

Sochi residents celebrate the International Olympic Committee's decision to hold 2014 Winter Olympics in their city.

#### This year's Sochi Olympics will include 12 news sports that will broaden the field while providing the viewers with a more diverse array of events

By Mikaela Lindemann

The Olympics is holding winter sports competitions in Sochi, Russia. Even though there was controversy leading up to these events, Team USA prepares to take the competition by storm. This year's Olympic Games include 12 new sports.

These sports include luge mixed relay, biathlon mixed relay, team figure skating, women's ski

jumping, freestyle halfpipe (men and women), freestyle skiing slopestyle (men and women), snowboard slopestyle (men and women) and parallel slalom (men and women). In each of these events, there are some American athletes to look out for at the upcoming Olympics.

The first new type of Olympic sport is the luge mixed relay. This event makes each country send three sleds (women's, men, then pairs) down the track. Whichever

country has the best time from totalling times wins. Predictions say that the U.S team will perform well this year. A few teammates have some experience from past Olympic games while others are experiencing their first Olympics.

The biathlon mixed relay is a mixed gender sport that consists of skiing and shooting. In the past, the biathlon had men's and women's relays, but never mixed. The teams have two men and two women.

Each of them have to ski three laps and then they have to shoot for two rounds. US's biathlon team is an experienced group, but they haven't won any big competitions yet. The teams to watch out for are the the Czechs and the Germans.

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### Changes will not impede Devil's Cabaret

By Lia Chen

over 40 years, Devil's Cabaret has been an extravagant showcase of the most impressive. exciting, and diverse talents here at Hunterdon Central. Dozens of students audition each year with high hopes of landing one of the 20 coveted spots in the incredible annual performance. Cabaret never fails to entertain the massive crowds of students, teachers, and parents who attend the show every spring, and it's also arguably one of the most popular and electrifying events of the school year.

Unlike previous years, however, this is the first year that the school is no longer providing stipends for the teachers who dedicate hours of their time helping the students produce the show. Hunterdon Central's incredibly devoted teachers will essentially be volunteering their time in order to continue the wonderful legacy of Devil's Cabaret this year.

William Magalio has been Cabaret's sole director for the past few years, and earlier, several directors assisted with vocal and instrumental groups. "Mr. Kenny will be returning as the director of instrumental groups, while Ms. Colton and Mrs. Petrushun will all be returning as directors of the vocal groups," said Magalio. "I will direct the dance acts and other types of acts along with the emcees, and will coordinate the entire event. In addition, student directors, seniors Brandon Graham and Shannon Kelliher, along with the incredible stage crew, will help organize the

technical aspects that are required to put on such a spectacular show.

Consequently, this year's show holds a few alterations to the audition and rehearsal processes. First and foremost, all of the auditions categories—instrumental, vocal, dance, and "other" acts) will your butt off doing it." take place in one day, April 23.

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## Myth club gets real

By Taylor Allen

During block five, there are about 15 students sitting in front a projector while someone presents a powerpoint. This crowd, instead of being predictably quiet and uninterested, the audience is lively. They banter, compare facts, and make jokes while sometimes being loud enough for the teachers next door to ask the students to be more quiet. It's an interesting sight to see such interest and learning simultaneously.

The purpose of the Mythology Club is to help its members learn more about all types of mythology. While the club mostly explores Greek and Roman mythology, it also touches on lesser-known varieties such as Norse, Japanese, and Native American. Every week a student makes a presentation about a topic in mythology to initiate the conversation.

English teacher and advisor Cynthia Forck is astounded with the club members' commitment to learning. "I am constantly impressed on how into it the kids are," she said. "I cannot think of another situation where kids are making powerpoints for fun."

Mythology Club originated with former student Ethan France six years ago. Ethan France became fascinated with everything related to with mythology after learning about it in class. When he found out that he could possibly start a club, he was referenced to Forck, who helped him create the club. The club started with six students but now consists of about fifteen regulars.

The most common misconception about the club is that it is simply a study group. Although there is an annual Greek and Roman Mythology test called the Medusa Mythology Test that the group is encouraged to take at the end of March, the group itself is more interactive.

Dominique DeSeta, president of the club, said "Mythology club is not iust a club where we sit around reading old myths and speak and debate about them. We are able to make all types of mythology fun and modern. You will learn so much, and laugh

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## NEWS

#### School calendar approved

By Shannon Beam and Allie Rubin

At the Board of Education meeting on January 27, the 2014-2015 school calendar was made official. The Instructional Council is responsible for creating the calendar. deciding when the breaks should fall and what days should be off.

The Instructional Council is made up of three teachers, three administrators, and a board member who observes their meetings. They come up with one or two possible calendars that are slightly different to ultimately present to the Board of Education.

The Instructional Council first presents provisional calendars to the Site-Based Advisory Team (SBAT). SBAT has the power to choose to make additions or deletions as needed. Once approved, the calendar is presented to the board and voted upon.

At the beginning of the school year, parents and staff were asked to participate in a survey that asked a series of questions about their preferences.

This year, Instructional Council agreed to to present only one calender for board approval, so there was no need for SBAT to weight in.. This survey was sent out as an effort by the board of education to gauge what should be considered when creating a new schedule. The questions asked for feedback regarding the framework of the school calendar — the date that school should start as well as possible ways to alter spring break. Some of the questions dealt with accommodating certain religious or cultural holidays, most likely sparked by the response to Central being open during Rosh Hashanah this school year.

A question on the survey inquired, "Would you be in favor of Hunterdon Central eliminating/ shortening either winter break or Spring break and instead scheduling five days off throughout the school year that coincide with vari-

ous religious or cultural holidays?" Six hundred eighty-nine parents responded to the Calendar Survey and 87 percent voted "No" when it came to eliminating or shortening winter break or spring break.

Mary Woods, an English teacher, gave some insight as to why so many of the staff members may have opposed the change to the school calendar. "I want those days between quarters to grade assignments and prepare for my new classes," she said, "This would benefit both my previous and incoming

The last two questions on the survey asked if the parents would prefer a school year that began in August and ended one week earlier in June or a school year that began in August and ended after the third week in June. Most faculty members were not in favor of starting school in late August, before Labor Day, as opposed to the first week or two of September.

The Instructional Council takes into account the results from the calendar survey, while working toward an ideal schedule that matches teacher workshop days with all sending districts so that days off would be universal.

