

## Students buzzing about cancer fundraiser

By Bobby Farrigan

A couple weeks ago, Hunterdon Central teachers were asked if they were interested in participating in a fundraiser for cancer—the first of its kind, it would require participants to shave off their own hair. This unusual fundraiser quickly grew into an event that captured the attention and support of the entire school, uniting everyone in the school against a common enemy: cancer.

This cure-for-cancer fundraiser was held on Friday, May 23 in the Fieldhouse, supporting Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It included 18 teachers, all of whom had volunteered to buzz their heads in front of the entire student body, in the name of cancer research. The catch: the ones who would be doing the actual shaving were picked through a raffle, a raffle that chose 18 lucky students to shave the teachers' heads.

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Photo courtesy of Trent Levitt

## Cardboard is the new black



Photo courtesy of Tori Johnston

Outside of Stewart Field, juniors Tori Johnston and Chloe Gletow set up for Box City. In the background is an outdoor movie screen on which the students watched Disney's Frozen.

By Julia Wickman

Family Promise of Hunterdon County hosted its annual Box City event at Hunterdon Central Saturday, May 31. A charity event designed to raise awareness for the struggles of homeless people in Hunterdon County, Box City is what some might call a "county wide sleepover." Participants were required to sleep in a box

overnight, in order to put themselves in the shoes of the homeless, while having fun with their family and friends and raising money for Family Promise of Hunterdon County.

Sophomore Lianna Doley was one of the students attending the event. Prior to the evening, she said, "I am looking forward to spending time with my friends without television or many elec-

tronics and playing games with everyone." Participants were scheduled to arrive at 6 PM with their own boxes in hand, and from there, the night's festivities began. The featured entertainment included an outdoor movie, as well as various games and prizes.

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## GT Art 1 mural honors Malala Yousafzai

By Karen Drake

Bullets whizzing through the air and death threats are not typical scenes of a 16-year-old's life. In Malala Yousafzai's case, however, she became an activist for children and education at age 11, which then labeled her as a glowing target specifically by a terrorist group known as the Taliban. Malala was shot in the head on October 9, 2012 in an attempt to silence her and end her campaign for young females' rights to attend school. According to the Malala Fund's website "her shooting, and her refusal to stand down from what she believed was right, brought to light the plight of millions of children

around the world who are denied an education."

Since the shooting, Malala has continued to be a global activist. She has written an autobiography called *I am Malala* and was even nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. Today she still continues to serve as a role model to many people, including freshman Emily Corfield. "Malala's actions truly inspired me," Corfield said. "She could easily go out and project her anger toward the Taliban for targeting and shooting her but instead she chooses to continue to spread her message on the right to education and equal rights for all."

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Photo courtesy of Sarah Sokolowski

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# PARCC testing comes to Central

By Julia Wickman

Hunterdon Central will be saying farewell to HSPA testing next year by trying out a new assessment known as PARCC. PARCC, which stands for the Partnership of Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, is being utilized by 40 states including New Jersey. It will be implementing its newly designed PARCC assessment in schools starting at the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year.

The PARCC test is dedicated to developing exams for both secondary and post-secondary schools that better suit the newly adapted Common Core State Standards, or CCSS, in hopes of making the transition from high school to college or a career smoother for students. The newly designed PARCC tests will be employed to high school students using computers through two distinct areas of focus. First, it will consistently assess students' abilities and readiness for both college and the working world. Second, it will test students' skills in the fields of math and language arts.

HCRHS Superintendent Christina Steffner is confident that the new test will help in gauging the future successes of students. "I think that

it's more in line with making sure that we are assessing students to be college and career ready rather than having a basic skill set," Steffner said. Instead of focusing on fact-recall and information memorization as was the case with the HSPA, the PARCC tests will utilize students' critical thinking and reasoning skills.

For example, a sample question on the PARCC might ask students to combine the knowledge they gather from three provided documents and use it to respond to a question. Such a question would test students' skills in analyzing information rather than just memorizing it. Although this may sound intimidating, a survey of the 150 students who were recruited to take sample PARCC tests found that the students' experiences with the sample PARCC tests were generally positive.

Despite these positive results, many students are fearful and doubtful of the future of the PARCC tests, like freshman Jenna Evans. "I am scared for the PARCC test because of what I have heard. I would obviously want to get a good grade on it and it sounds like it is difficult to do that," she said.

