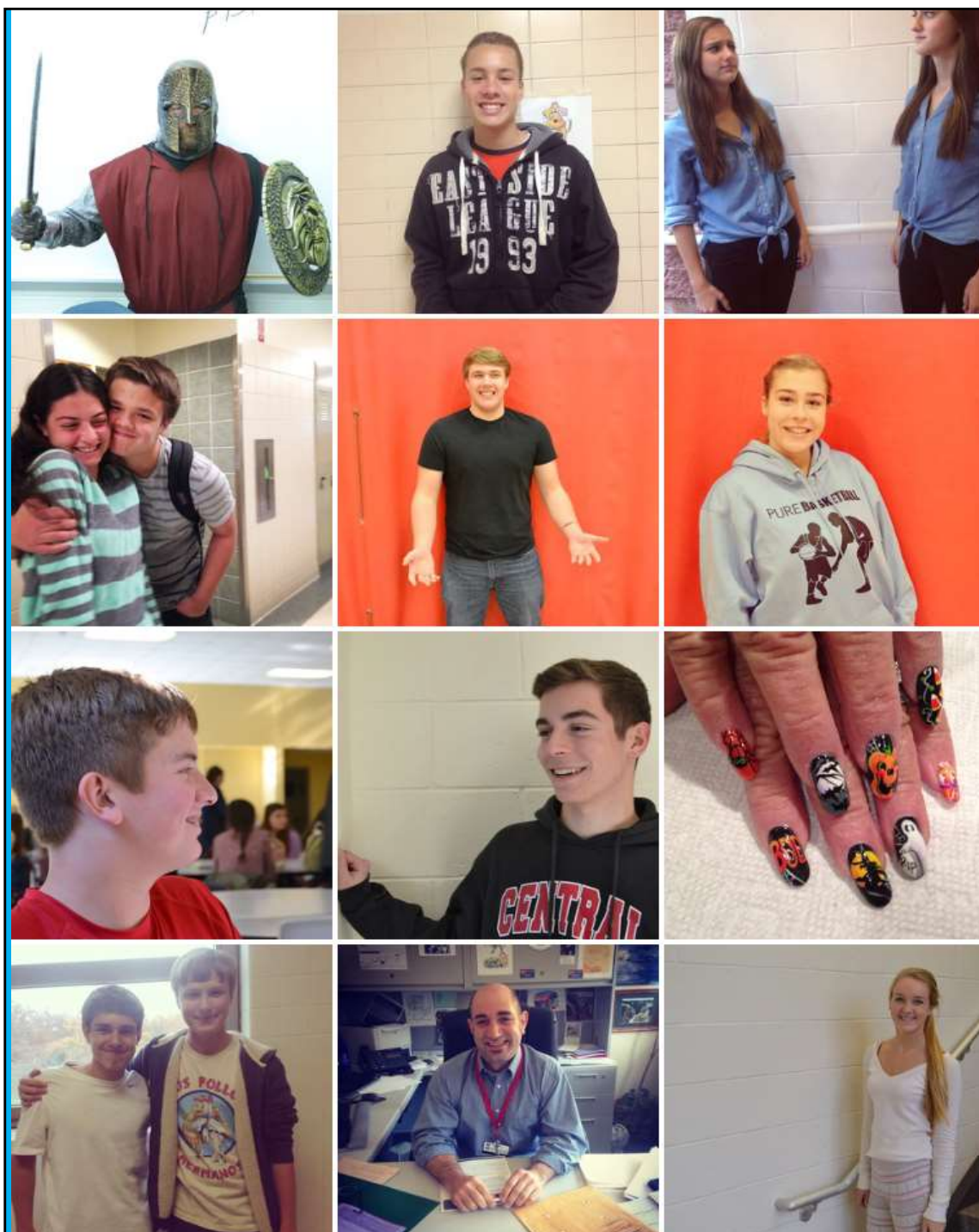


## Trending: Humans of Hunterdon Central



The Humans of Hunterdon Central page documents every aspect of student life, capturing artwork, classes, relationships, sports, teachers, holidays, and fashion.

By Hope Koene

There is something new to “like” about Hunterdon Central. Developed last month, an Instagram account titled Humans of Hunterdon Central features pictures and quotes from members of the school community. With already 790 followers, the anonymous student account has gained rapid popularity.

The page’s bio, which proclaims “Everyone has something to say, and everyone has a story,” represents the goal of the account: to highlight the unique diversity of HCRHS.

Based upon the blog and facebook page titled Humans of New York, Central’s own version mimics the format of this picture project. A posed shot of a person is featured

along with a quote. Captions range from favorite sayings, funny statements, future plans, and heartfelt advice. Students, teachers, and aids have all been pictured—even the well-known substitute Mrs. Rubin’s famous nails and Señor Aaron’s Don Quixote attire have been featured.

Continued on page six

## Girls volleyball crowned champions

By Jaclyn Davis

According to girls volleyball head coach Stephen Fenton, “Resilience is one of the most difficult pieces of character in life.” With their fair share of gritty come-from-behind wins, the sixteen players that comprise the 2014 varsity girls volleyball team certainly have a firm grasp on it.

Their unified determination carried the team throughout the whole season (25-5 record), especially during the match they will always remember: the Group 4 NJSIAA State Championship. After dropping the first set by a margin of 15-25, the girls knew they had to bounce back in order to keep their dream alive. They did exactly that. With impressive second and third sets (25-23 and 25-22 respectively), the squad persevered and took home the State trophy; their first one since 2007.

The team worked hard and found a way to pull through. Maria Pansari, a second year varsity all-state setter, points to the team’s dynamic for its success. “It didn’t matter that we lost the first set. We all trust each other and believed in ourselves, which was a huge factor leading to our win,” she said.

Continued on page eight



Photo courtesy of Olivia Saunders

The girls volleyball team celebrates their victory in the Group 4 NJSIAA State Championship.



Photo courtesy of Olivia Saunders

The Central girls won their underdog victory by playing to their strengths: strong communication and “HCVB culture.”