Richard Schneebeli, one of the three administrators on the Instructional Council, explained, "the problem is that everyone wants to end early but no one wants to start

According to Schneebeli, the committee started off by picking a date in June that they wanted to end school by. Then, they went back to add in all of the statedeclared holidays such as Martin Luther King Day. They also make sure that the calendar fits with the teachers' contract.

The Instructional Council tried to have students get out by June 12 because they felt that it would benefit students who work and have summer jobs. Also it could benefit seniors who want to prepare for college. Unfortunately, they were not able to achieve this goal.

#### 2014-2015 School Calendar

| First Day of School | September 3    |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Winter Break        | Dec 24 - Jan 2 |
| Spring Break        | Mar 30 - Apr 3 |
| Last Day of School  | June 17        |



## **PULSE fights against** school's internet filter

By Katie Hyland

People Understanding Love Serves Everyone (PULSE), run into problems with the school's web filter. According to club advisor Kerry Kelly, numerous LGBT websites are blocked for reasons that remain unclear to the club. Nycpride.org, Out.com, and Igbtcenterstl.org are among the websites flagged for inappropriate, "adult content"; however, a quick perusing of the site on a non-Hunterdon Central computer seems to reveal nothing of the sort.

The LGBT Center of St. Louis states that its goal is "to provide a safe and welcoming space, resources and support to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex and allied community." Further exploration of the website I shows links to arts programs, vol-

> unteer opportunities and community outreach services.

The filtering of these LGBT sites has proved to be a problem to those both in and out of the club, PULSE. For those who are a part of PULSE. students often find resources at home to share with the club and then find themselves when they

can't

access

the same websites on the school computers.

There have also been cases of students researching LGBT topics for class, trying to find information for projects concerning critical issues or human rights, who find the filter a nuisance. Senior co-president Aidan Luzzi has encountered obstacles with the website filtering. "Students working on the Global Studies capstone paper in particular have been frustrated with the limited resources available," she

While it is evident that many of these websites don't have the "adult" material they are purported to have, students should also avoid jumping to conclusions about why they were blocked in the first place. Kelly would like to make clear that she does not believe these websites were filtered due to any sort of bigotry or discrimination. She notes that many LGBT websites can be accessed on the school website, and that there doesn't seem to be any distinction in the types of content available on the blocked sites versus the un-blocked ones. "I would be more upset if every single [LGBT] website was blocked," Kelly stated. She also expressed that she didn't understand why some sites are off limits and others are not. "There doesn't seem to be any rhyme or reason," she said.

A large part of understanding why certain websites are censored comes from understanding how the school's internet filter works. Kevin Searles from the Information Systems department at the Central Hub acknowledges the problems with the internet filters but also understand why they occur.

According to Searles, the filter operates much like antivirus software. It identifies websites with

known issues, including but not limited to inappropriate language, pornography, and malicious software. Then, a pattern of websites is created from that information which are all then blocked. Any student trying to access one of those sites will be met instead with the familiar Barracuda logo.

Nonetheless, Searles acknowledges that the school's software is not perfect, and that it is not unlikely for innocuous websites to be flagged for inappropriate content that is not there. In regard to PULSE, Searles states that the Central Hub is happy to help solve the issue. "If it is brought to our attention that [a blocked site] is legitimate for student use, we will clear it" he said.

Nevertheless, what Kelly still finds troubling is what these filters represent to those still coming to terms with their sexual identities. "Our whole goal is to make everyone feel accepted and valued for who they are," she said. "If someone is experiencing something and they want to know more about it, but everything comes out blocked, they could just shut down and feel like there is something wrong with them, like they are something dirty." This is an experience PULSE tries to avoid, and therefore is one of the main reasons the club is determined to bring these resources back online.

Kelly stated that the club plans to sort through the websites, print the pages out at home, and prove which sites are legitimate and which sites aren't. While it will be hard work for the club, if it will do something to make students feel more comfortable and more accepted, it will be well worth the effort as the club continues to fight to achieve its goal of equality.



## Alex Carr, headed in the right direction

By Alexis Morillo

Simply stated, Hunterdon Central is a melting pot. The size of the school and the diverse opportunities offered allow for a wide variety of students to find their niche and pursue whatever their passions may be. For junior Alex Carr, finding his niche was easy.

At the age of six, while many were merely worried about their first year of kindergarten, Carr was already performing on stage as Jonathan Rockefeller in "Sleepy Hollow" at Downtown Performing Arts Center in Lambertville.

He credits his interest in theater to his mother, as it began when he moved to the states from the small town of Beckonsfield in England, "I had just moved from the UK and was new to America. I had legitimately zero friends and nothing to keep me busy," he said. "That is, until my mom signed me up for this show. It was crazy how fast I fell in love with theater."

Along with being an actor, he with," he said.

is a singer, a connoisseur of ice cream at his job at Flemington's Cold Stone Creamery, and an excellent hugger.

between school work, rehearsal, and his job, he balances a social life and a close knit group of friends. His group of friends are most well known for their undying loyalty to Shrek, and for their overwhelmingly goofy presence at Central.

But all jokes aside, he holds his friends in a high regard. "They're so supportive and kind and are some of the coolest people I could surround myself



Alex Carr perfoms as Jay Kernitz in a production of "Lost in Yonkers" on January 30, 2014 at the Somerset Valley Playhouse.

When Carr isn't hanging out with friends or performing he can be found singing Justin Timberlake's "Señorita" under his breath or watching his favorite movie, The

for this 80s clasrepresents willingness to break free from social stereotypes that are found in the school environment.

"It's a perfect examp**l**e as to why you shouldn't be too quick to judge and that even the most unlikely of people can hecome close."

Outside of Central's theater productions, Carr acts

in a variety of places in New York and New Jersey. In the summer he participates in a program at the Paper Mill Summer Music Conservatory. With an estimated involvement in over 60 shows throughout the years, he has the experience and enthusiasm to continue pursuing his love for theater.

"I would love to be a part of Next to Normal because it's a small cast so everyone would bond, plus the music is amazing," he said.

In a school this large, some find it easy to fall through the cracks, but Carr had the drive needed to stand out in the crowd. But like most 16-year-olds, he also deals with the stress of Central's rigorous courses and preparation for the upcoming college application process.

As of right now Carr is living a pretty typical teenage life, but he has high hopes for the future. "In 10 years, hopefully I'll still be performing. It's all I want to do in life," he

"Whenever I'm on stage everything else goes away, I only have to worry about making others happy, which is the most important thing in the world."