According to Evans, similar concerns have mostly been incited by

negative feedback from teachers and students. "I have heard that we are in for a very difficult test next year, and that it is a 'monster' test," said Evans.

While many students share fears similar to those of Evans, Steffner advises students not to worry. In fact, for the first few years, grades on the PARCC test will neither hold any academic weight nor 'count' towards students' records. Steffner reiterated the benefits of this 'transitional' period. "The really good news for students is the PARCC isn't going to count," said Steffner, "but it's actually going to prep you for the way you're going to have to take the SATs and the AP exams when you get older. It'll be good practice."

In addition to concerns about the new testing itself, many students are worried by the new A/B block schedule, which was an effect of the installment of PARCC testing. Freshman Amy Kwan felt that the new tests could potentially make heavier the academic burdens of students. "Students strongly despise the idea of A/B scheduling and are worried for the much harder test. Opportunities for doubling up on math or language are lost. Teachers have emphasized the change of curriculum just to cater for one huge

standardized test."

Furthermore, students are increasingly worried about the expanding role that testing is poised to take over in their lives. "One's school life, curriculum and social, should not revolve around a test," Kwan stated.

However, this new A/B schedule will be extremely beneficial to students in more ways than one, according to Steffner. The A/B schedule will give more time to students and teachers, and the curriculum will be taught at a slower pace, allowing time for students that are falling behind to catch up. Neuroscience research has actually proven that the more interaction that students have with their teachers, the more positive of a learning experience the students have, and the more knowledge they retain.

Steffner offered that students' entire academic experience could benefit from the new scheduling system. "We truly believe that this is a better schedule for kids. It will help them be able to master the subject better and give them more time with the teacher."

Through this new and unknown transitional period of testing implementation, students should keep calm when it comes to this new test.

Freshman Alyssa VanVeldhuisen commented on the new benefits that PARCC testing would bring. "I'm personally glad that the PARCC is going to be the future test, because the questions are supposedly going to be more practical and about applying the skill to real life situations. I think the new PARCC testing will be healthy for us. It will require more thinking, but in a way, prepare us for future tests such as the PSAT or SAT."

Steffner offered that although new policies are often feared, students ought to remember the benefits of change and advancement. "I think change is always difficult for a lot of people. We're comfortable with what we know," she said. However, to put it all into perspective, Steffner urged students to remember how change has benefited the student body in the past. "I know kids are really worried about it, but they were really worried about Unit Lunch, too."

For more information about the PARCC and samples of the new PARCC Assessment, visit the Hunterdon Central Web Page and under Quicklinks, click "PARCC."

## Roving Reporter

How do you feel about the new PARCC testing?



Photos by Alex Eng

"I like it because it prepares us better for college."

- Jessie Farrigan



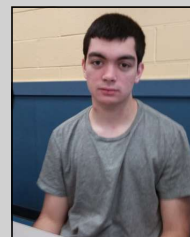
"I heard that there wouldn't be able to be field trips in March, April, or May. I thought it was kind of dumb."

- Justin Siegel



"It's a better alternative to HSPA testing because it has more useful types of questions."

- Kelsey Freedman



"I think it's a good idea but the new schedule is too complicated."

- Aedan Boyle

## New classes are in session

By Elizabeth Atkinson

As the school year comes to a close, the changes only start to begin. Most of these changes are the result of Central's new A/B scheduling system that will commence in September. The biggest and most obvious changes as a result of the scheduling decisions are the changes in available classes. Every student will participate in eight classes at a time, with four 80-minute courses one day and the other four 80-minute classes the next. This change seems to worry some students including freshman Madison Oshins. "The new scheduling seems like it could be too much work," she said. This new schedule, though, offers many new opportunities that require the same amount of effort for students.

New courses for next year include classes like Pre-Calculus and Robotics. Madison Oshins commented on her ability to take pre-calc next year. "I was excited to be able to take Pre-calc next year," she said. "I can now go farther in my math studies here without restrictions I thought came with the new schedule."

The changes to the courses at Central are numerous. To name a few, Trigonometry and Analysis will be

combined into Pre-Calculus STEM, AP Computer Science will become a 5 credit full-year course with Computer Science 2 no longer being a prerequisite to the AP course. The math department is just one of the many departments encountering changes for next year.