## The millennial legacy

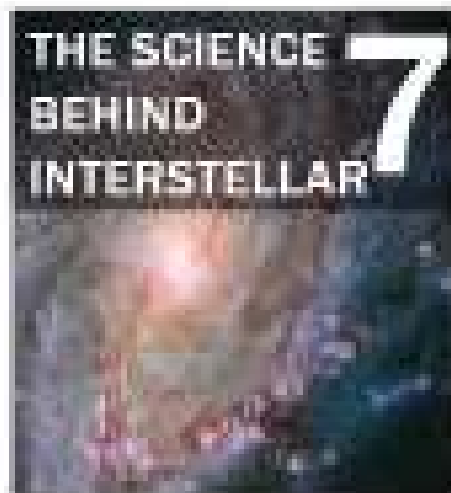
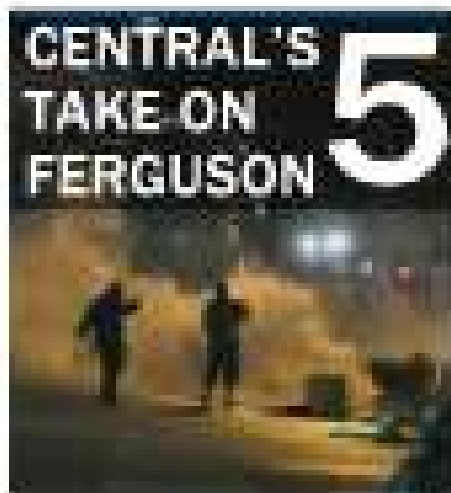
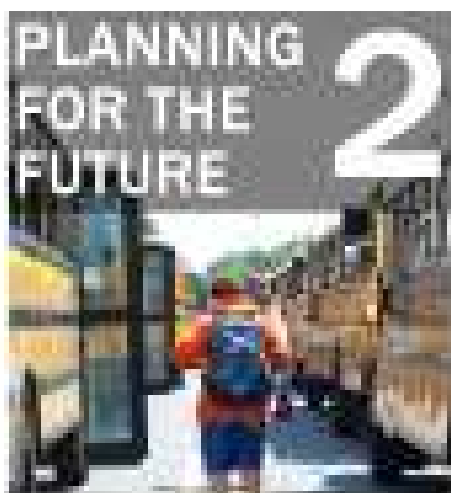
By Amy Fallat

Let’s face it, we have all heard “when I was your age...” or “back in my day ...” from an adult at one point or another throughout our lives. There seems to be such a negative connotation with our generation. We have been called entitled, even narcissistic, at times. But is that really true? Times are changing, after all, and the name of our generation alone just goes to prove it. We are the millennials. Born from 1984 to about 2004, we were brought into the world at the turn of the century and a whole new millenia. One could say that change is in our blood, hardwired into our very beings. With the changing of the times comes a change in technology, social views, and culture.

Sometimes the millennials are referred to as “the technological generation.” Think about all of the changes in technology that oc-

curred over last decade. Today’s kids don’t play pretend instead, they play on iPads. Remember how exciting it was to get a big-kid phone, like an enV? Now look at the smartphones that are everywhere. Because we are so used to the way things are now, we may forget what it used to be like before technology. David Fallat, a freshman at Hunterdon Central, believes that this generation’s involvement in technology will both help and hinder us. He explained something that his English teacher had told him. “Our teacher told us that handwriting things creates more neural pathways in the brain than typing does,” he said, “so eventually, all of this technology could keep us from reaching our potential!” Even so, technology can play a big (and helpful) role in the progression towards things like social standards and change.

Continued on page three





# New courses offered at Central

By Fahima Waqqa

In the 2015-2016 school year, a few new courses are going to be introduced to students in various subject areas, such as Math, History, and English. John Fenimore, the Director of Curriculum, talked with members of the curriculum committee at various meetings to see how Hunterdon Central could add courses that will benefit the student body as a whole.

In the Math department, Advanced Algebra is one course being added to the Special Service Department next year. Fenimore said that the course “would help students build upon the concepts of their previous courses.” These previous courses being Algebra 1 and Geometry, Advanced Algebra would be the next consecutive course based upon a specific mathematics path and would fulfill Hunterdon Central’s mathematics requirements for graduation. With the new courses, students may learn concepts that will help them in the future.

Another class that is being added next year is Asian Studies. It is a combination of two current electives: North & East Asian Studies; and South & West Asian Studies.

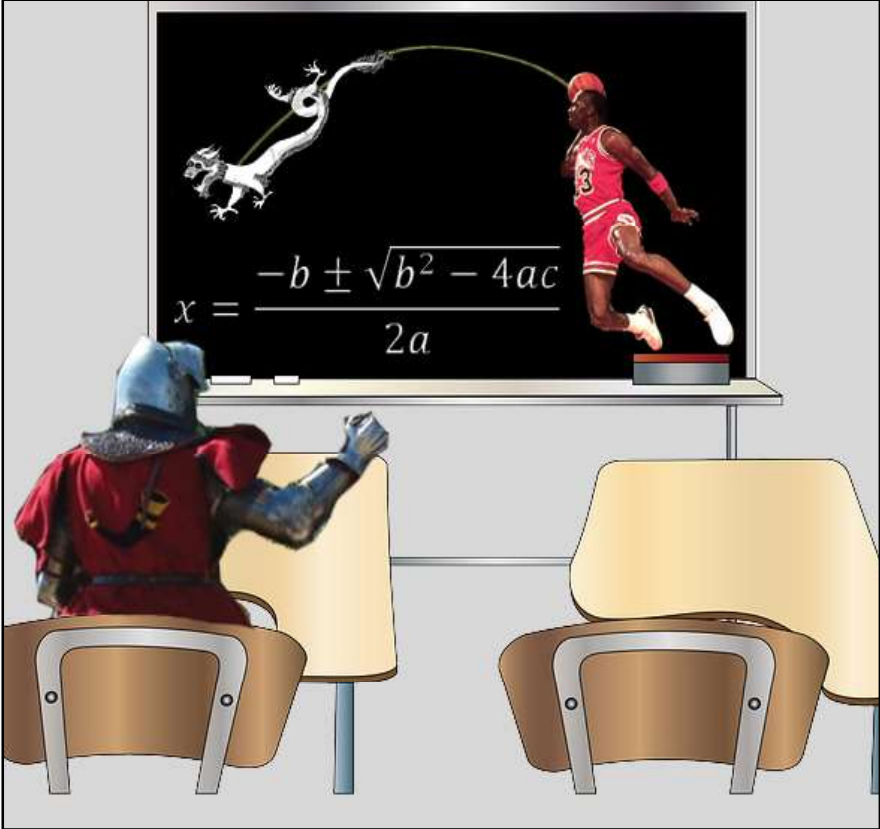
Due to the low enrollment rates of each separate class, a centralized version bringing the two together would increase the number of students enrolled. Asian Studies would be a semester-long elective course and would allow the class to be filled with more students who wish to learn about the region. It would give students the chance to study this part of the world and understand its full history. The class would be under the Social Studies Curriculum and worth 2.5 credits, open to all, fall of next year.

Within the English department, three new semester courses are being added, based on the results of a survey that students took that asked them what new classes they would be interested in taking. The three classes that were decided upon were Literature in Sports, The

Short Story, and Science Fiction & Fantasy. These courses will be available to interested seniors as 2.5 credit literature electives. The student desire for more diverse classes told the Board what the students want the school to offer.

The Curriculum Committee and administration wanted to add these courses so students could learn academic skills with diverse content. All of the new classes will help “fulfill a need” that students voiced in the survey, while expanding their knowledge at appropriate level courses. The new courses being implemented would offer students elective courses as well as core courses to help them fulfill their graduation requirements.

Overall, this creates a more diverse class selection, aimed at reflecting student interest.



