"As modest as I can put it, it taught me many things and put my priorities in perspective," said Hayward.

Meyer explained, "Depending on what sport you play, I would recommend being employed to other student-athletes. Sports and work are hard to manage due to how much time of work you may actually get. I have limited myself to once a week because basketball takes up the majority of my time outside of school."

Coaches of these working student-athletes have a bit of a different view of the situation. "I understand the necessity to work to earn extra money during these tough economic times, but I also believe that it drains athletes mentally and physically. High school athletes already have a full plate that is challenging on a

day to day basis- working on top of it may be excessive," said NRHS girls' varsity coach Brad Hatfield. "Juggling three activities makes it considerably more difficult to excel at one. School can be stressful, additional expectations related to sports can add to the stress- additional stress created by work could be counter-productive, if not dangerous."

Boys' varsity coach Brian McMonigle also agreed with Hatfield. "I don't feel as if athletes should have to work during their high school career. Their focus should be on academics, athletics, and learning life lessons that will help them achieve a career after their education has been completed. Being a student-athlete is a full time job in itself," explained McMonigle. "Adding a job during the season can cause burn-out and student to focus less on the aspects of their education that will lead them to future success."

These student-athletes left a bit of advice for others thinking about working or who are currently working. "You're going to lose a little sleep and a lot of free time. That's okay. It's temporary and you'll get a lot out of it. You'll still have time with the boys, just not as much. Also, find like-

minded individuals. It helps to compensate," said Ernst.

"Stay positive, a 'full plate' is only temporary," added Hayward.

"If you are really committed to that sport, then make your job second because you are only in high school once and you will be working the rest of your life. Your job should not run your life when you have a love for sports by making you unable to play," said Meyer.

While many coaches agree that work ethic is a great thing to learn during high school in order to prepare for the future, it can be learned in other ways. "I fully believe that high school sports are the best way for young people to develop a good work ethic. I worked while playing high schools sports and excelling in academics and I often regret not focusing more on school and sports. The meager compensation I earned is meaningless at this point in my life," said Hatfield.

"Having a job and the responsibilities that come with a job definitely helps, but it is not better than what is learned in the classroom and in sports. Students need to focus on academics and extracurriculars. They have the rest of their lives to work," concluded McMonigle.

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Athletes of the Issue

All-star students and coaches explain the keys to their success

By: Chandler Cochran

Coach Josh Stratton



Head football coach Josh Stratton and his team ended this year with a 9-1 record and are already gearing up for next year. Stratton constantly attributes last year's successes to, "a group of young men who had selfless attitudes and were willing to put in a lot of hard work, as well as an outstanding coaching staff."

Despite losing 15 seniors this year, Stratton plans on keeping his defense as the same 3-4 set as last year. As far as changes on the offense, Stratton said, "Everything will pretty much stay the same. With the talent we have on our roster we won't need to make changes, except finding more ways to get Austin Torrens the football."

The new additions to the varsity squad that will be running the offense, and shutting opponents down on defense may look different, and may have different numbers but Stratton described these changes as, "we aren't going to have to buy a new gun, we are just going to have to reload the bullets."

During the summer, Stratton made it a goal to make his football team two platoon, which means nobody plays both offense and defense, each player

stays strictly to one side of the ball.

"I got a lot of negative comments from some parents and the community when I was setting up this two platoon team. They told me It wouldn't work and we didn't have enough talent to make it happen," Stratton explained.

"Proving them wrong was not the point," Stratton added. "When you can make a small school into a two platoon football team, more players get coached, which increases the number of kids in the program, which will win you ball games."

Another big accomplishment the Lions had this year was putting together a top notch offensive line.

"Our offensive line had zero returning starters from the year before and absolutely dominated every opponent we faced. Those six guys helped our team produce over 3,000 yards of rushing and only gave up six sacks the entire season."

Football player Will Lytle



Senior football star Will Lytle absolutely dominated the defensive line this year and made it a nightmare for opposing offenses to play against him. This led to Lytle receiving numerous awards at the end of the season.

Lytle received the MVP award

for the team, as well as SBAAC 1st team All-Star, 1st team all-Southwest district and All-State honorable mention.