The English department welcomes English III, which will focus on World Lit and issues, and will complement Global studies. The English department will also have a new revised version of Media and Literature as a senior elective, where students will read fiction and nonfiction books relative to media and the world we live in today. Along with that, students will utilize Web 2.0 tools by maintaining a blog or wiki page throughout the course to accompany their studies in class.

Each individual department has specific changes to accommodate the new scheduling that will begin in September, but the whole school is going to gain a new program even before September comes around. Central is starting a new summer institute where student can gain credit for courses they may not have time to take during the school year. Starting July 7, the school is offering seven courses over the three week period

between July 7-24 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. These courses will be taught Monday through Thursday.

Sophomore Katherine Wheeler voiced her opinion on the summer institute saying that it would be a very good opportunity for students. She said "It seems like a great idea." With it, students could take courses they may have not been able to fit into their schedule with the new A/B schedule. The Institute was designed exactly for this reason, offering classes like Personal Finance, Drivers Ed and Honors Calculus A. Many of the courses are offered in hybrid forms with a pass or fail grade. "The credit we can get from the courses offered could also help students graduate early, which is what seems to most interest me and other students," Wheeler said. "It gives us opportunities we thought we had lost with the A/B schedule."

There are many critics of the new schedule, even though the changes are giving students a whole new educational experience and offering many exciting opportunities to our school. The newly offered classes will give many students the opportunity to broaden their horizons into subjects they are enthusiastic about.

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# Thinking inside the box



Photo courtesy of Tori Johnston

## Students fight against homelessness by experiencing it first hand

Continued from page one

Looking forward to Box City. "I wanted to do Box City because not only is it for a good cause, but I got to put myself in the place of homeless people and it is a great experience." Several other members of her team "Heavy Duty Paper" agreed.

Box City, in addition to being a fun event, is also a major fundraiser for the homeless people of Hunterdon County. In order to participate in the event, each attendee was required to raise a minimum of \$30 that will be going towards Family Promise.

Sophomore Lianna Doley, who attended the event, reflected on the impact of her participation. "I think that the fundraising behind Box City is amazing and the fundraiser is for a really great cause," said Doley. "I didn't have any problem finding people to donate for this cause because everyone I asked and my friends asked were willing to support this cause."

Webb also reported the willingness of members of the community to donate to Family Promise when

collecting her required fee to participate.

"Our goal is to raise \$25,000 and

**"Even though homeless families in Hunterdon don't necessarily sleep in a box, it is about giving up the comforts of home for a night," said Duerr.**

-Colleen Duerr

draw more than 200 people to the event. Our costs are kept extremely low, because more than 90% of the funds raised go to our agency," said Colleen P. Duerr, Development Director of Family Promise of Hunterdon County and organizer of the Box City event.

Last year, 175 people participated in the event, raising more than \$22,000 for Family Promise of Hunterdon County. As for this year, 200 people participated in Box City. According to Duerr, community participation in Box City has increased significantly.

"We have several corporate sponsors now and many groups that come together to participate: sports team, youth groups, community groups, and even families," said Duerr. The majority of Box City attendees in the past have included Church youth groups, like that of Doley. While the majority of participants were students and their friends, there were some families as well. This year, there was even an 82-year old woman who braved the night in her box.

Family Promise's effort does seem to be paying off; over the past several years, community awareness of the homelessness in Hunterdon County has consistently risen. This is evident in Webb's, as well as many others', reasons to participate in Box City.

Elizabeth Webb also noted that homelessness can affect anyone,

no matter where they may live.

"Homelessness isn't something we often think about in Hunterdon County. I'm looking forward to seeing all the different groups that came together to bring awareness to homelessness," she said.

"Even though homeless families in Hunterdon don't necessarily sleep in a box, it is about giving up the comforts of home for a night," said Duerr. "This is such a unique event to the area and it really is a lot of fun."



Photo by Libby Harrington

Juniors Tori Johnston and Chole Gletow and development director Colleen Duerr of Family Promise participate in this year's Box City event.

## Teens without borders: kids get published in high school

By Libby Harrington

Two Hunterdon Central students interested in writing have made their dreams a reality and written books. Junior Kai Dennis and Sophomore Chandni Khwaja started their love of writing at an early age.

"I have loved to write ever since I was little, but I didn't actually start copying my ideas down to paper until sixth grade," said Dennis.