New courses being offered create new opportunities and open up new worlds. Graphic by Alex Eng & Andy Guistwite

# Central students plan for their futures

## School hosts Financial Aid Night

By Jessie Farrigan

Hunterdon Central hosted Financial Aid Night on Wednesday, December 10, in the Auditorium. This event was intended for all parents of the graduating class, as well as parents of underclassmen who wished to get a head start on college cost planning. Financial Aid Night aimed to enable parents to understand all processes of college costs and how to plan for the future. There are many concerns that parents and students have about paying for college.

The biggest of these concerns is how families should apply for financial aid—the FAFSA form, grants, scholarships, student loans, and work-study programs, etc. The first step in applying for financial aid is to fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.

The FAFSA form is used by almost all colleges in determining a family’s eligibility for financial aid,

which is measured as the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The form itself presents a challenge because of its widely-dreaded deadline dates.

Though practically every family completes a FAFSA form, many do not get the financial aid they seek. This is where scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study programs come into play.

Merit-based scholarships award money that students do not have to pay back, and apply to a wide range of skills and achievements. For example, scholarships can be given for academic or athletic reasons, but can also be awarded for reasons as seemingly trivial as having a certain hair color, or even being left-handed. Similar to scholarships are grants: money granted to students that also does not have to be paid back.

However, students find other ways to afford their college expenses with money from student loans, or working in work-study

programs. Unlike scholarships and grants, student loans must be repaid.

Many colleges offer work-study programs, which are on-campus jobs where a student’s pay can go toward their tuition. Senior Rachel Landau expressed her interest in such a program. “I am certainly looking for scholarship opportunities as a way to pay for college. I would also be interested in possibly being a part of a work-study program after my freshman year,” she said.

Work study programs can range from helping with paper work in the admissions offices, ushering at graduation, tutoring other students, among many other working opportunities. This is an excellent choice regarding cost, because it not only aids students with necessary money, but also gives them real-world experience.

The Financial Aid Night seminar mapped out all the opportunities and tools needed to help each

## Student leads Career Fair



The FAFSA form determines students’ eligibility for federal financial aid. Photo by Alex Eng

By Maanus Gulia

A senior at Hunterdon Central, Stephanie Waterhouse, is also a Senior Girl Scout and is working on her Gold Award Project—a project related to the field of Career Connections. In her project, Waterhouse intended to help students pick the right career by hosting a career fair on Thursday, December 11, from 5:30-7:30 PM in the Commons.

There, students had the opportunity to acquire a better understanding of what they would like to do after leaving Central. Waterhouse noted that her motive for hosting the career fair was to help her fellow students. “A lot of them think they know what they want to be, but then they realize that they picked something that they didn’t like,” she said.

Waterhouse believed that the Career Fair helped prevent this mistake from occurring, since students had the chance to ask professionals about their education and how they got started. The idea first sprouted when Waterhouse saw her older sister’s friends go to college and change majors because of lack of interest. Some of them even

had to transfer colleges too, which is ultimately the reason why Waterhouse wanted to address the growing concern of choosing a career.

Therefore, she offered that the Career Fair was a prudent idea, because it saved students from such unnecessary negative consequences. “I think it’s important because people transfer and change majors all the time,” she said. “It’s just a waste of time and money, and I want to help people. It should make it easier.”

To illustrate the complexity of the career selection process, even Waterhouse herself was only able to decide upon a major after consulting a few sources. She was first introduced to accounting by an acquaintance, and her mother’s friend, being an actuarial scientist, allowed Waterhouse to gain more insight within the field. Thus, after learning about the field that she was interested in, Waterhouse felt that she made the right decision. This shows that having diverse resources is very helpful. Overall, the Career Fair was a welcoming learning experience for students who felt a bit shaky on what to major in, or what career they wanted to pursue.

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# Taking the fame game by storm

## Internet fads gaining undeserved stardom as fast as lightning

By Douglas Woolever

Fame. Although many dedicate their entire lives to attaining this legendary status, only a select few ever succeed. Historically, fame could only be achieved when an individual did something like forging an empire, creating beautiful art, or making scientific breakthroughs. Fame in the past was truly a very difficult status to reach, and there was no question that anyone who reached it deserved to bear the title.

But recently, our world has seen a dramatic shift in this paradigm. Individuals of this generation seem to reach the status through unconventional tactics, such as singing terrible songs about days of the week, having a rich and famous father, or even just having an amusingly grumpy face.

Depending on how closely you follow America's youth culture, it's possible that you might be able to name the three individuals mentioned above just from the descriptions given.

The first individual is one who almost all of us would soon like to forget. A music video called "Friday" was uploaded to YouTube on March 14, 2011, which now boasts a staggering seventy three million views. The musical genius behind

this song is none other than California teenager Rebecca Black, who recorded the song for a mere four thousand dollars, and is now a millionaire thanks to the extensive profits from song downloads.

Anyone who has ever seen the video knows that it does not measure up to the musical standards of Michael Jackson's "Thriller," or Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody." Students at Hunterdon Central like senior Amy Hargrave are not impressed by Black's work in the music industry. "I could do that in my sleep. And my version would probably be twice as good," said Hargrave. Thanks to this terrible, casually produced song, Rebecca Black is now seated safely upon the pedestal of fame, which so many others have dedicated years of hard work to attaining.

Yet another example, and arguably the single person least deserving of any fame, is the billionaire socialite Kim Kardashian. No one is entirely sure why Kim Kardashian is as famous as she is, but most agree that although her father was a famous wealthy lawyer, her own rise to fame came from her own other "scandals."

Incredibly, once the internet caught hold of her scandals, Kim's fame skyrocketed, and her family was given their own television show

called Keeping Up with the Kardashians on E! Network. Now, Kim is treated like a fashion and lifestyle icon in popular culture, causing many to actually look up to her as if she were a suitable role model. Understandably, many people think that the idolization of these figures can be a detriment to society. The social psychologist Albert Bandura stated that humans unconsciously

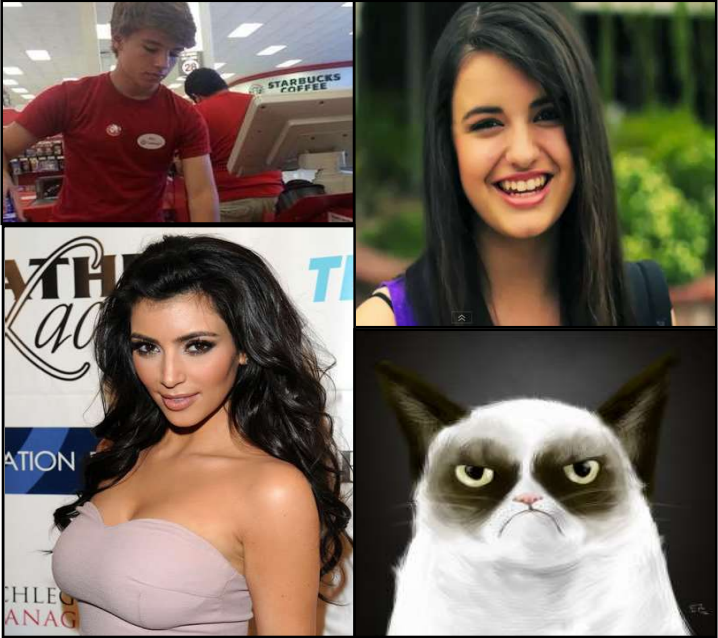
imitate those whom we see as successful; because of this fact, senior Lee Costlow believes that the people we idolize have a profound impact on how we act. "When we are perpetuating fame onto these people who earned it by acting like unproductive and moronic characters, we are unwittingly promoting that our youths act in the same way, which serves as nothing but a

means to counteract the growth we've made as an intelligent society," Costlow said.