## A legendary club at Central

Many of the members love the club because it consists of storytelling. People are frequently interested in the unusual and epic aspects of the gods. "We have so many people who are so passionate about mythology and who we can learn from," said DeSeta. "Also we have a great group of people who have become friends and hangout even outside the

Junior Allison Rosengarden, vice-president, stumbled upon the club by accident. "I tagged along one day with my friend, Megan Drew, and she loved mythology. I came that day and I just loved it," she said. Ever since then, Rosengarden been a regular member.

DeSeta prefers the social aspect of the club. "I think the best part of the club is the people," she said. People don't seem to really grasp everything great tually experience it.

As for the future of the club, Forck emphasizes that new members are always welcome. As an English teacher, she finds that mythology is a unit within the class most students seem to enjoy. "Try it out. It's fun," she said. "It's louder and more boisterous than one would expect."

DeSeta shares Forck's desire for additional members. "My hope for the future is that we can get more underclassmen interested in the club," she said. "While we have a bigger number than a few years ago, most are juniors and seniors. It is a great way to learn some stuff, help your grades and have a great time doing it."

Mythology Club meets every Thursday in room 806 during block 5. For more information contact Cynthia Forck at cforck@hcrhs.org.

## Sketch Club: leaving a mark



The Sketch Club's murals include everything from landscapes to popular culture references: planet's (600s), s nature scene (600s), a farm (700s), pop art (900s), Harry Potter (600s), Tardis (900s stairwell) and door frame (700s).

By Emma Frenchu

Harry Potter, a dream catcher, Mulan, a farm: all of these are featured in murals created by members of Central's Sketch Club. At Central, the Sketch Club's goal is to provide art for the community by painting and drawing various scenes and backgrounds around

> However, that's all that club

members do. Fach month club members work with the students of Educating Kids with Work. Independent Living, Personal and Social Skills **EKWIPS** by providing interactive and fun craft everyone can enjoy. Club ad-

invo**l**ved

with the outreach. "The program run for the EKWIPS students occurs the first Monday of each month, and we try to do activities that explore a variety of media," said Blanton.

"Each week the students come up with a craft or activity that they think the EKWIPS students would enjoy and can be completed during

In the past members like junior Kristen DeVico have helped lead activities like painting pumpkins and creating dry erase calendars. "It's so great to see the kids' creative sides play out," said DeVico.

"Our first time [doing a craft with the students] was in October, so Schaffer Farms donated pumpkins to us and the kids painted them," said DeVico. "Then in November, we gathered leaves and they painted over them and drew in the white spaces."

Erica Gaeta, a junior, is also an active member of the club and enjoys working with the EKWIPS stu-

"Working with the EKWIPS kids has been a great experience, more and more students show up each month and it's awesome to help them make art," said Gaeta.

The most noticeable contribution Sketch Club makes, however, are the murals its students produce. Students create the paintings for a variety of reasons: they think that the artwork makes the school more interesting to walk through, painting on walls gives a different perspective of art and also because they are leaving an artistic legacy to be remembered by.

Students usually design the artwork themselves and then submit a sketch for approval. "They usually get inspiration from the classes that are generally in the location or from their personal interests," said

"Just like that the students are so diverse. We strive for the murals to reflect that as well." Members usually work after school to complete their murals.

The murals going up this year come in a great variety, according to senior member Crina Magalio. Magalio is working on a spacethemed portrait.

"Students get inspiration from everywhere, but usually we make designs of things we're interested and are passionate about," she said.

Sketch Club meets every Monday during Block 5 in room 710. New members are welcomed. For more information contact Lindsey Blanton at Iblanton@hcrhs.org.



## REAT



# The Science of Love in the Animal Kingdom

By Aaron Lewy and Chris Ratanski

When we aren't shark tamers, paleontologists, astronomers, or zoologists, Team Trading Brains extends into the world of feelings, as Love Gurus. Of course, Valentine's Day is coming up, and being The Lamp's resident experts on the topic, we present to you the scientific guide to how, one might say, certain species pick up a dame. Now we don't mean any of those cheesy pick up lines, no, we are heading straight for the factual science- proven policies of catching one of those many fish in the sea. Ladies and gents, The Trading Brains "Guide to Not Being Lonely on Valentines Day."

A popular way that male birds court their female counterparts is strutting their stuff. And by that, I mean their feathers. For example, male peacocks have beautiful feathers adorning their back, and when they shake them the lady peacocks come running. (NOTE: does not always work with humans, Aaron has tried multiple times.) However, you can use this to your human advantage by wearing bright pink and red that full on screams, "I'm clearly single, I clearly do not have a date, and I am ready to mingle." In our book, the best way to show availability is to show desperation.

Another interesting, yet effective tool that non-homo sapiens creatures, like insects, utilize to find a proper mate is to catch a desirable prey and present it with passion.

An insect such as the dance fly will catch a smaller insect in its silk and will bring it to a female for her to snack on. If she deems it worthy, like a Gordon Ramsey-caliber meal, the male will go home with a smile on his face. Other insects such as the cricket or cicada call for their mates. The males usually do the crooning by rubbing their forewings together. In our world, this could relate to a determined boy singing a song for a chick who he's trying to bring to a flick.

And then this brings you to the hopeless romantic of the animal kingdom, the emperor penguin. Once the female penguin lays the egg, she transfers it to the male and is gone with the wind. They leave to go to the sea for about two months to collect food, leaving the poor guy without any food and not much but the other guy penguins for warmth. What would you do with all that alone time? Even though Aaron and myself are quite the romantic types, this would definitely be pushing the limits. We think just about the only thing that would bribe either one of us to do that is an autographed picture of our bud David Hasselhoff's pecs - but we'd do just about anything for one of those.

Moreover, the animal kingdom can be a ruthless but, at the same time, charming place for the thing we know as love. Let it be a lesson learned to any Valentine free patrons out there that it could be worse, a lot worse. You could have to wait in sub-zero conditions for months. You could have to be compared to other creatures who were born with brighter colors. You could have been a praying mantis, which is immediately decapitated by its lover after mating. We don't need to go on, but what we can leave with, is that being a human has its perks with the wonderful lack of a fear of death from finding a mate. You can survive the month, we promise.



# Valentine's Day:

# Would you rather: Bloody goat whip or grocery store chocolate?

By Jackie Berardo

Valentine's Day for most of us: a day for getting chocolates and flowers for our loved ones.