Similarly, Khwaja began writing poetry at age nine and eventually

progressed into full stories.

What got Khwaja into writing in the first place was being exposed to new ideas and people that led her to think about patriotism, morality, terrorism and heroism.

"Books such as Howard Zinn's A People's History of the United States and Niccolò Machiavelli's The Prince made me seriously question the concept of loyalty to an institution despite not knowing enough about it, as well as whether or not there is a distinct boundary between good and evil," said Khwaja.

"Being of Pakistani descent, the word 'terrorist' has been flung at me from time to time. This too made me think how one group's terrorist is another group's hero, tying back into the argument of 'is there a definitive good and definitive evil?'" said Khwaja. "So, while still in eighth grade, I decided to take all of those ideas and start writing this book."

Khwaja's book, The Noble War, is a dystopian fiction. Dystopia is an imaginary place or condition in which everything is as bad as possible. Without spoiling the book too much Khwaja gave some insight on the plot.

"In a world plagued with numerous hardships, such as poverty, guerrilla or gang violence and rampant terrorism, a girl joins an anti-terror league in hopes of mak-

ing the world better. The league betrays her, however, so she snaps and switches to the other side."

Dennis' book, is a romantic fiction novel. "My book is about a girl who has the ability to go into the books she reads, kind of like in The Magic Treehouse. When she finishes the storyline she is able to come back out of the book," said Dennis.

"In this particular story she falls in love with main character of a pop-fiction novel (fan fiction about celebrities) and when she comes out of the book she tries to find the real celebrity, which ends in her arrest. During the course of the book she is in a mental facility describing her book experience with this celebrity to a shrink."

As for the future, Dennis plans on furthering her writing career and majoring in creative writing and communications in college.

She is look-

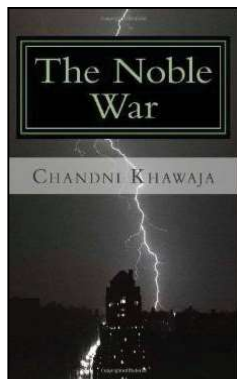
ing to go into the screenwriting business, hopefully to write TV shows and movies.

Khwaja, on the other hand, is taking a different approach and plans on going into medicine. "I want to use my skills as a writer to transition from medical practice to academia later in life. In the meantime, I guess I'll just have to write more!" said Khwaja.

Dennis hopes her novel will be published by the end of the calen-

dar year. For now, interested readers can check out Kai's work on a writing website called Wattpad, where she has her first novel, Say You Love Me, a fan fiction piece for The Vampire Diaries.

Those interested in Khwaja's The Noble War, can find it on Amazon both in print and on Kindle or can pick one up in the library.



Chandni Khwaja's book The Noble War.

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# Hunterdon Central teachers and students



Photo by Trent Levitt  
Ryan Herbst gets his head shaved by student Analisa Vizzoni to raise money for cancer research.

By Elizabeth Atkinson

Students and staff at Hunterdon Central have been affected personally or know someone who has been affected by the presence of cancer in our community.

The issue of how to assist those affected by the disease is often thought to be difficult and saddening, but students at Central have been raising awareness and fundraising for cancer in amazing and uplifting ways.

Recently Hunterdon Central social studies teacher Paul Urban was diagnosed with cancer. Although he fights the disease on a daily basis, he remains optimistic. "Some days are harder than others," Urban said, "It's a day by day disease, with some days

being great while others are much more difficult."

Urban remains positive with the aid of students and staff alike. "My students and colleagues have helped a lot with their tremendous support,"

Urban said, "I work with other staff members and substitutes on the days I have to be absent for chemo... We are all going through this battle together and we are both doing our best."

Although Urban is in the early stages of his disease, being a part of such a comforting school environment has

assisted him with his battle.

One of the hardest things for people battling cancer is often choosing how to fight given their circumstances. Mr. Urban chose to fight publically and let his students and coworkers know



Photo by Trent Levitt  
Paul Urban receives support from students and staff at Buzz for the Cure.



## Students will not rest until a cure for cancer is found

By Olivia Spildooren

School is winding down, summer is on everyone's mind and all students can think of is being free of finals and running out the school door on June 19. But, before the year comes to a close there are still a few fun activities to enjoy at Hunterdon Central. Each and every day many people's lives are touched by cancer, whether it be a loved one fighting, a beloved that has passed on, or a survivor.