"When I found out about all of the awards I got, I was a little shocked, excited, and honored to be thought of as that good of a player," explained Lytle.

Stratton describes Lytle as, "one word...dominant."

Stratton went on to elaborate on Lytle saying, "The reasons he was all-state was because he was unblockable, and extremely strong. He made life easier for our linebackers, and freed up a lot of space for the rest of our guys to do some damage."

Lytle credited his determination and heart to play the game to his dad. "My dad got me started playing football, and taught me how to play the game," said Lytle.

When asked about what he thought of Stratton as a coach, Lytle explained, "He is easily the best coach New Richmond has had in a long time. He is more than a coach, he is a friend and is a person who knows exactly what he is doing for this team."

Lytle attributes his successes and all-state honors to coaches pushing him in the weight room, working hard over the summer, and his determination to become a better player.

When asked what he would give to play one more game for the Lions he said he would give anything in the world. "Those were the best four years of my life."

Cross Country Runner Claire Burns



Sophomore Claire Burns was an extremely important part in clinching the league title for the girls' Cross Country team this year. Burns began running cross country and training when her sister, Kara Burns, began running her sophomore year, but she did not begin running competitively until she was a freshman because the middle school she attended did not have a team.

She credits her coach, Rylan Shebesta, for pushing her to her full potential and never giving up on her. "I have also gained a lot of self confidence and motivation from being on the team," Burns added.

Keeping a positive attitude at every practice and meet are big contributions she has given to the team. "If anyone was having a bad day, I would always try to support them," she explained.

Her best time running in a meet this year came at the Wilmington invitational where she ran the course in 19:24.

Her favorite memory so far came her freshman year when the

girls' team won districts. "We were seeded third but we came out on top. Everyone ended up running their best times, which worked out great for us and gave us the title."

**Basketball player
Josie Buckingham**



Senior basketball star Josie Buckingham started playing basketball in the third grade and has become one of the best players New Richmond has ever seen. She got her start after her mom and siblings, who also played basketball, encouraged her to play.

"My mom was a great player in high school and wanted me to give it a try, plus, I've always been tall so I thought I'd give it a shot.

With a lot of hard work, determination, and love for the game, Buckingham has been able to become a great player and succeed on the court. "I give credit to my

coaches, teammates, family, friends and all of my supporters as well as the man upstairs for helping me succeed on the court and becoming the player I am today.

When asked if balancing basketball and school has been a challenge Buckingham said, "At times, yes. I quickly learned how to balance it out and manage my time. Now I have even thrown a job into the mix but I have been able to successfully do all three."

Buckingham helps her team out in more ways than one. "I give size to our team. I try to help lead the team, and keep my teammates motivated as well as keeping spirits high," she explained.

When asked how she has benefited from basketball, she said, "Basketball has taught me determination, responsibility, teamwork, hard work, and so much more. I've met so many great people through it as well. Basketball has changed the direction of my life."

Next fall, Buckingham will be attending the University of Minnesota where she will be playing basketball for the Golden Gophers. She is also the first athlete from New Richmond High school to become a Big Ten Conference athlete.

"It is such a good feeling to know I have made this accomplishment. I know what I want to do and I'm going for it. It feels good to know that all of my hard work is paying off and that people from home will be proud of me," Buckingham explained.

**Basketball player
Josh Heiden**



Josh Heiden started playing basketball in the third grade after his dad, who also played for New Richmond, encouraged him to play.

Heiden says that his dad, along with his coach, Brian McMonigle, have had the biggest impact in teaching him the game, and have made him a better player.

Heiden says the biggest way he can help his team out is by "playing a big role on offense and defense, as well as being a leader on the team."

This year's team is a little different than years past, returning four starters to the floor and running a shut down man to man

defense.

"I feel we are serious contenders in our league this year," explained Heiden. "I believe it is time to get that league title back to where it belongs."

Right in the middle of his second year as a varsity starter, Heiden continues to be a constant threat to opposing defenses, becoming a great offensive player and constantly lighting up the scoreboard.

Heiden plans on playing college basketball once he leaves NRHS. As of right now, he has had offers and is looking at Ohio Northern, Manchester, and Hanover College.