Valentine's Day for Latin teachers Philip Cipolla and Greg Gichan: a day for riding around a hill on horseback, whipping the girl you like with a bloody goat-whip.

You could say there's been a sort of "cultural gap" since the Valentine's Day of Late Roman Antiquity, but there's a lot we can learn from these two teachers. This includes the fact that not getting your girlfriend flowers this February 14 could land you a slap in the face and the wrath of the Ancient Gods in all their unforgiving glory.

Forget about the Saint Valentine we all learned about while exchanging Shop-Rite Valentines in second grade. According to Gichan, this classic story is only one of hundreds that came before the first. "There are many many layers of what came before our modern Valentine's Day, reaching all the way back to Roman Antiquity and all the way into the Late Middle Ages," he said. So where does the bloody goat-whip come in? Well, interestingly enough, that goat whip was one of the first.

It was the story of Romani ferias amaverunt, the Roman Holiday of love, laiden with the detailed images of a cave, goat's blood, and a parade of Roman men and women flinging it at each other. Within the deep reds and pinks that make us swoon on February's special day is an ancient ritual that's older than the school's textbooks. In Europe thousands of years ago, it was believed that during the month of February, men and women must give thanks to the things that gave them life and the gods that gave them these things, or else the great heavenly ones would use their supernatural power to basically destroy everyone. Thus naturally, to show appreciation for the things they loved, the Romans decided to kill other things, and over the years the Romans made sacrifices throughout the month of February before eventually settling on goats as the most effective sacrificial animal.

The Roman men would take this sacrificial goat to the cave of the "fauna", a half-god, half-goat-like creature known as the god "Pan" in Greek mythology, (also believed

to be connected to our modern Cupid), and carve him up to make a whip which would be dipped in the goat's blood and prepared for the real ceremony. Yeah, blood: red blood, red as in the red that we all swoon over on roses and candies on February 14. So, are those red roses still gorgeous?

"Now here is where it might get a little 'weird", Cipolla cautions in the midst of the story, but what hasn't been "weird" so far?

women would all line up in a circle around Palatine hill. and the men would take these bloody whips and run around the women with them, gently flicking blood onto the women they took a liking to," he said. "Very very gently, more like a slight twitch of the wrist."

"The Roman

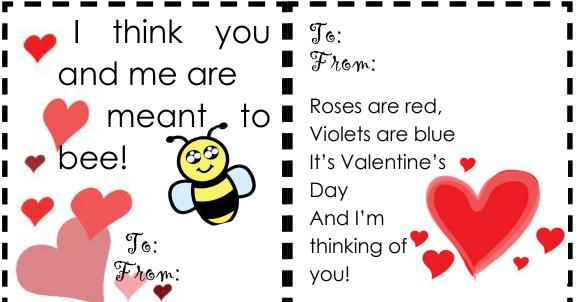
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"Some women were chosen. some weren't, but if you were chosen you could write a letter to the man that chose you and place it in an urn where he could pick it up and afterwards invite vou on a date." he said. These might have been the very first "love-letters" or what have now become "cutevalentine'sday-texts."

So, this February, if you're fretting over not getting the right box of chocolates from your boyfriend, or crying over the fact that you didn't get a carnation from that kid in the back of chemistry class, remember, it could be worse. You could be the Roman woman that doesn't get chosen to be splattered with goat's blood by her crush from down at the market.

So keep that in mind, and maybe rethink what color you want those roses to be. Felix die Valentines! Happy Valentine's Day!





## Love is in the Air

# Young and In Love or Young and Indifferent?

By Sam Little

It's a rite of passage. A natural, awkward, beautiful, yucky process where boy meets girl, girl meets boy, they talk, and they giggle. Then the boy has to lift the rock out of his stomach and ask the girl out. Pop culture has shown it a thousand times. It's a classic.

But how much of that really happens? Does everyone have a Peter Parker and Mary-Jane Watson story? Or are we all just a bunch of Michael Ceras bumbling through adolescence?

The brave souls of the Hunterdon Central Lamp staff decided to enter the most terrifying environment known to teenkind, the freshman cafeteria, to find this answer. We channeled our inner Indiana Jones, grabbed our hat and whip, and began our search for the Holy Grail of high school: young love.

Right outside the cafeteria

stood a huddle freshmen poking boys, each other. giggling and probably talking about farts. Inside, the girls and boys sat segregated. There was virtually intermingling.

The boys didn't seem to take much notice that Valentine's Day was right around the corner, but they were heavily invested in their pizza and bag lunches.

Freshman Alex Cooper barely aware that Valentine's Day was a holiday. "Are we even supposed to do anything?" said Cooper. The more information he learned about his first high school Valentine's Day, the more confused he got. "What's a carnation?" think I'm just gonna stay home and play bike race."

"I'm going to eat my feelings," said a kid nearby, not looking up from his game of Flappy

Cooper then gestured to one of his buddies and said "Hey! He wants this one girl..." but then the boy turned and sprinted away.

The girls seemed to have a little more of a pessimistic view about Valentine's Day. A resounding "NO" in unison was their response to whether or not they had Valentine's Day plans. "I'd like a boy to do something, it's just not going to happen," said one of them.

"My mom usually gets me chocolate!" said freshman Rachel Griffin, the most optimistic of the group. However, most of them agreed with the sentiments of Tara Dolan, another freshman. "I'll just cry alone in my room," said Dolan and the rest of the girls nodded with a mix of grief and acceptance.

All hope for young love seemed lost. But, like a gem hiding in a dark tomb, a table of freshman boys sat by the door. These young Romeos had stars in their eyes as they stared across the cafeteria. "There's a girl over there, her name is Cali. We're dating, she just doesn't know it yet," said one of the boys. When he found out about the carnation sale, his eyes lit up. "I'll buy her 85," he said.

They were giddy about girls. They bucked every stereotype about butterflies and rocks that sit in stomachs. They laughed and joked about girls instead of running down the hallway like your average teen. These kids had a refreshing energy about them that tends to

wear away as high school drags on. High school Valentine's Day is the awkward phase, stuck in limbo between Buzz Lightyear cards for the whole class and champagne and rose petals for that special someone. It's weird and goofy and pretty much accepted as pointless. But once a year we build up a ton of hype for one day to let your crush know how many times you've stalked their Facebook profile or how soft you think their skin looks. Maybe you'll strike gold. Maybe you'll get that elusive "yes." Maybe you'll even get a kiss for your efforts. Or you might end up crying with Dolan. But whatever you decide to do the staff at The Lamp wants to wish you all good luck and a Happy Valentine's Day!