Central will be holding a Relay for Life on June 13 and 14. Amanda Mauchet is an event committee member who has worked to bring Relay for Life to Hunterdon

Central this year. Relay for Life is an "all night walk-a-thon," said Mauchet, "with a theme of 'cancer never sleeps and neither do we.'"

Relay for Life is something many have probably heard of or even participated in. This organization was created in the 1980s by Dr. Gordy Klatt, a surgeon who wanted to increase the income of his local American Cancer Society. In May 1985, Dr. Klatt completed the first Relay for Life by walking around the track at Baker Stadium for 24 hours and raised \$27,000. Since that day, the ACS has raised nearly \$5 billion to be used for cancer research.

This year the Relay's theme is "Around the World." Kim Schupner

is another member of the event committee who is helping to organize this year's Relay for Life. "Each team will be representing a country and will have their campsite decorated accordingly," said Schupner, "This is an added spin, and with a small donation you can get a passport to track the number of miles you walk and the 'countries' you visit throughout the night."

Though the event is about a very reverent topic, the Relay for Life is not meant to dwell on the negative but to focus on the positive, raising funds for the American Cancer Society (ACS) which works to find the cure. There will be many fun activities for the teams to

participate in throughout the night in the hopes of keeping everyone awake. Some of the fun games that will pit relay teams against one another in friendly competition are the standard relay races, running, skipping, potato sack races and more. One notably amusing game is the frozen t-shirt contest

where teams each have a t-shirt that has been dampened, tied in a knot and frozen. Each team has to try to unfreeze their shirt and run a lap around the track before the other teams do. The game gets funny as the teams attempt to unfreeze the shirt by people dogpiling and sitting on it. Other activities that keep the teams having fun include Twister and zumba. There will be continuous music supplied by mostly Central's very talented student musicians and performers. The band Aftershock, consisting of seniors Sam Dennis, Ryan Haines, and Austin Palis, will be performing. Aftershock guitarist Sam Dennis is excited for the event. "We are so excited, it's going to be a laid back, fun evening. It will be a ball. We are going to play some cover songs with a mixture of original songs," Dennis said. In summary, he adds that the Relay for Life will be, "a whole bucket of jolly goodness that will warm your heart." Other prominent performers like Star Castillo, Lily Riche and Kevin Csolak are also scheduled to perform this year.

"I've done Relay since I was six years old, and from my own experience, this year's event is going to be truly special. There are amazing musicians, participants and an incredibly beautiful atmosphere for raising money for the American Cancer Society. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend it

to anyone," said Schupner.

One of the most beautiful and moving parts of the event is the Luminaria lap where teams walk in silence, in the dark, where they admire bags lit with glowsticks that honor those who have passed, those who are fighting or those who have survived cancer.



Photo courtesy of Abbie Rizzo  
Lanterns are lit in the bleachers at Stewart Field to spell out "Hope" and "Cure" during 2013 Relay for Life.



Photo courtesy of Abbie Rizzo  
Abbie Rizzo holds a sign advertising for Relay for Life.



# ents unite in the fight against cancer

what exactly he is going through. The response to Mr. Urban's decision to make this aspect of his life public has amazed him with the overwhelming support of everyone around him.

Most recently he was proud to

witness the fundraiser held by the school in which 18 staff members shaved their heads for cancer research. "Witnessing this event and seeing the success surprised me," Urban said. "The school was so supportive and I hope to see this become an annual event with even more staff with shaved heads and more students up there shaving their heads!"

Cancer has not only touched the lives of staff at Central but it has also impacted students here. Miguel Coelho fights this disease daily but the Hunterdon Central community has been helping him along the way. "The school has been awesome with me coming back," Coelho said. "The first month of my return they let me come into school later so I could get used to the feeling of being back and they were very lenient with everything."

The school helped and understood all of the mental and physical burdens of treatment and helped Coelho with home tutoring when he couldn't attend school due to treatment.

What seemed most important to Coelho was the treatment he received from

his peers. "They've given me a ton of support through my treatment and they still do," he said. The biggest relief in this to Coelho is that he is not defined by his illness. "I didn't feel like I was any different from anybody else."

However, this is a two-way relationship, as those touched by cancer have enlightened the community and have helped unite people toward one common cause. Hunterdon Central has blossomed with support. With the most recent events at Central being teachers shaving their heads and this year's Relay for Life scheduled for June 14th, Central students and teachers have made and continue to make a huge impact on the people fighting against cancer.