"I have pushed myself to become a better player because it has been a dream of mine to play college basketball, and I am so close to my goal," he added.

Heiden's inspiration to becoming a better player came in middle school after being coached by John Callebs.

"He challenged me to be a better player and person. He saw the drive that I had, and was able to teach me some great things about the game. He is also just a great guy and is always great to be around."

When asked if he had anything else to say, he said, "Give it up for Gary. He is one cool guy, a great teammate and a pretty good ball player as well."

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The Wave Rider 17 has arrived

New and improved shoe is major success

By: Claire Burns

Tired of looking for that perfect running shoe which offers the perfect amount of support and the maximum comfort for your feet? Well, the search is over! Newly released from Mizuno, the Wave Rider 17 is the latest version of Mizuno's popular shoe; the Wave Rider. The Wave Rider 17 is a women's neutral running shoe (one that does not provide extra support or stability for those who either over or under pronate) which is known for being very light, adding to the satisfying feel of the shoe.

The Wave Rider 17 offers a number of new features which the previous versions did not. One of the greatest advancements include the lighter midsole material known as 'U4IC'. This innovation in the material makes the shoe 30% lighter than the

previous version of the Wave Rider; Wave Rider 16.

The construction of the sole was also improved. The Wave Rider 17's sole is newly constructed so that it offers a smoother feel. The outer side of the foot has now been rounded out for a smoother transition from the landing.

The Dynamotion Fit offers a more secure fit. This advancement changes the stitching of the shoe, providing a softer and lighter fit. The stitching is changed by working the stitches through the interior rather than the exterior of the shoe, providing comfort in specific areas such as the midfoot and the forefoot.

Even though there have been many changes to the Wave Rider, many of the best features of the

previous versions remain the same. Mizuno's Wave Riders have been known for their durability and cushioning. The variety of eccentric color schemes in which the Wave Riders are offered are a major reason for the popularity of the shoe such as: the white-dark slate-dewberry, dark slate-cabbage-raspberry rose, sugar coral-aurora-dark slate, and many more exciting themes.

With all of these improvements to the Wave Rider, the Wave Rider 17 is made to be the best shoe for all types of runners, specifically high mileage trainers. The Wave Rider 17 is very durable and will more than likely last runners through a good season of their running careers. Based on the shoe's high quality and durability, it is clear that it is meant for long, hard miles and will not wear out quickly. The Wave Rider 17 is also suitable for those runners who wear

orthotics for additional support who need a neutral, but lightweight shoe for their inserts. The toe box of the shoe was also modified by the increase in width around the top of the shoe causing the damage to the toes to also be reduced due to the elimination of the tight fit around the toes. The loose fit around the toes are essential so the toes do not lack room and cause pressure; which can lead to injuries.

All in all, the Mizuno Wave Rider 17 is a great choice for those who are looking for a long-lasting, neutral fit shoe. The Wave Rider 17 will keep you comfortable while stylish during those long runs as they are offered in a variety of colors. The shoe wraps around the foot perfectly providing a balance of cushioning. The lightweight feature of the shoe makes the Wave Rider 17 a great pick for either a training or racing shoe making every run smooth and carefree.

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Frozen freezes out the competition

New Disney movie needs to be seen

By Ciera Moore

"Yes, I'm alone, but I'm alone and free!"

In the Disney animated movie *Frozen* young and optimistic Anna is Princess of Arendelle, played by Kristen Bell. She is alongside her older sister, Elsa, voiced by Idina Menzel. The two young princesses are isolated in their own castle for most of their lives. This is because Elsa, the older of the two, has the power to create and control snow. Unfortunately, she cannot control this power, and it becomes even worse when she is frightened.

When Elsa leaves the kingdom in a horrible, eternal winter, Anna goes to find her. Along the way she teams up with lonely mountain man, Kristoff (Jonathan Groff) and his sidekick Sven, who just so happens to be a reindeer. The trio eventually

stumble upon a talking snowman, named Olaf, voiced by Josh Gad. They all help Anna find her sister in the deep wilderness covered in snow.