So aside from singing bad songs and letting certain scandals pervade the internet, how else can fame be achieved in today's society? One can simply ask Tardar Sauce, a mixed breed feline known better by her internet moniker, "Grumpy Cat." This furry cultural icon is living proof that not only can fame be achieved simply by having a funny face; you also don't even need to be a human being to achieve it.

A simple picture of this cat's signature frowning face exploded on the internet almost immediately after it was posted, leading the cat's owner, Tabatha Bundseen, to eventually publish a book and make a movie, both of which did very well commercially.

It has traditionally been believed that becoming famous is extremely difficult, but this generation may represent the first time in human history that fame comes easy to just about anyone. If you're out there looking for fame, it would seem like hard work and dedication are no longer the best routes. Instead your best bet would be to do something random and mundanely pointless, such as perhaps... I don't know... working at Target?



**Pictured above;** Alex from Target (top left), Rebecca Black (top right), Grumpy Cat (bottom right), or Kim Kardashian (bottom left).  
Photos courtesy Wikimedia

# An error for our era: the legacy of millennials



Graphic by Alexis Morillo

Continued from page one

With the plethora of social media at our fingertips, reaching out to people and banding together to protest has never been easier. In "Small Change," an article by Malcolm Gladwell, it is said that the sort of activism today is formed around weak ties.

There is a strength in these sort of relationships, however, according to sociologist Mark Granovetter. He said, "The internet lets us exploit the power of these kinds of

distant connections with marvelous efficiency." Ask any millennial, and chances are they would agree.

Time and time again, elders have called our generation lazy, but this simply isn't true. The recent events in Ferguson, for example, serve to show the mobility and activism of our age. The uproar after the verdict was like a tsunami. There was a flurry of outrage and passion, and, within just minutes, young folks were out on the streets protesting. Being able to share a quick article or just a link to a video

can help to raise awareness, making it far easier to educate the public than ever before.

The fight and fire of our generation is evident even here at Hunterdon Central. Clubs, like Third Wave or Pulse, are filled with young people who share a common goal and passion. Allison Paran, a junior and member of Pulse, can already see the social change that is looming on the horizon. She sees our generation being the most involved in the LGBT movements over any other social movement. "They have been making movements for a while. But now, people are starting to notice, compared to other years," she said. Could this sudden burst of involvement and awareness be attributed to social media? A member of Third Wave, junior Sammi Triolo, seems to think so. "The internet really helped both [LGBT and women's rights] movements and created safe spaces for those who need them in both of those communities,"

she said.

Along with technological and social change comes a change in culture. Thankfully, we have moved past the horrid clothing of the early 2000's (Gwen Stefani, anybody?) and evolved into the fashionable people we are today. Other than clothing, music seems to have an increasingly apparent role in our everyday lives. With the invention of the mp3 player, music became much easier to access, and more portable, too.

When you're walking from class to class, count the number of students with their earbuds plugged in. Chances are, there will be quite a few of them. In the past decade, or so, a few genres of music have sprung up and risen to fame, including second wave synthpop, electronic, alternative, indie, dance, EDM, and hip hop.

Things like boy bands are making a comeback, with artists such as One Direction and the Vamps mirroring greats like the Backstreet Boys and NSYNC. Teen pop, which was once associated with Disney and Nickelodeon, has had a steady stronghold of the airwaves, with artists like Ariana Grande taking center stage.

With all of the new technology we have, a video upload can be all that it takes to skyrocket to fame, like in Justin Bieber's case. The internet has broadened the spectrum of music that we can be exposed to, which could be the reason that genres such as alternative and in-

die are becoming so popular. An Exploring Music 1 student and senior, Emily Havenstein has something to say about where she believes the music industry is going. "I believe that whatever social topics are hot will keep showing up in music, like women's body types, for example."

Music will reflect whatever issues the general public will feel upset about in the future, and be as relatable as possible," she said. To stay relevant, things must also stay relatable, and music is only one of the fronts that can attest to this fact.

It is no question that our generation has a large umbrella of influence. According to Forbes magazine, the millennials will dominate 75% of the workforce by the year 2028. With this influence comes the opportunity to really change things. Our generation has become self-aware. We have all grown old enough to see the mistakes that past generations have made, and it is our job to right these wrongs.

With the fire that we all possess, I believe that those types of changes are completely possible. Certainly, it will be interesting to see what the next couple of years have in store. Within those years, many will turn 18, and we all know what comes with that ... voting. When the millennials gain access to that right of passage, great things are going to happen. With big hearts, come big changes.

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# Protests erupt in opposition to grand jury verdict in Ferguson



Cartoon by Bridgette Powell

## Darren Wilson found

By Patrick Mulligan

Ferguson, Missouri is a town that spans six square miles, has 21,000 residents, and has recently become the subject of much controversy. It seems that the whole world is arguing over the grand jury's decision to not indict officer Darren Wilson in the shooting case of Michael Brown, an 18 year old Ferguson native. Brown was fatally shot after an altercation occurred between himself and Wilson, resulting in the officer firing off twelve rounds at him, of which seven or eight entered his body, with a fatal shot to the head. The court decision led to rioting and violence on the streets of Ferguson, as well as a polarizing debate to which almost everyone has a comment to contribute. No videos of the event

have surfaced, and many witness accounts vary; therefore strong arguments can be made from both sides. I feel that the grand jury's decision was incredibly difficult, due to the lack of evidence in this case, but I also feel that this decision has shown us the juxtaposition of society and law.

This past December 1st marked 59 years since the iconic day in history when Rosa Parks refused to sit in the back of the bus she rode and give up her seat to a white man. Just one week before the anniversary, the decision to not indict Officer Wilson had been set in stone. Despite this relationship between the two events, there is a major difference between Parks' situation and the one in Ferguson. Hers had to do with the racist tendencies in American society due



Photo Courtesy of Jamelle Bouie



Photo Co

## No indictment, no en

By Bria Wade and Sammi Triolo

Yet another name has been added to the infuriatingly long list of black victims who were denied the most basic form of justice. The Ferguson, Missouri grand jury verdict to not charge Darren Wilson for the killing of Mike Brown made it extremely clear that racism is still very prevalent in society and the driving force behind police brutality.