## Valentine's Day Tips, Tricks, and Advice

#### To the Guys, From the Girls

By Jane Higle

We all know Valentine's Day is right around the corner, but if you're like a lot of your fellow guy friends, you're going to wait until the night before to rush out and buy her the 'perfect gift'. Here are some tips from the girls to help you snag that special someone...

"You can't go wrong with flow ers, especially because she gets to carry them around all day and will secretly love all the attention!" -Emma Kaeser, senior

"Buy her a Ring Pop!"
-Hannah Bruzzio, senior

"Don't overthink it! Most girls would love even just a little note saying how much they care or their favorite memory with them. You don't have to go out and buy a fancy piece of jewelry or a dozen long-stemmed roses!"

-Erin McQuade, junior

"Take her on a surprise destination road trip." -Melissa Heintz, junior "Food is the gateway to any girl's heart." -Tory Engel, senior

"Surprise her with a carnation with a note attached as well as her favorite stuffed animal." -Alejandra Santos, sophomore

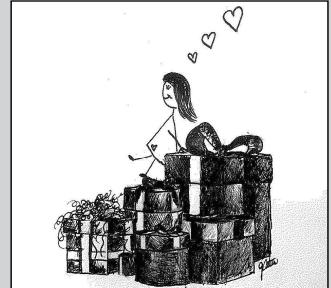
"Make her a mixed CD with your favorite songs." -Nicolette Riordan, freshman

"Take her out for Chipotle." -Rachel Weil, senior

"A teddy bear and some chocolate always makes the perfect gift." -Emily DeLessio, sophomore

So, if it is Thursday night, February 13, and you still don't know what to do, sit down and scribble a note, call in an order for a bouquet of flowers, or hope the stores stay open until 10 p.m.

"Don't act like it's just another day because girls appreciate the little things you do." said junior Alyssa Cherichello. "Chances are, if you go out of your way to do one nice thing, they'll appreciate it"



Cartoon by Grace Peters

#### To the Girls, From the Guys

By Jess Cavallaro and Olivia Kane

So it's no secret that girls might have some expectations when Valentine's Day rolls around. The pressure on these girls' lovers might get a little intimidating. If you're trying to find the perfect idea for your man this holiday, check out what these guys have to say.

"Make a CD or a playlist with all of your favorite songs and bands."

-lan Baldwin, sophomore

"Girls should pretend to be really excited when they get their gift."

-Austin Ciccarino, senior

"It's all about the T-game, honestly." -Aiden Lewy, senior

"Compliment his anything." -Jack Amabile, freshman "If it's not official make it Facebook official." -Tyler Sarno, junior

"Buy him some fresh J's." -Frankie Peake, senior

"Woo him with fine chocolates."
-Liam Carroll, freshman

"Make your boy a fat steak and offer to watch the game with him."

-Tommy Vitale, junior

It's important to remeber that Valentine's Day is about love and while it's great to shower your woman in gifts, we can't leave the men out in the cold. Consider the wise words of senior Tim Perkins: "No man likes to be outdone by his Valentine, so buy him a mini box of chocolates to let him know that his girlfriend is cool enough to make Valentine's Day special enough for the both of them."



Photos courtesy of clker.com and flickr

## OPINIONS



Lanes in Fort Lee leading into the George Washington Bridge were closed for several hours due to Christie's "traffic study".

## Water under the Bridge-gate?

#### How the recent scandal affects Christie's shot at the Oval Office

By Justin Bean

There have been quite a few political scandals that we as a nation have seen in the last few decades. We saw Nixon go down with Watergate because he was personally involved in the cover up of the break in. We saw Bill Clinton get impeached to the House of Representatives, because he lied under oath about what he did with one of his secretaries. Now New Jersey is looking at yet another scandal, aptly nicknamed "Bridgegate." Emails were released to the press on January 8, which showed that Bridget Anne Kelly, Governor Christie's deputy chief of staff, had emailed port authority employees, "Time for some traffic problems in Fort Lee." This was reportedly the reason several lanes on the George Washington Bridge were shut down for almost a week.

Upon discovering this news, Christie fired Kelly and apologized in a nearly two-hour long press conference. He denied any involvement in the scandal or any prior knowledge of the issue. Still, Democrats quickly blamed the governor for the closures, despite a lack of evidence to tie him to the issue. Multiple panels have been formed in the state Senate and Assembly to investigate the issue and figure out exactly who knew what and when.

A Port Authority official has come out and claimed that Christie knew about the closings and their

cause prior to when he said he did, however, has shown no proof to support his findings. As far as the law is concerned, his word shouldn't be taken any more seriously than an uninvolved commentator. Since his statement that Christie knew about it isn't sworn, they cannot be held as truth, fact, or even testimony; they are just statements.

Many wonder if this issue will hurt his chances in the 2016 presidential race. After a Rutgers- Eagleton Poll showed that Christie's approval rating dropped 19 points from 65 to 46, that is a fair assumption. But beyond the blow to Christie's chances, the scandal really is an incredible shame. Governor Christie served as a beacon of pragmatic bi-partisanship all throughout his term. He exhibited great leadership in the face of Hurricane Sandy and was considered to be the front-runner for the Republican Presidential ticket in 2016. Now, he will likely be sucked into this scandal despite the lack of evidence linking him to the issue.

Although his numbers have hit a low, they are still positive. More people in New Jersey approve than disapprove of the job Christie has done in office, which is more than can be said for most politicians. Chris Christie has a little more than a year to recover his momentum and forge a respectable bid for presidential candidacy. There is one glaring issue with how the state legislature is handling the issue: with a lack of objectivity. State Assemblyman John Wisniewski (D), who sits on the investigative board looking into the matter, stated, prior to any investigation starting, he doesn't believe that Christie is telling the truth in the matter. Detectives stay objective and make conclusions based on fact. Wisniewski made a glaring assumption prior to looking at any fact and thus is unable to function as an investigator who can be believed. This investigation will inevitably turn into a partisan witch hunt if Wisniewski and less-thanobjective board members don't step down and let real investigators do their iob.

However, we must reserve judegment until all the facts come out. The worst thing that could happen in the aftermath of a scandal like this is for the politician's career to be destroyed. In this case, Chrisitie may have had nothing to do with it other than employing some of the perpetrators.