The four face many dangers on their long adventure up into the mountains near the kingdom. Many of these dangers are caused by Elsa herself to keep her sister away. Elsa has grown up believing that her powers are a threat to people around her. Elsa guards her heart and isolates herself in order to keep her powers from hurting anyone around her.

The villains in *Frozen* use Elsa's gift against her, they tell her what a danger she is and that she must be kept away from everyone. But when she is finally away from civilization she feels free, even if she is alone.

Anna has been kept away from her sister for as long as she can remember. That was done to keep her safe from Elsa's powers that did hurt her once. But growing up practically alone with no real friends causes Anna to easily believe the lies told to her by the bad guys.

After watching the movie *Frozen* I would recommend others go and see it. *Frozen* has a heartfelt story about the two sisters that really care for each other, along with hilarious characters, like almost all Disney movies have. Unfortunately, it is a lot like other Disney movies with the singing and princesses and various villains.

I really liked the movie *Frozen*; the funniest character for me is Olaf the Snowman. He is unintentionally hilarious, and cares for his friends. Olaf is very loyal to Anna and stays with her even when he is in danger of melting.

Anna is the main character, and I feel like every girl can re-

late to her in some way. She is outgoing and optimistic, always doing what she thinks is right. She is very loyal to her friends and family throughout the whole movie. But on top of that, she is funny and clumsy, making you laugh through the whole movie.

Elsa and Anna's relationship is very admirable and they both really care for each other. It shows young children with siblings to love each other, like Anna and Elsa. Anna will do anything for her sister, even though Elsa has pushed her away. But Elsa pushed her away because she loved her and wanted to keep her safe.

If you like newer Disney movies like *Rapunzel*, *Brave*, or *The Princess and the Frog* then go and see *Frozen*. *Frozen* has all the good qualities of a kid friendly film and is entertaining for any age. If you are looking for a movie for the little ones on Friday night, this is the perfect movie for you.

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A Storm of Swords reigns

The Song of Ice and Fire continues in book 3

By Tristin Baumann

The Seven Kingdoms have exploded in a veritable storm of swords in George R.R. Martin's book of the same name. The third such book in the Song of Ice and Fire series. (BIG Spoiler Alert for those who haven't read the second book in the series yet) This book picks up right after the end of A Clash of Kings, with the aftermath of the Battle of the Blackwater, and the rightful heir to the Iron Throne, Stannis Baratheon, dwelling on his defeat while being consoled by the Red Priestess(witch) Melisandre. Stannis is one of my favorite characters, as he is a righteous constantly being pulled at opposite ends like having an angel and a devil on his shoulders, by Melisandre(the devil), and his hand, the humble Ser Davos Seaworth(the angel). He is torn between doing what is right, and doing what he must to remove the usurper from the Iron

Throne.

As the story begins to pick up pace, Jamie Lannister is in a race against time to get back to King's Landing before the Northern allies catch, while being led there by Brienne of Tarth. Along the way, Jamie is captured by Vargo Hoat, leader of the Brave Companions, and then in a huge plot twist, Vargo takes something from Jamie that is truly precious to him. I really enjoy the dynamic between Brienne and Jamie. Brienne is the honorable knight who at first despises Jamie for breaking his oath and killing King Aerys, and Jamie is the slightly full of himself member of the kingsguard who really isn't as bad a guy as he's portrayed in the beginning. I think they have the best of the love/hate relationships in the whole series so far.

Robb Stark, the King in the North, begins to rally his troops

from across the neck and riverlands, abandoning the attack on the south, and preparing to turn back to the North to reclaim the lands taken by the ironborn, driving them out of the North completely, and to destroy all that the self-proclaimed King of the Iron Islands Balon Greyjoy has left.

Meanwhile across the narrow sea, Daenerys Targaryen, mistress of the last three dragons in the world is convinced by Ser Jorah to sail into Slaver's Bay with her three dragons, and go to Astapor to buy a slave army called the Unsullied, soldiers very similar to the Greek Spartans. Daenerys eventually pulls off one of the biggest plot twists in the series, and leaves readers in complete shock at the events that take place at Astapor. Dany has become without a doubt my favorite character, and out of all of the different books I've read with female characters, she's the only one that as a guy I can relate to. She's without a doubt the most dangerous and important player in the game of thrones.