The most saddening and purely disgusting reality about the decision is that it was not unexpected, especially by the black community. Coming off of highly publicized cases of black murder like Trayvon Martin, John Crawford III, Eric Garner, and twelve year old Tamir Rice, there was truly no hope for an indictment. It has been proven over and over again that black lives are considered significantly less important when a white individual is added into the equation. The underlying issue that has ignited the furious rioting and angered hearts of people of color is the blatant upholding of systematic racism in a country that supposedly prides itself on equality and freedom. The Pledge of Allegiance promises "liberty and justice for all,"

but where is that justice for all the young men and women of color who have been lost to police brutality and racism?

No matter what the full story is, and no matter if Michael Brown really did steal a handful of cigarillos (which has been disputed by even the store owner), no one deserves to be shot multiple times while unarmed. What is worth more? Some material object, or a life? No family should have a spot missing for their son at the dinner table, while the police officer who shot him walks free with large sums of money made from donations and interviews.

The reason Michael Brown was murdered while unarmed in the middle of the street is because of the deeply ingrained racism in this country. American society is structured systematically, which gives advantages to some and disadvantages to others on account of race. There is no disputing that the white race is considered superior in America when police officers like Darren Wilson unjustly murder black individuals and receive no punishment.

When talking about police violence, the default is to mention the "black-

## Roving Reporter How does

"It won't have any effect because the facts actually point that he shouldn't have been indicted. But I think that it will be misconstrued to fuel a lot more racial violence and rage."

-Katherine Stiefel, junior



Photo by Amanda Scully

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# Not guilty, with good reason

to the years of oppression of African Americans by whites, and — contrary to popular belief — the happenings in Ferguson are entirely based off ‘implied’ racial bias. It’s all about trust. Michael Brown did not trust Officer Wilson, and so he reacted poorly to his presence. Same goes for Wilson, who recounted fearing for his life in his testimony. The little evidence that was presented in the case, in the grand scheme of things, pointed to Wilson acting in self-defense to Brown’s confrontation with him; Brown allegedly attempted to take the gun from the officer in his car, and after a few accidental shots, he attempted to flee the scene, but turned around and charged the officer, resulting in his untimely death. With that said, the grand jury’s decision seems to be the only logical

decision that could have been made. What most people do not understand about this case is that the grand jury could not indict, nor prove Officer Wilson guilty for the “murder” of young Michael Brown. The grand jury only can indict someone for a crime if there is probable cause, and — as the lack of evidence in favor of Wilson’s indictment suggests — there was clearly no way they could do so. They needed, once again, to have reasonable proof or evidence that the suspect was guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. A complaint that I have seen far too often is that this decision has triggered a “double jeopardy,” effectively preventing the officer from being charged for this occurrence in the future, which is false. Grand jury decisions would never force a double jeopardy,

so if any new evidence comes out proving that Wilson did the crime, it could still be used in the future. As shown, most misconceptions about what really occurred in the Ferguson case can be refuted through the use of simple facts about the legal system. The grand jury can only decide if there is a probable cause to warrant indictment, which they could not do due to lack of evidence. In addition to this, the decision made by the grand jury will stand alone, and not affect the future legal battle. In conclusion, this grand jury decision actually left the door open for more decisions to be made in the case of more evidence emerging. But for now, with the lack of evidence available, this decision was the only decision for the grand jury to make.



Photo Courtesy of Jamelle Bouie



Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia



Photo Courtesy of Thomas Altfather Good

# and in sight for racial inequality

on-black crime’ angle only, and this avoids confronting the actual problem. Thousands of people are not rioting in Ferguson because of violence, they are rioting because of the need for a long overdue revolution against the oppression people of color have endured for centuries in America. Crimes committed between those of the same race are not relevant to the argument of police brutality. What is relevant is the fact that young black men are twenty one times more likely to be killed by a police officer than their white counterparts. This is why people are justified in protesting. The undeniable fact that many victims of police brutality are profiled by their skin color is an atrocity that has to change in America. Peaceful protesters in Ferguson had tear gas, crowd control sirens designed to physically bring pain to eardrums, and rubber bullets used on them in retaliation for holding up signs and chanting to get justice for a young man in their community. Protests in the past have been criticized at the time, then applauded later in history for granting freedoms and change. What makes the Ferguson protests any different?

The issue lies in the fact that there have been so many instances of police brutality toward men and women of color while the officer is not held responsible. It’s heartbreaking that young black men are raised being told that if they act a certain way or do things that are not acceptable in white society, they are at risk of injury and even death as a result of the police force. Change won’t be seen until the system that allows racism to exist is held responsible so the thousands of lives that are mistreated get the justice they deserve. Despite past efforts, racism is still alive and well in America. People need to realize that the perception that racism is over in this country is a false and problematic belief. The protesting in Ferguson is the first step toward any real progress in the country because it is evident that people are finally acknowledging a problem that has been keep alive in the country for centuries. While everyone may not agree that Mike Brown is the face of the movement in Ferguson, what can be agreed upon is that the protesting and outcry is about more than one man. Laws and regulations in both America’s police forces and justice systems

have to change in order to protect and serve all people. Juries should represent the community where the crime happened. It is completely illogical to have nine white people serve on a jury for a crime committed in an area where more than two-thirds of the residents are black. Additionally, police officers need to be held accountable for their actions, no matter what. There must be stricter laws put in place to outline appropriate use of deadly force, and all police officers should be required to wear body cameras, so that there is an unbiased and obvious view of what happens when deadly force is used. The unfortunate reality is that many crimes that police respond to in communities of color result in negative interactions and, in too many cases, death. The police system is supposed to be revered, because it was set in place to protect citizens. However, cases such as Mike Brown’s cause many to fear and hate law enforcement because of the blatant brutality and harassment faced by minorities. The failure to indict Darren Wilson has set this country back even further, and it will prove to be detrimental in the future. Black lives matter. All lives

# the Ferguson decision affect the future of America?

Officer Darren Wilson] an innocent man and killed him... it’s about morals”  
-Sam Thomas, junior



Photo courtesy of Sam Thomas

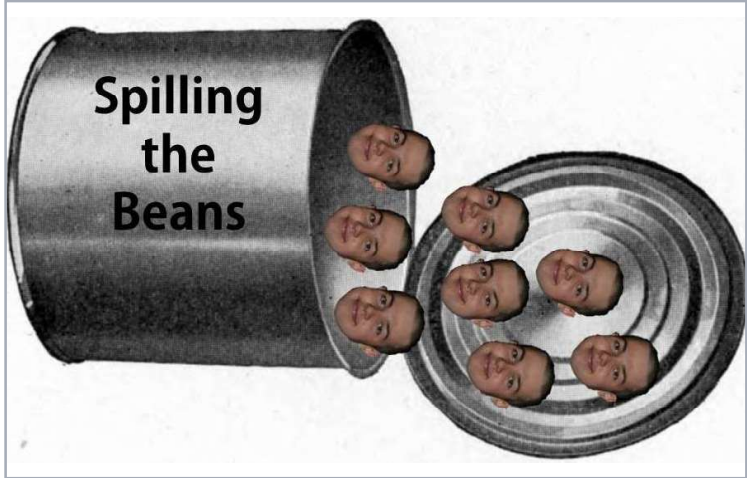
“It’ll make police officers feel that they have the right to do this more often and that they’re justified in what they do.”