While a cure for cancer is being researched every day, Hunterdon Central has joined the cause by helping fundraise for organizations searching for a cure.

Everyday members of Hunterdon Central's student body as well as staff grow in knowledge and acceptance for the presence of this disease.

Although coping with cancer can be taxing for an individual, as students and staff of Hunterdon Central have shown, the strength of cancer is no match for the power of love and compassion that we have in our community.



Cartoon by Bridgette Powell

Continued from page 1

"I had never done anything like it before," said Ryan Herbst, a history teacher, "but I immediately knew it was something I wanted to do."

The idea for the event came after difficult news about Paul Urban, another history teacher at Central—he had recently been diagnosed with cancer. "The toughest thing is telling your family because they are all so concerned," Urban said, "But the support makes it easier. We are fighting it together."

After Urban's four-year-old son heard his father would lose his hair after chemotherapy, he asked if he would look like the Star Wars character Mace Windu, who is bald. It was then that Mr. Urban thought of giving students a chance to shave his head and perhaps other teachers' heads too.

An email was sent out to several teachers asking if they were interested, and after Catherine Stutzman, an English teacher, received it, she was very encouraging of the idea. "I wanted to support Mr.

Urban as best as I could," she said, "It was a no-brainer." While considering the fundraiser, however, Stutzman reached out to her close friends for their opinions first. The verdict was that they were all in favor of the idea.

Stutzman had donated her hair to Locks of Love before, but she had never done anything as extreme as getting a buzz cut. Justin Siegel, the student selected to buzz her head, happened to be in one of her classes, and as they both left class early to head down to the Fieldhouse he joked with her to help ease her nervousness.

During the event, she alleviated nervousness by holding a list of friends and family members who have perished or are still fighting their battle with cancer. "It helped me remember why I was doing it," she said.

After losing her hair, and perhaps experiencing the most dramatic change out of all 18 teachers, Stutzman said the support was amazing and she "felt like a million bucks." She also explained why it was not so bad having such short hair. "It only takes me about 10 min-

utes to get ready in the morning now," she said.

Jon Delisle, an English teacher and track coach, was also immediately all for the event. His only concern was not losing a full head of hair, but getting gouged in the head by the clippers. The student who had the honor of shaving his hair was Tim Moore, an athlete on Delisle's track team, and according to Delisle he did a "solid job." After getting his hair buzzed off, Delisle complimented his new hair style. "I don't know why I ever had long hair," he said.

Yes, these teachers were fond of their long locks, but were happy to give them away. In the end, the fundraiser was able to bring both students and staff alike together in support of a greater cause—they raised an astonishing \$1,622 for the Fox Chase Cancer Center. Urban hinted at the possibility of the fundraiser becoming an annual event at Central. "The event was so successful in bringing the school together as a community," he said. "Absolutely we should do it again."



Photo by Trent Levitt

Cathy Stutzman buzzed her hair at Buzz for the Cure and donated it to Locks of Love.

## Teachers shave for cancer: all the buzz at Central



Photos by Trent Levitt

Michael Couch gets his head shaved in the Fieldhouse to raise money for cancer research as eager students and staff watch.



The tier system for parking seems to be problematic for the juniors in the 2013-14 class.

Photo by Colten Schreiner

## Net neutrality? Forget neutrality

By Canyon Kornicker

Recently, a \$45 billion merger deal was reached between Comcast and Time Warner. This announcement has sparked controversy in what is known as the "network neutrality" debate, based around the idea that Internet users should be unrestricted and unhindered when surfing the net. Comcast and Time Warner are huge multi-billion dollar media corporations that control much of the Internet service, cable, and telephone markets in the United States. In fact, they are the top two companies in the United States who provide these services. These two mega Internet service providers getting together and deciding to be just one company could potentially be destructive for consumers.

Internet service providers, or ISPs, do exactly what their name implies: provide Internet. The consumer pays a subscription fee to access data on the web. Because of the lack of competition between ISPs in most areas, powerful corporations Comcast and Time Warner allow themselves to dictate the rules of the Internet. Technically, this is supposed to be the job of the FCC (Federal Communications Commission); however, with the amount of power and influence these huge corporations have, they can simply say that the rules don't apply to them and still avoid the consequences of ignoring the regulations, or they can hire lobbyists that will convince the regulators to change the rules for them. This is precisely the problem that net neutrality is addressing.