Bran and Rickon continue their journey away from Winterfell, which is now in ruins after being put to the torch by Theon Greyjoy. But along the way, they encounter some new friends and

enemies, that play a great role in their fate.

And then up North beyond the Wall, Jon Snow continues to act as a wildling after being taken captive, still believing himself a man of the Night's Watch and acting under orders from Quorin Halfhand. But his time with the wildlings leads him to believe that all is not as it seems, and that the White Walkers are the true threat to the Wall, not the wildlings. Jon Snow is still a character I'm not sure about. He seems honorable and like he may prove to be quite the important character in the looming battle against the White Walkers. But with the way George R.R. Martin kills characters off, I'm not ready to become a Jon Snow fan just yet.

There is no question though, that if you like plot twists, surprising deaths, epic battles, and of course dragons. Then you should read this series, as the books get better and better the further you get, something you don't always see in any kind of story, which is something that makes this series my favorite without a doubt. The series also tells the story from about ten characters' points of view, which adds a lot of variety to the story from a lot of different viewpoints.



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Calling all football fanatics to the Rose Bowl

Tournament and parade make for a fun vacation for the whole family

By: Sadie LaRocque

Are you a football fanatic? If you are, you've probably watched the Rose Bowl parade and game on TV and thought it would be an awesome experience. Well, you could always take a family vacation to Pasadena, California and go to the Tournament of the Roses for the Rose Bowl parade and game. The Rose Parade is fun for the whole family and the game is great for the football fanatic of the family.

Overall, the Tournament of the Roses is a great experience.

There are large crowds and people can be extremely rowdy at times, but it isn't bad. The environment of Pasadena, California just adds to the experience of the Rose Parade. Even at the beginning of January, it's in the 70's in California. If going to the parade and game is on your bucket list, dress in layers because the mornings are cold. Don't forget your team colors and spirit. The 2014 Rose parade was a sea of green and white with spots of red from people decked out in their team colors. Team spirit doesn't

lack so if you're not up to hearing screaming and shouting and the occasional curse word, it's not going to be a very fun experience for you.

The Rose Bowl game is a whole different experience and environment from the parade, much rowdier and louder people. If you don't have tickets to the game ahead of time, you still have a shot at getting some before kick-off at the stadium; there are a lot of people walking around outside the stadium selling tickets, but you always want to be careful and check the authenticity of the tickets before you pay. Expect cheering from the hardcore fans inside and outside of the stadium as well as the crazy fans who are intoxicated and crazy. The game is a notable experience and for many, a once in a lifetime chance.

The security is never lacking at the Rose Bowl because the large volume of people can be hazardous. In the event of a possible emergency, the security is tough and there are lots of police officers. If you watched the parade on TV and missed the part where the Seaworld Float was protested by people in "Seaworld hurts Orcas" shirts and carrying signs, you missed

seeing an actual real-life demonstration of how tight the security at the parade was. Police officers were surrounding the float and ready to jump into action if anyone who ran out of the crowd was in the parade boycotting the float. If you take children to the parade, make sure to keep them in sight and be careful of any possible hazards other people may cause such as the people running out into the parade.

After the Rose Bowl game, don't forget to get some memorabilia such as a T-shirt and get photos of yourself and the family in front of the stadium. Walking from the parade to the game, you will see a bunch of places where you can buy Rose Bowl shirts, hats, and other memorabilia, it's worth the time to stop early and get what you want so they don't run out.

Overall, the Rose Bowl parade and game are a good way to spend your new year. Take the whole family for a week vacation to Pasadena and go to the parade for even more of the California experience, it's fun for the whole family and definitely worthwhile and worth the money.

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The Lone Survivor, best war movie ever

Wahlberg, along with co-stars, portrays powerful images of American warriors

By: Chandler Cochran

I am a big fan of war movies, mostly the ones about the United States killing commies and terrorists, but nonetheless I really enjoy them.

The Lone Survivor just hit the big screen and I went to see it opening night. *The Lone Survivor* is unlike movies like *Red Dawn* or *Olympus has Fallen* because it is a true story about our U.S. Navy Seals.