-Liam Carrol, junior



Photo by Colten Shreiner

# Spilling the Beans: Police brutality isn’t always about race



Graphic by Alexis Morillo

By Justin Bean

The recent decisions of grand juries to not indict police officers has set off violent riots in the streets of cities across the country — most notably New York City; Ferguson, Missouri; and Cleveland, Ohio.

The three most prominent cases in the news as of late have been the deaths of Eric Gardner, Michael Brown and Tamir Rice. Many protesters and commentators, such as Braden Goyette, have grouped the three cases and added them to the so-called “long list of black males killed by officers.”

Their groupings have, in effect, taken the information of each case out of context arbitrarily and treated each case as one and the same. Many have even said that all three officers broke the law in their use of lethal force; examining the actual laws involved in the case reveals this to be false.

Did Daniel Pantaleo, the officer involved in the Eric Gardner case, violate police protocol by using an illegal chokehold during the takedown which resulted in Gardner’s death? Yes, chokeholds were banned by the New York Police Department in 1993.

Did Officer Darren Wilson use unjustifiably lethal force when he shot Michael Brown during a confrontation following a robbery? No, but Brown was unarmed, so the law may need to be amended to more explicitly clarify what is, and what isn’t, justifiable force.

Did Timothy Loehmann, the officer involved in the Tamir Rice case, violate any laws concerning the use of lethal force in the shooting that resulted in Rice’s death? No, but this case has made its impact through headlines like “Cleveland police shot and killed black 12-year-old Tamir Rice as he carried a toy gun” instead of the evidence in the case.

On November 22nd, the Cleveland Police Department received a 911 call from someone in the area who reported that someone, who has now been identified as Tamir Rice, was scaring people at a playground with a pistol. When officers responded to the call, they got out of the police car and ordered Rice to drop the pistol. Instead of complying, Rice moved the firearm in a way that 26 year old Officer Timothy Loehmann believed was intended to cause him harm. He

then followed his training and responded to the threat with lethal force. It was later discovered that Rice was twelve years old, and the firearm that he had was an airsoft

**“The the fact of the matter is that in that moment, it wouldn’t have mattered if Rice had been black, white, hispanic, or any other race.”**

gun, which looks identical to real firearms but fire BBs instead of bullets.

Many have been quick to condemn Loehmann’s actions as reactionary and racist, like the Rice family’s attorney, Benjamin Crump, who believes that the grand jury should’ve indicted the officer without even hearing the evidence in the case. In a recent interview, he stated that “We don’t need to have another grand jury, they can just indict the officer.” Even though he is an attorney, he blatantly disregarded an important Ohio law: the only way that charges can be brought to trial without a grand jury is for the defendant to waive his right to one. It isn’t for the victim’s family, attorneys, the public, or anyone but the grand jury to decide whether charges should be brought against the officer. Everyone deserves due process under the law, and it is the duty of the court system to enforce the laws which have been enacted, not to change them.

The fact of the matter is that in that moment, it wouldn’t have mattered if Rice had been black, white, hispanic, or any other race. At the time, he was someone who was armed with a gun who began to aim it at police, who were ordering him to stop. There was no way that he could tell that the airsoft gun Rice had wasn’t a real pistol. If he had hesitated, and the gun had been real, his name would’ve been added to the list of 1500 law enforcement officers who have been killed in the line of duty in the last decade. Based on his training, standard operating procedure, and the laws concerning the use of deadly force, he did his job.



# The Real Humans of Hunterdon Central

## Anonymous instagram highlights student diversity one post at a time



Photo courtesy of HOHC

Continued from page one

Allie and Abbie Rizzo, senior twin sisters, experienced the process of being photographed and interviewed firsthand. According to Abbie Rizzo, she and her sister were dressed in the same outfit for a sociology project when the Humans of Hunterdon Central bloggers approached them.

Abbie explains that after receiving permission to take the picture, HOHC “positioned us so we were looking at each other” to show the connection shared by the identical twins.

Allie Rizzo describes the account as funny, yet meaningful—the questions asked by HOHC are authentic, rather than “simple unnecessary ones.”

The Rizzo’s caption reads “What’s the weirdest thing about being a twin?” “We’re literally clones

of each other...We were supposed to be one person!” “The account is a perfect way to show the diversity and uniqueness we have within our school that students may have not realized or appreciated until they discovered the account,” said Abbie.

The two students that run the page say that the idea for the account came from a desire to ‘spread positivity.’ “Our goal is to show that everyone, no matter how young or old, has something interesting to say, whether it be humorous or inspiring or humbling and goofy,” HOHC said. HOHC accepts everyone with open arms—and an open lens cap. In order to decide what individual to highlight on a given day, HOHC looks at the girl to boy ratio on their page and attempts to vary the age group that they target. Then, they simply “walk around the buildings and just approach

people asking if they want to help us with a project.”

Although some accept with excitement, the most surprising thing HOHC says they have found is the amount of people that turn down the offer. This is perhaps attributed to uncertainty or lack of knowledge about the page.

Other negative responses have come in the form of hateful comments on social media. HOHC is quick to delete these comments. “It’s not that we don’t accept criticism, it’s that we want to keep the page positive, and we don’t want hurtful comments towards a person or the page in general on one person’s specific photo,” said HOHC. The page is meant to be uplifting and inspiring, reflecting the positive atmosphere of Hunterdon Central.

Humans of Hunterdon Central has big plans for the future. The bloggers hope to expand their following, aiming for 1,000 followers by the end of 2014. Aspiring to one day getting 500 likes on a picture, HOHC wishes to use the prevalent role of social media in students’ lives to promote a positive message. Additionally, the two students that run HOHC desire for their legacy to continue once they graduate this June.

Currently looking for juniors that share their passion, HOHC says they want this project to become more than just a one year

endeavour.

The HOHC duo hope that one day students can scroll through and see other students who graduated three or four years ago, and continue this tradition. This account has the potential to become

a sort of digital archive of the Hunterdon Central community. To get involved in the movement, you can check out Humans of Hunterdon Central on Instagram at the username\_hohc.



Photo by Libby Harrington

Juniors Sarah Wyatt and Brianna Anderson pose in festive attire for Humans of Hunterdon Central.

# The Hub: Central’s Tech gets an Update

By Julia Wickman and Angelisa Cuniff

Almost every student at Central has seen a member of the Central Hub come into their classroom to fix a technical issue.

The Central Hub is a group of students and teachers who either volunteer their time because of their interest in technology, or choose to take the elective Technology Intern class. Created in 2008 to help students and teachers with device support, the Central Hub opened its doors to student volunteers almost right away. Although the Central Hub is not officially a club, student and faculty meet during and after school to man the Hub, which is located in the IMC.