In 2010, the FCC created the "Open Internet Order" to set some regulations for the creation of a net neutrality platform. Net neutrality is, in essence, a policy that forces ISPs and governmental organizations to treat all data on the Internet equally, without discrimination in the form of extra fees. Some of the basic principles from the FCC's "order" are freedoms for the user to be able to access the content they want to, not get restricted from certain websites, and not be

discriminated against by ISPs.

Certain companies, such as Verizon, decided to ignore the "Open Internet Order" as they only apply to common carriers. Common carriers are essentially companies that transport goods to the general public. ISPs are common carriers because they transport data to subscribers. Verizon classifies themselves as a communication service. They protested to the implementation of the FCC's regulations and took them to court where they got many of the important aspects of the order vacated, because of a 1934 proceeding (decades before the invention of the Internet) that promised that companies like Verizon wouldn't be classified as common carriers. This gives the companies more power over the consumer.

In another violation of net neutrality regulations, Comcast wants websites like Netflix to pay more money to make sure their services get to their customers uninterrupted. Comcast uses the fact that Netflix makes up over a fourth of all Internet traffic as justification for asking them for more money. This, however, is in direct violation of net neutrality. ISPs are supposed to treat all data equally. It should not matter that a lot of web traffic comes from a single source because the ISPs are just supposed to make sure that their consumers can access whatever data they want.

Netflix did sign a deal with Comcast, to which Netflix CEO Reed Hastings said "we had no choice..." In fact, Hastings has spoken out against Comcast multiple times since this deal, for Comcast's blatant disregard for net neutrality. He pointed out that if he watched the same episode of a show on Netflix, Hulu, and Comcast's XFINITY app, it would further his Internet data cap on Netflix and Hulu, but not on XFINITY. "In what way is this neutral?" Hastings rebuffed.

There is a huge problem with making companies pay extra to get their data to their customers and viewers. Companies will not be able to "work their way from the bottom"

if people cannot access their website or application. If Comcast wants a website to fail, they can cause the virtual equivalent of "Bridgegate", with an influx of uncontrolled web traffic rendering users unable to access the data they want, so instead they'll go to the Comcast XFINITY site. Instead of being appreciative for the fact that the websites provide more business for ISPs, they become greedy and demand more money for the business that comes with it.

If large telecommunication companies remain unchecked, the future of the free Internet as we know it is doomed. The merger with Time Warner alone would give them a combined total of more than two-thirds of America's Internet users. Comcast will continue to merge and acquire smaller companies, taking out their competition and forming a monopoly. Under U.S. law, this abuse of capitalism is illegal, but because of their supreme influence, Comcast can change laws and bend the rules for themselves, all the while enforcing their own restrictive rules against their own customers.

One company controlling the market will allow them to manipulate the price while not improving on quality. Competition is what drives the economy, so a Comcast-TWC merger makes the next biggest competitor Verizon Fios, which controls less than 15% of the market. Fortunately, the merger has not been approved yet, but hopefully, it will be blocked and regulations will be put in and enforced against these bullying companies. If not, the freedom and endless opportunity we

associate with the Internet today could become a dark tool controlled by one company to promote their own business.

## Juniors face the parking space race

*Changes to the tier system bring new concerns to the junior class*

By Nina Campos

At our first class meeting as a brand new freshman class, way back in 2011, the class of 2015 was given a run down on their next four years of high school. During this meeting Mrs. Ashley Walulak, our vice principal at the time, gave us a briefing on how disciplines, and prom would work, but most importantly, and—the issue most cared about by students—how senior parking would work.

The answer was the tier system; a systematic way for the administration to determine who is "worthy" of being able to park on campus their senior year. Due to there not being enough spots on campus for all members of any senior class, the tier system's job is to place students in five tiers based on their disciplinary record. For the past few years, the tier system only took into account a student's disciplinary record of their junior year, when they would be applying for said parking spot. This was the rule that my class had been told during our first meeting way back in 2011. However, the policy for this year's junior class is not consistent with that in the past. In fact, the class of '15 is now being evaluated on their discipline records for their entire high school career.