In 2005, the U.S. Navy SEALs carried out operation Red Wings in an attempt to clear out some specific Taliban members in the Middle East.

The movie is based on the true story of operation Red Wings, and got its name after the fact that only one of the four members on the operation survived.

Marcus Luttrell, a real life Navy seal, is played in the movie by Mark Wahlberg, and was the only survivor of the mission.

The beginning of the movie starts out focusing on the four members who will be going on the operation, as well as some of the other members who were on the base. The movie quickly moves into briefing for the mission where we all learn more about who the United States is trying to take down, and how they are going to do it.

When the team lands and are working their way around the mountain to get a good shot the operation is compromised when the team runs into three goat herders, an old man and two teens. The team proceeds to tie

them up and debates whether or not to kill them because they are a part of the Taliban. They come to the conclusion to release the "prisoners," call in a chopper, and go home, but realize that once they release them, it would only be a matter of time before one of them makes it down the mountain and alerts the other members of the Taliban to where they are located.

After the release, they try to radio in a chopper but the reception on the mountain was horrible. They take cover and realize they were in store for a big gun fight after one of the Seals notices a huge group of Taliban members coming up the mountain.

A majority of the movie is the battle that is fought between the Seals and the Taliban as we see each Seal, one by one, except for Marcus, die in battle. Marcus is

finally rescued by the United States after they get word he is in a neighboring village and is being taken care of by a group in the village who are not Taliban.

Mark Wahlberg did an amazing job portraying a Navy Seal and the battle that was fought was extremely true-to-life.

The reason why I like the movie so much is because one, I really like war movies, but I also like true stories of American heroes and seeing their stories come to life.

The Lone Survivor is by far the best movie I have ever seen, and I highly recommend for you to go see it. It does have its fair share of blood and gore but the purpose was to capture what actually happened up on the mountain. If I could pick one movie to watch before the end of time, it would be *The Lone Survivor*.



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Percy Jackson is the man with the plan

An equal sequel, *Sea of Monsters* lives up to *The Lightning Thief*

By Joe Maxwell

Are you fascinated by ancient Greek gods? Just amused by the powers and abilities they are fabled to have possessed? How about if they were still around today and none of us knew it? If so, I recommend the Percy Jackson series. It is a series of books as well as a newly developing movie series based on the books. The movie series is up to its second film and both are still thrilling viewers to this day.

Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters is a fairly new movie that came out in August 2013, and is the second of the Percy Jackson movie series. Stars of the movie are, Percy Jackson (son of Poseidon) and his companions:

Annabeth (daughter of Athena), Grover (a half goat, half human, a.k.a. a satyr), and Tyson (cyclops, son of Poseidon, half brother of Percy.) In the film, they go on a quest to retrieve the golden fleece from the Sea of Monsters, or as we know it, the Bermuda Triangle. They need the fleece to restore the forcefield around their beloved Camp Half Blood, a safe place where all "half bloods" go to live for protection. Half bloods are the children of a god and a human.

Although retrieving the golden fleece from the treacherous Sea of Monsters is not the only conflict in the movie, Percy has to fight to retrieve the fleece before

his nemesis, Luke. Luke (son of Hermes) is a traitor to Camp Half Blood who does not like his father and wants revenge by resurrecting an ancient, evil force to overthrow the Greek gods of Olympus. But I am going to stop here so I don't spoil too much of the movie.

In the movie, Percy is played by Logan Lerman. I think Lerman did a pretty good job of portraying what I always pictured Percy to be while reading through the books and he did well in the movie, same as his co-actors in the film, Alexandra Daddario, as Annabeth, Brandon T. Jackson, as Grover, and Douglas Smith, as Tyson, who all did very good

acting in the movie too.

Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters is the perfect type of fantasy, action movie. It keeps people on their toes, and has the perfect balance of action, comedy, and drama. Any greek god nut like me, who is interested in the thought of having gods for almost every element in the world, would love this movie. It has a complicated, yet interesting plot line. I recommend this movie to most people and honestly think it is worth the money to go see. Even if you aren't too into ancient gods, it is an interesting and fascinating movie that is fun to see for anyone.