The man has done so much for New Jersey and now his approva I ratings are being shot down based on something that there is no proof he actually party to.

## **NFL Ticket Lottery:** Super Scandal

By Vinayak Srikrishna

Two weeks ago in a Newark federal court, New Jersey businessman Josh Finkleman filed a lawsuit against the National Football League. He accused the league of violating the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act, which forbids companies from withholding more than five percent of available seating at an event to the public. The NFL, he claims, gives one percent of over 80 thousand Super Bowl tickets to the general public through a lottery system, this seems to be the only fair way to distribute the tickets amongst a populous that has such high demand to attend the big game, though MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford can seat more than 82,000 people.

Not only is the practice of withholding tickets from the public unsavory, it's illegal. Bruce Nagel, Finkleman's attorney, outlined this as the premise of the lawsuit and points out the blatant ignorance of the NFL, "We have a statute in New Jersey that prevents the NFL from doing what they're doing. When the NFL has the Super Bowl in New Jersey, they have to open their eyes to New Jersey law." Nagel claims that the damages set forth by the lawsuit could amount to hundreds of millions of dollars, which the 15-page legal document says is on behalf of buyers who paid unfair prices for their tickets and those who couldn't afford to buy the tickets in the first place.

"If the NFL is indeed withholding available seats from the public, then their lottery system needs to become less selective."

Finkleman himself paid \$2,000 each for two tickets which the lawsuit declares as "far in excess of the face value of the tickets." "I was upset about the price I paid

for the tickets," said Finkleman in an interview with Good Morning America. The NFL, however, states that the ticket distribution split between the participating two teams, the host teams, the rest of the teams in the NFL, and the NFL itself.

The league issued a statement that read, ""We can never fulfill all the requests for tickets. The NFL's Super Bowl ticket distribution process has been in existence for years and is well documented. We are confident it is in compliance with all applicable laws." A spokeswoman also stated that the league "would like for as many fans as possible to attend" the Super Bowl. Diane Sammons, another one of Finkleman's attorneys, hopes, however, that the NFL will change its pricing practices for future Super Bowls. "I think that could happen if more people were aware that only one percent goes to the general public through a lottery system," she said. "Your chances are generally nil."

Super Bowl tickets have never been cheap: the vast majority of fans enjoy the game at home. The demand for the tickets, as the NFL's website reminds fans, greatly exceeds the supply. A large amount of the tickets go to corporations and people with connections so it would only make sense that the remaining tickets be distributed randomly amongst a pool of applicants.

The percentage of lottery participants who actually get to buy tickets to the game stems directly from the availability of seats at the stadium. If the NFL is withholding available seats from the public, then its lottery system needs to become less selective. The tickets' hefty price tag seems to be a result of their limited supply coupled with an enormous demand; the NFL can charge exorbitant prices for tickets and hardcore fans will still buy them. The selectiveness of the lottery system may change, but the price of Super Bowl tickets will always be very high as a result of what could be called a super shortage.







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## Cabaret: the show must go

Continued from page one

"The show itself will maintain the same format as in past years," said Magalio. "The audition pocess has been reduced to one day, and the rehearsal time frame will be reduced to two weeks." That is approximately half the length of rehearsals in previous years. Along with these changes, it is essential that students performing in the show work harder than ever in order to fine-tune and perfect their acts before the two performances on May 9 and May 10.

Kelliher knows that her role as director this year will be challenging, but the acts in this year's show will have to work hard too. "Everyone trying out has to have their act completely put together to ensure great performances this year, because of the condensed Cabaret," she said.

Sophomore Vikki Qian, who was featured in Cabaret last year, understands this need. "A higher standard is held to the acts because we have to prepare even more to compensate for the lack of rehearsal time," she said.

Nevertheless, Oian does worry. "A shorter rehearsal time means that there is less time to

fix any bugs in the show, so there may be more glitches in the overall fluency," she said.

Everyone involved with Devil's Cabaret this year will need to be flexible and willing to adapt to the limited rehearsal time. In previous years, the students, teachers, and directors were more free to meticulously work out some of the details and intricacies within the acts.

Even so, junior Christy Duprey, a member of Central's stage crew, has an optimistic outlook towards Cabaret this year. "Mostly, it seems better organized than it has been in the past and I'm looking forward to it," she said. "In previous years we've had some minor trouble scheduling rehearsals for different acts, and the fact that the schedule this year is already out and has been explained before auditions is really good."

"Even though the scope of the show may be cut slightly, I think it's going to be a much tighter, cleaner show this year," she add-

Other students, including senior Austin Palis, also share positive outlooks for Cabaret 2014, despite the changes in the pre-show

preparation. Featured in Cabaret for three years as a member of the band Aftershock, Palis doesn't think the change will affect them much. "We'll prepare as we do every year and give it our best shot," he said. "We've always gone into auditions with a full act ready to

Senior director Graham also shares that be-"Regardless of what happens, this school has some amaztalent," he said. "The

rest of the

directors and I are confident that this year's show will be amazing."

One can definitely hope that this year's Devil's Cabaret showcase will exceed the expectations of the Hunterdon Central community. Despite the shortened time window to prepare for performances, it seems that the tal-

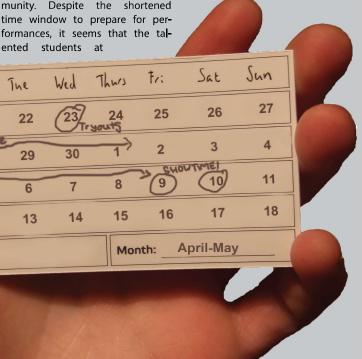
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Central are more dedicated than ever to pull off a spectacular show this spring. As always, "the show must go on!"



## Gone Home: well received among gamers



By Danny Pasquarelli

Even though Gone Home came out in August last year, it is worth talking about. Made by a small independent developer, The Fullbright Company, Gone Home was unexpectedly an incredible game, despite it being the company's first full release. Even though the game takes only an hour and a half to two hours to complete, there is so much that the developers packed into that time that the shortness of the game can be easily overlooked. Gone Home comes off as just a small adventure/mystery game at first, but it really turns out to be much more—an amazing story that can really get to you on an emotional level. You play as a character named Katie who comes home from a year-long vacation to find her whole family missing. Her sister Sam has left a note which says she has left home and wishes not for anyone to try and find her. With that, and a few emotional, urgent voice messages on the answering machine, you can't help but be sucked into the story and the extremely wellmade 1995 atmosphere.