Student members who work at the Hub are allowed to diagnose and fix real life computer problems. Upon encountering an issue, teachers can submit help requests to the Hub. In a relatively short amount of time, the Hub will come to the teacher’s aid.

According to senior Jake Ponulak, there are many advantages of joining the Hub.

“Advisors train us in many different aspects of both hardware and software support, and then set us off on our own to apply these practices in classrooms and in other areas around Central,” he said.

Ponulak is not only Co-Student Leader of the Central Hub, but also the founder and president of the Information Technologies Club, which is the Hub’s sister club. In a way, both the student members and faculty advisors of the Club are the handymen (and women!) of the school

In addition to helping out teachers in technological dilemmas, the Central Hub helps out students too. For example, in order to get a device such as an iPod, tablet, iPad etc. connected to the school’s internet network, students can bring devices to the Central Hub, whose members will run a program on the computer so it will recognize the network in the future.

Also when working in the IMC,

a student can defer to the Central Hub for useful student equipment, such as headphones and webcams.

As a member of the Central Hub, one can expect a lot of exposure to modern software and practical experience in applying their skills to actual problems. In addition, student members of the Central Hub are able to connect with others whose interests also lie in the field of technology, and give them career direction, as working at the Hub did for Ponulak, who now knows he wants to major in Information Technology Management.

Although there are several different clubs that are based around technology, no clubs offer the real-life experience like a Central Hub membership does. According to Tim Klein, an advisor of the Central Hub, “Students work with, and are under the supervision of, the members of the Technical Services Team in the Information Systems Department.”

As a result of the expert managers of the club, students have access to hands on learning from ac-

tual professionals, and can see how the skills they are learning are applicable in the real world. Student volunteer Jake Ponulak agrees.

“Many of the adults in the Information Systems Department came from the corporate world in Tech Support, and they bring their best knowledge and practices to Hunterdon Central. I am able to take the knowledge and experience I

have gotten from the Hub program with me into my studies and further past that when I get a job in the field post-college.” If anyone is interested in furthering their understanding of technology, the Central Hub is the ideal organization to join and a fantastic volunteering opportunity.



Photo by Libby Harrington

Staff members solve technological dilemmas.

the lamp

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# Interstellar is out of this world

By Maanus Gulia

Does Interstellar live up to the hype? Yes it does. Not only is it another one of Christopher Nolan's epic movies, it is also an expansion on Matthew McConaughey's comeback after Dallas Buyer's Club. The plot of Interstellar is classic science fiction: Earth is almost uninhabitable, causing scientists to ultimately travel through a wormhole to find a planet that can support human life. But there is one problem: time—more specifically, relativity. Basically, time travels faster on Earth than certain time periods for Matthew McConaughey and his crew. Consequently, they need to complete their mission before Earth can no longer support life.

Despite all the research put into this movie, it is impossible to know how likely relativity and the outcomes of entering a black hole are. Yet there is uplifting evidence supporting it, such as Einstein's equation on relativity, which plays a huge role in the movie. Jonathon Nolan, the co-writer of the movie, and Christopher Nolan, both co-writer and director, took an interesting spin with Interstellar regarding black holes. Because no one knows what happens upon entrance of a black hole, they decided to make their own version of it, which remains scientifically probable. Regarding the wormhole, Nolan said

that they do not exist since something beyond human intelligence is needed to make one. As a result, he uses the wormhole in this movie as something that provides an opportunity for McConaughey, but then disappears afterwards.

**“Because no one knows what happens upon entrance of a black hole, they decided to make their own version of it, which remains scientifically probable”.**

As for the cast, McConaughey and Anne Hathaway had great chemistry in the film. Hathaway's acting ability was no surprise, especially after her stellar performance in Les Misérables. Additionally, Mackenzie Foy was unexpectedly good; she was melodramatic, but in a good way. Nowadays there aren't many good, authentic child actors, so kudos to her. Finally, McConaughey's acting was incredible, as there were a few emotional

moments where the audience was easily blown away. Plus, the visual effects were amazing; from detailing unforeseen planets to giant waves. Double Negative, a visual effects computer animation company, created such realistic scenes that made it all the more enrapturing and engaging for the audience.

The one drawback with Interstellar, however, was the ending. It was a little overdone and scientifically inaccurate. More specifically, Nolan replaced a potentially impactful ending with a happily-ever-after conclusion that wasn't impressive at all. Interstellar tells a science fiction plot which can merely hypothesize, yet perhaps it's not a bad thing that the ending was inaccurate because it seems appropriate. However, for drama purposes, they should have cut the ending from the movie. If it had given better closure, the film would have deserved a higher score, but in my opinion should only get a 7.5 out of 10. Most people regard this film as “good” which seems fair for what the movie is. So if you enjoy space movies that have a good story (basically Gravity with a plot, instead of just Sandra Bullock screaming in space) with spectacular visuals, then Interstellar is the movie for you.

## There's no backtracking our footsteps

By Kathryn Foster and Rebecca Masut

It's no secret that the Earth was healthier millions of years ago before electricity, gasoline emissions, and deforestation can about. People nowadays are so focused on becoming more technologically advanced and efficient that they don't stop to think about what their actions do to our planet. Every day our carbon footprint—the amount of carbon dioxide we emit into the atmosphere—increases without our even realizing just how impactful it really is. Burning fossil fuels like gasoline and coal, using incandescent light bulbs, and wasting electricity all contribute to the carbon footprint. By no means do people have to stop using electricity, or ride their bikes everywhere. That's just not realistic in this day and age. We've advanced so much over the last few thousand years, to turn back the clock that much simply can't be done. However, there are small adjustments we can all make that will reduce our carbon footprint on the world and spread awareness to our communities.

Instead of abusing the Earth by polluting it with wastes and poisoning the air, we should take care of our environment by limiting our electricity use, going organic, and using environmentally friendly products. For example, switching out one incandescent light bulb with a compact fluorescent bulb can prevent 400 pounds of greenhouse gases from being released. Just imagine how many pounds we could prevent if everyone changed just one light bulb in their house. This relatively small change can make a tremendous impact on the environment. Another way to live sustainably includes turning off the water when not in use while brushing, shaving, etc. Not only will simple things like this reduce our carbon footprint, but they can also put more cash in the pocket. By running a dishwasher completely full, people can save about \$40 a year and up to 100 pounds of carbon dioxide. Again, \$40 might not seem like much, but it is a lot in the long term.

At the current rate of environmental deterioration, it's unknown how much longer our planet will be safe enough for humans to survive. The more greenhouse gases we emit into the air correlates directly with the warmer the planet gets because the gases become trapped by our atmosphere. Due to the increase in heat, glaciers are melting in addition to many ecosystems being destroyed. This is causing polar bears and other wildlife to lose their homes; imagine our grandchildren not knowing what a polar bear is. We need to take action to prevent a future of such ignorance from happening. As many people know, in order to create true change in the world, a sizable group of people must come and work together. It is in the best interest of everyone to try and reduce the amount of electricity and electronics we use everyday. A few simple tips to reduce your carbon footprint can include small things like shutting off the television when you aren't watching it, eating organic foods, and fixing leaky faucets to reduce the amount of energy you use.