Netflix does it again

Everybody's Fine definitely worth the watch

By: Chelsey Fawley

Netflix: it's slowly taking over the world. Soon enough people won't need regular television as to catch the programs they enjoy. Netflix has recently added such networks as TLC, Investigation Discovery, History Inc., and FX. Whether you watch comedy, drama, or horror there's going to be a television show on Netflix for you.

Another great aspect of Netflix is that you can stumble upon a movie you've never heard of and immediately fall in love. A few days ago, I found a piece of work of one of my favorite ac-

tors: Robert De Niro. Now, if you don't know who Robert De Niro is you've probably been spending the majority of your time living under a rock - in which case, quit reading *The Messenger* and go catch up with the world! De Niro is famous for his works as a 'stand up guy' in *Goodfellas II* and *Goodfellas*, but recently he has taken his acting skills to a different genre.

In the recently Netflix'd release of *Everybody's Fine*, De Niro tugs on the heart strings of viewers. Playing a recently widowed father with a desperate need to

reconnect with his four children, De Niro's role is one for the record books. It truly shows the versatility of this long-standing great actor.

The film opens in a style that makes it seem as if you are watching a comedy, but soon enough the style changes and it pulls you in. If you started it in hopes of a comedy, like I did, you can't even bring yourself to switch to something else. The story is just too enticing and continuously seems as if things will start looking up for De Niro and his family; as a viewer it's an emotional roller coaster.

The movie vividly depicts the aspects of growing older, and includes lessons on finding yourself after discovering you're a victim of empty nest syndrome. De Niro travels cross country to reunite with his long-lost now-adult children. He reflects on how he raised the kids, and even comes to realize WHY the kids moved all across the country.

To not ruin the plot, I will stop there. Whether you're a De Niro fan, a drama fan, or just a Netflix fan, though, *Everybody's Fine* is certainly a film worthy of being on your queue.

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It might be time to stop being a kid

Grown Ups 2 doesn't appeal to viewer

By Ashley Gray

So what did you do over your break? Did you have time to stop by your local movie theater and see the new *Grown Ups 2* movie? Well, if you haven't escaped from your busy agenda yet to do so, don't even bother. The second *Grown Ups* does not even compare to the first one, which had a decent plot, good characters, and lots of humor.

Grown Ups 2, the sequel to *Grown Ups*, is based on Lenny (Adam Sandler) moving back to his hometown, where he and his friends grew up, with his wife and two kids. In this sequel, the grown ups are learning lessons from their kids on the kids' last day of school.

What makes this film mostly not appealing are the constant jokes about nude men, brainless

women, homosexual men, sexual content, and bodily functions repeatedly throughout the film. The humor through the film seems almost pointless. In the beginning of the movie, Lenny's daughter leaves the front door open to let an animal in and the first joke of the movie is the deer peeing in Adam Sandler's face. I found myself saying "ew" more than laughing, as opposed to the first *Grown Ups*, which had various different parts throughout the movie that I found hilarious, yet still carried a pretty good message.

Also a disappointment, all the Adam Sandler fans that pay to go and see this movie may find themselves asking, "What happened?" Adam Sandler is an awesome actor. He has produced

a handful of comedies that have audiences laughing until tears come out and the only feeling they get in their stomachs is pain because they laughed beyond their limit. I did not get anywhere close to this vibe watching this movie. I watched it with my boyfriend's family and constantly was looking at the time to see how much longer the movie would be on. I couldn't wait for it to be over.

Another contribution that makes this film so awful is the inappropriate content. I thought this movie skipped a couple of steps and became much more inappropriate than the first *Grown Ups*, especially considering they are both rated PG-13, a rating I would say is very questionable. This comedy film is

definitely not kid friendly. If I were a parent, I would be alright with my children watching the first *Grown Ups*, but even if they were over the age of 13, I would feel iffy about allowing them to watch the sequel.

Here is the point, though; don't waste your time watching this hour and half movie because you are better off either reading a book or playing a board game, to be honest. It seems movies these days are just becoming more and more inappropriate to get higher ratings, but in reality where are the morals and values of the viewers? Watching a movie like *Grown Ups 2* has nothing to offer anyone but a huge regret of wasting one's time watching it.



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