At the beginning of gameplay it's Katie's first time being in the house since her family moved, so the house feels just as new and curious to her as it does to you. Gone Home has shown some of the best

characters in any game released in 2013. The only way to learn about these characters is to pick up the puzzle pieces from notes, letters, and voiced-over journals found throughout the house.



Some of the items the player

searches for in the game include posters, such as the one above notes, letters, and audio journals belonging to the character's family.

Katie's sister Sam is the most developed character. Her story really has the biggest impact on the way the game moves along. The audio journals read by Sam are triggered when you find specific items throughout the house; these

audio journals are so terrifically voice-acted that they have you believing every word Sam says, really pulling you into the game's stellar atmosphere.

Each object that was scattered around the house develops each member of Katie's family more and more. All of them have their own unique personality traits, presenting interesting story variations in each object you pick up, getting you more immersed by the minute. There are so many things to find throughout this game that it would take you multiple playthroughs to find everything this game has to offer.

There is only downfall to this game: its \$20 price tag. This may turn off a lot of gamers, considering that the game only lasts for a few hours. A lot of consumers can feel ripped off as well because this game is not for everyone. That this game is so focused on story and exploration, rather than action and adventure, may make some players turn their heads in another direction.

However, Gone Home was definitely worth the price. It is overall an amazing experience; with great characters, level design, and storytelling, it's impossible to keep your eyes off this video game. It'll be interesting to see what Fullbright Company has in store for us in years to come.

# "High Hopes" for Bruce Springsteen

By Zac Djamoos

Bruce Springsteen is one proficient man. He's been in music for over four decades, and—barring 2009's Working on a Dream never put out even one subpar record. He could make a full album out of all the songs he has written and given away. This even discounts all his b-sides and album outtakes, some of which (such as Darkness-era cut "The Promise") rank among his best. High Hopes, released on January 14, is comprised entirely of such outtakes, as well as three covers and two rerecordinas.

The opening track, "High Hopes," is one of those covers, but you wouldn't even know it. It's a jazzier song, maybe reminiscent of his very first two records, with horns galore and an explosive chorus. "Just Like Fire Would" is another, originally written by Chris Bailey, but again, Springsteen just has a way of making everything his own. It almost harks back to his The Rising days, back to when the E Street Band had just regrouped. sounding fresh and re-energized. The third cover is easily the best of the three, and I'll cover that one

Other greats include the "The River," "Frankie Fell in Love," the Clarence Clemons feature "Harry's Place," and the folkier duo of "This is Your Sword" and "Hunter of Invisible Game." While the lyrical content in "Frankie" may not be as breathtaking as we've come to expect from the man who wrote Born to Run, it's a catchy song. But this album is mostly comprised of b-sides. "Heaven's Wall" features an awkward chant section in the beginning reprised in the chorus that in no way benefits the otherwise enjoyable track; "Down in the Hole" makes effective and haunting use of electronics until the bridge, which introduces distract-

ing backing vocals and disruptive horns. These mistakes completely take away from the haunting vibe given off by the rest of the song.

Then there're the re-recorded tracks—"American Skin (41 Shots)" and "The Ghost of Tom Joad." The former of these appeared only in live form before, and it's something fans have been waiting for. To say the least, there's no reason for this song to exist in its "Live in New York City" form for so long. The latter of the two might take some warming up. This version of "Tom Joad" is quite a far cry from its acoustic folk The Ghost of Tom Joad cousin. Featuring a guitar solo and trade off vocals from Tom Morello, the song's a straight-up rocker. Morello's raspy, breathy voice suits Springsteen's perfectly, and he makes a welcome addition as guitarist to the F Street Band.

But it's the closing duo that reminds us why Bruce Springsteen is the greatest musician alive. "The Wall" is a devastating ballad for "the best thing this town ever had," a touching elegy for a friend who died in the Vietnam War. You can hear Springsteen's heartbreak as he asks, "If your eyes could cut through that black stone, tell me, would they recognize me?" In its own right it's a powerful song, but when used to lead into plaintive closer "Dream Baby Dream," it becomes even more poignant. "Dream Baby Dream", is the third of the album's covers, is a sparse and minimalist track that features one of the best vocal performances on the album. It's a wonderfully stark and beautiful way to end the album.

For an album of songs deemed not good enough, High Hopes holds its own remarkably wellbetter, even, than many bands' studio albums. But really, it's Bruce Springsteen. We shouldn't expect anything less.

#### **Environmental tip of** the week mills use immense amounts of

By Delfina Picchio

It's always important to think green, but you should be especially environmentally-conscious during Valentine's Day. Every Valentine's Day, people go out and buy endless numbers of paper cards and heavily packaged chocolates. According to sierraclub.com, more than 180 million cards are exchanged on Valentine's Day each year. Since paper is made of trees and paper

water and emit tons of chemicals, imagine the impact that could be made if cards were recycled or electronic. It's always fun, easy, and creative to make your own cards out of old newspaper and magazines, and this way you can even save money!

When buying chocolate sweets, try to think of the environmental consequences and buy organic chocolates. Of all crops, cocoa

requires the highest use of pesticides. Buying USDA organic chocolate ensures that you're eating chocolates that are free of any bad chemicals and have not harmed the environment in the process. Lastly, instead of the frilly chocolate boxes, try going for candies and sweets with less packaging (but are still romantic). There are so many little things you can do on Valentine's Day that can help preserve the environment.

## **SPORTS**



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Continued from page one

Another new sport in the Olympics is team figure skating. This sport has 10 countries using six skaters and having them perform their programs that last for about three minutes. Men's and women's singles, pairs, and ice dancing are performing in the team figure skating. The second round of the competition brings back five countries with the highest score and the skaters do a long program. The long program lasts for four minutes. The United States took the gold medal in the 2009 and 2013 team World Championship events. The team includes Gracie Gold, Meryl Davis, Charlie White, Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnapir who all were first in their division at the Olympic trials that took place in January.

Women's ski jumping is an exhilarating new sport. It works exactly the same way as the men's ski jump. Athletes get one jump and those with the top scores get a second jump. The top average of the two scores wins. The U.S. will be represented by a former world champi-

champion Sarah Hendrickson. The favorite is Sara Takanashi who is representing Japan.