In addition to home remedies there are also many environmentally conscious habits that can be translated into everyday school routines. In order to minimize the carbon footprint during lunch make sure to get a lunchbox rather than consistently using brown paper bags. You can also work to recycle all plastic water bottles, or better yet, refill reusable water bottles at the water refill stations which are located throughout campus. In terms of homework and classwork, a quick fix is to use programs such as Google Drive, rather than using a new slice of paper for every assignment.

Many of these changes are very small and easy to implement into the everyday routine, but all of these can make a huge impact on the future of our planet. In addition to carrying out the initiatives mentioned above, one can also join Hunterdon Central's Environmental Society.

If society continues down this path of destruction, at some point in the future the world may not be capable of sustaining humans. With the atmosphere diminished from greenhouse gases and the oceans polluted with toxic chemicals, the comfortable life as we know it will never be the same. If we aren't the first to take these steps towards improving our world, who will be?

Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

Galaxy photo courtesy of Ryan Wick  
Astronaut photo courtesy of Wikimedia  
Satellite and space shuttle photo courtesy of Pixabay



# Girls volleyball sets the bar for next year with state championship win

## *Everyone on the court contributes to a stellar season*

Continued from page one

The valor and tenacity that carried the girls throughout the state tournament match is a true testament to the hard work the girls put in all season long. With only five seniors, the team was fairly young. But the leadership of the veterans proved to be valuable; not only to motivate the team throughout this season, but also to set a standard for the years to come.

Each player seemed to benefit from the guidance and support of their veterans. Junior Meagen Kern, a first year varsity defensive specialist and libero explained the dynamic. "The seniors understood the HC girls volleyball culture that Coach Fenton instilled in them and passed it along to the team," said Kern. "They showed confidence throughout the entire season, making us all

believe in ourselves and each other."

There is no doubt that thanks to Coach Fenton, the 'HC girls volleyball culture' is one of excitement and hard work.

"Our coaches worked so hard to implement unity, respect, discipline, and hard work into everything we did," said Pansari. "Since our team really established this HCVB culture, one of our main focuses next season will be to continue and expand that type of culture."

In addition, strong team chemistry also set this team apart from the rest. From sleepovers, to team dinners, the team had a good amount of team bonding activities. According to Pansari, this was the key to their success.

"It is usually difficult to get in a lot of team bonding in a short season but this year was different; we did so much as a team. It didn't even feel



The team celebrating after their championship victory.

Photo courtesy of Lynn Vorwick

like we were 'team bonding,' it felt more like I was just hanging out with a bunch of my best friends," Pansari said.

Mackenzie Bruzzio, junior, is one of the middle hitters on the team. Her admiration for the seniors certainly showed. "It felt really good to win for the seniors and represent them. It was their last time on the team and we wanted to make it memorable for them because we were all very close," said Bruzzio.

The girls volleyball team proved that when you mix endless dedication with a few comeback victories, you get a season that will forever be remembered in the eyes of Hunterdon Central. With a strong group of underclassmen who worked off of the seniors' leadership, the future is bright for Hunterdon Central Girls Volleyball.



The girls volleyball team linking arms, a tradition before every game.

Photo courtesy of Olivia Saunders

## Student athletes warming up for winter sports

By Chris Testa

Every year, by the time December starts, winter sports kick off at Hunterdon Central. In fact, the first competition of the season was on Saturday, December 6, where the varsity hockey team faced off against Bernards High School at Aspen Ice, and started off the season with a 6-3 win. The bowling team got rolling just three days later, which was followed by the basketball, swimming, fencing

to participate after the tryout process. Head track coach Jon DeLisle understands the trying nature of selecting who to cut. "It's difficult because it's not fun to have to cut thirty-five or forty kids," said DeLisle.

Some sports, like bowling, don't need to make as many cuts on their team. On the flipside, track and swimming have a huge field of athletes competing for a spot. The overall turnout to track tryouts before first cuts hovered right around

How a student prepares for each tryout varies from sport to sport. For example, in basketball, the coaches need to evaluate players on things such as ball control, shooting ability, defense, speed, and so on, whereas in fencing, hand-eye coordination and quick decision making are heavily examined. Muscular strength, endurance, and strong cardio are extremely necessary for wrestling, track, and swimming.

Sophomore Kristof Szabo was on the swimming team last year and can attest to the complexity of tryouts. "The swimming tryouts are done over the course of a week," said Szabo. "We do a 100-meter race of our stroke and a 200-meter individual medley, to give the coaches an idea of our overall capabilities, as well as our capabilities in our preferred stroke." Also, for bowling, it takes persistence in practice and intense accuracy for the team to perform at its highest potential.

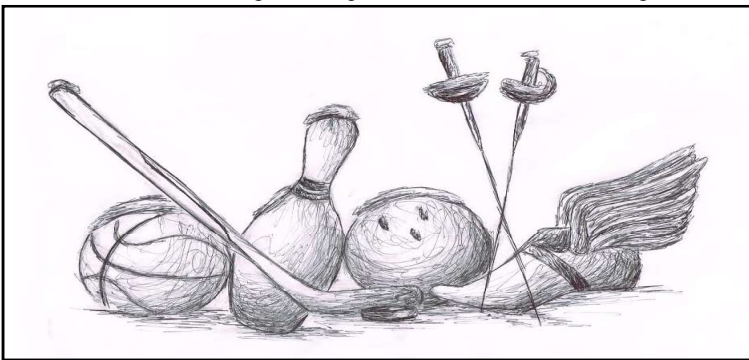
Wrestling, swimming, and track cuts need to be most carefully planned out in order for the teams to perform well in the current year as well as to develop the team for the future. Without the advantage of having a team designated entirely for freshmen, as many other sports do, these sports have a harder time making the cuts.

Coaches also need to make these decisions based on where they need more athletes, as in weight class, event group, or swimming leg. While other sports need to take position into account as well, they don't need at least five at each position.

These sports do, however, need to make some decisions based on assumption. When assessing running, swimming, or strength, an

athlete is often consistent on a day-to-day basis. In basketball or hockey, however, good and bad days are par for the course.

All things taken into account, the final cuts for all winter sports are made. Teams are working together and training to perform at a high level, as the heart of the season approaches quickly. Compared to recent years, competitions are starting very early. This forces earlier tryouts and a faster transition between fall and winter sports. But now, with all fall sports officially in the books, the Hunterdon Central winter sports crew looks to break as many records and win as many titles as possible before spring.



Cartoon by Kathleen Adams

Students gear up to play various winter sports this year.

and wrestling teams competing the week after. The final team to start competing will be the winter track team with the Gardiner Holiday Relays taking place on the 20.

One of the most difficult parts of coaching is deciding who continues

140, which causes a predicament for the track coaches. "Having so many athletes trying out is also a good thing though because it means that a lot of people are interested, which is important in such a big school," said DeLisle.



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