Freestyle halfpipe is like halfpipe snowboarding, but on skis. Skiers do many of the same tricks that the snowboarders do, those being flips, grabs, somersaults, and twists. The skiers get two runs in qualifying heats and the top scorers advance to the finals where they again get two runs. Devin Logan who is first in the World Cup leader board, and Maddie Bowman are the women to watch out for on the American team. On the men's side, Aaron Blunck is also one to watch.

In skiing, another new sport is the freestyle skiing slopestyle. Skiers perform on a slope with a variety of obstacles. There are rails, quarter pipes, and jumps. The judges look for the difficulty, execution and variety while placing first, second, third and so on. The women's team has a strong contingent led by Keri Herman and Devin Logan. On the men's side there is Nick Goepper who is tied for first in the World Cup standings. There is also snowboard slopestyle which is the same thing as freestyle skiing slopestyle,

but on a snowboard. Mark Morris (who is sometimes called the next Shaun White) is competing along with Shaun White. For the women's team, Jamie Anderson is the one to

Finally there is snowboarding parallel slalom. Athletes compete in pairs as they maneuver around tightly spaced flags. Justin Reiter is the only American entrant, but do keep watch for Lukas Mathies, Sylvain Dufour, and Alexander Bergmann who are among the top competitors in the men's event. There are no American women entered.

Some like this idea of bringing new sports into the Olympics. It brings a more diverse crowd, more competitions to watch and could incorporate more athletes. Others are saying that these new sports are just hybrids of other sports, and that it brings in an "X-Games" (another sporting event, but is less formal, and has more extreme sports feel, not an Olympics). Keep an eye out for these sports and athletes while you are watching the Olym-

#### Central students volunteer with HOPS

By Juliette Carnevale

On the weekends throughout the school year for a few hours, students play sports at the school with Hunterdon Outreach Programs (HOPs) at Hunterdon Central. HOPs is a great way to get out and give back to the people of the community. With programs in soccer, basketball, football and tennis among others, there are many opportunities to volunteer throughout the whole school year. While playing the different sports they teach different skills and overall ideas of the games. They are based on basic ideas of the game so that students of all sports levels are able to get involved.

At BOPs, Basketball Outreach Program, they teach special-education children of all ages basketball skills and how to play the game of basketball. Along with these kids getting the exercise they need, they also have a ton of fun interacting and hanging out with their volunteer. They look forward to it every week as do the volunteers.

Senior Ryan Lynn said that BOPS is completely worth the extra time spent at the school. "I

enjoy BOPS because there really isn't much better than being able to help a disabled child have fun and put a smile on their face," he said "It's a really rewarding feeling that makes you feel all fuzzy on the inside." Even if BOPS is just a way to fill volunteer hours, it's guaranteed that students away feeling like they've made a differ-

It can be frightening at first for students who aren't sure how to take on such a responsibility, but they quickly learn and keep coming back. Junior Carly Mastrogiacomo believes she has formed a special bond with the athletes.

"I love doing HOPs because it not only helps the kids in our community, but it has helped me. I've gained a lot of patience and have created many strong bonds with the athletes," said Mastrogiaco-

BOPs is a great way to step out of your comfort zone, make new friends, and give back to the community. Students looking to volunteer can visit hunterdonoutreach. org and sign up for emails about weekend events.



Seniors Mike Simpson and freshman Aiden Cook volunte at Hunterdon Outreach Program.

## Steven Collins recieves numerous soccer awards



Photo Courtesy of Steven Collins

By Jamie Gentile

Although most athletes can only dream of achieving regional all-American and second team allstate, Steven Collin lives it. As one of the Central boys' soccer team's four captains, Collins and the rest of the team ended their season this past fall with an impressive 20-2-4 record. Not only did they only undergo the loss of a mere two games, but the team wrapped up the season as sectional champions, Hunterdon/Warren/Sussex Tournament champions, and even moved on to the state semi-finals where they met a bittersweet end against Clearview. This was no small feat, however, being the second boys' soccer team in Central history to have made it past sectional finals.

Collins held down the midfield all season as the starting centermidfielder. His technical prowess, relentless work rate, and aerial domination made him a key part of the team, finishing the season scoring a total of 8 goals with 3 assists. He credits much of his success to his relentless training during the off season. While most were relaxing at the beach, Collins spent his summer out on the soccer pitch conditioning and preparing for the season ahead. Whether it was extended, taxing hours in the weight room, speed and agility sessions in the summer sun, or extensive technical work and scrimmaging, Col-

lins took no days off. At the end-of-season banquet, Collins received the prestigious title of Regional All-American, announced by his proud coach, Anson Smith. In addition, Collins received the scholar athlete award for the second year in a row, proving his talent in the classroom as well as on the field. Collins then went on to receive First Team All-state at a banquet at Pines Manor in Edison New Jersey. Initially, Collins was taken aback when he had found out about winning the award. "I had no idea whatsoever that I was going to receive the award. I was shocked... surprised...in awe."

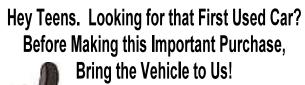
Collins' passion for soccer began at a very young age, starting to play when he was only four. He began his soccer career on Flemington Fury, until he joined FC Copa Napoli during his sophomore year. Collins assisted FC Copa in winning both the Bathesda showcase and the PA Classics showcase, which took place this past fall.

biggest His influence soccer throughout his life, he said, was Hazard, coach of Flemington Fury for his first five years of soccer. Hazard coached him not only as a player, but as a person and guided him through tough times. In the professional soccer world, Collins looks up to extraordinary players such as Xavi of Barcelona Ronaldinho of the Flamingos. "I look up to them for their amazing passes and beautiful and creative play." says Collins. "They inspire me to keep

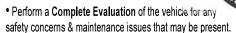
my head up."

Collins and the rest of the Central boys' varsity squad competed with the supportive guidance of head coach, Anson Smith. The end of this season marked Smith's sixth year coaching the boys' varsity team. Coach Smith describes Collins as respectful, conscientious, and hardworking. "Steve was a leader by example," Smith said. "Every day he brought something extra to training and set a great example for younger players."

After high school, Collins sees himself playing soccer at MIT or Rensselaer Polytechnic where he will major in engineering. As for Hunterdon Central, Collins left a legacy. His hard work and determination helped his team to reach unbelievable heights and earned him the astounding titles of Regional all-American and first team all-state. After an incredibly impressive season from Collins and the boys' varsity team, it is evident that wherever Collins ends up, it's a sure thing



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