The administration did not notify juniors of the change to the policy, either at the start of high school in 2011, or at the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year. Now this decision has given this year's juniors an unforeseen disadvantage. Yes, it is true that students need to take responsibility for their actions to make sure they do not get in trouble throughout the entirety of their high school career. However, it is completely absurd that the people who actively tried to remedy their disciplinary status this past year could possibly be hindered from getting a spot due to their previous disciplinary actions.

It is important to note that this new policy was brought to the class' attention when juniors were invited to a class meeting while the under-

classmen were testing. This meeting was preceded by a meeting illustrating the dangers of erratic teen driving behavior, which was required for all students hoping to apply for a spot.

At this meeting illustrating the dangers of teen driving, students were told of a contest being held by Hunterdon Prevention Resources.

**"...this decision has given this year's juniors an unforeseen disadvantage."**

The contest states that students who complete a two page paper about drug prevention and the harmful effects of marijuana have the opportunity to be placed at the top of tier 1, if they were not there already. Those who are at this top tier would not be required to pay the \$75 parking deposit. What really upsets me about this situation is that the administration informed us of this contest prior to telling us that they would be changing the entire system and looking at an applicant's whole career disciplinary record.

To summarize, a student who has a disciplinary report against them is not being given their fair chance to rectify the situation, due to an amendment in the previously known rule. Students were not given the true incentive to write the paper for Hunterdon Prevention Resources due to an inconsiderate and discourteous decision on behalf of the administration.

I believe this most recent withholding of information from students by the school administration is direct evidence of the lack of communication and respect between the students and administration of Hunterdon Central.

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## X-Men: Days of Future's Past makes history

By Danny Pasquarelli

The summer is a time full of flashy, big budget superhero and action movies rife with explosions, over-the-top CGI and adrenaline rushes. Most of these movies are plagued by the same problems—bland characters, meaningless dialogue, and clichéd villains to name a few—and after sitting through enough of them, it starts to feel like you're watching the same movie over and over again.

Amongst these movies, X-Men: Days of Future Past stands out like a zebra with pink stripes, and it serves as a refreshing reminder that the genre is not yet dead. The movie succeeds on every level and was just as good, if not better, than the expectations that were set. Comic fans and movie-goers alike will have a great time with this film because it combines comedy, action, and drama together to make one perfect superhero movie that stands out amongst the rest.

The story goes that the team of

mutants we've seen in the other films in the series send Wolverine, played by Hugh Jackman, back to the 70s to stop events that would mean doom for mutants and humans. This type of story sets up a lot of development for characters we already know, especially Professor X (Patrick Stewart).

It also offers something new for Wolverine's character—instead of relying upon his claws and fighting abilities, Wolverine has to use his smarts to help change the future events. One of the greatest parts of X-Men: Days of Future Past is the character of Quicksilver played perfectly by Evan Peters. In every scene, he's funny and entertaining. His character is so different than any other we've seen in the X-Men series and is worth a watch just for the very few scenes he's in.

The character of Raven was also a very strong

point in this film. Jennifer Lawrence pulled off the character excellently and gave a strong personality to her character that really brought out her character from the comics. The next best performance in this movie was by Michael Fassbender who played Erik, or Magneto. He gave a very powerful and convincing performance for the character and was just perfect for the role. It really gave him a unique personality. Another great thing about this movie is how director Bryan Singer was able to cram a two issue comic series into a full length film with no visible plot holes in sight. All in all, X-Men: Days of Future Past is a great film that everyone should experience. I give it a 9.5 out of 10.

Photo courtesy of yagami



The  
"sorta"  
amazing  
Spider-Man

By Andrew Guistwite

At the beginning of the month of May, the familiar childhood superhero swung back into theaters with The Amazing Spider-Man 2. Andrew Garfield and Emma Stone return to their respective roles as Peter Parker and Gwen Stacy, along with new stars Jamie Foxx and Dane Dehaan, who play the main antagonists of the film. The chemistry between Garfield and Stone is stunning—as usual—with both giving a convincing and concrete performance.

With the new cast, Jamie Foxx plays the shocking Electro, who is a victim of an industrial accident that changes him into a battery. His new abilities, as a result of this accident, include absorbing electricity from various sources and using that gathered energy to fire blasts of electrical energy.

Dehaan plays the childhood friend of Peter, Harry Osborne, who eventually has a vicious transfor-

mation into one of Spider-Man's most notorious foes, The Green Goblin. This depiction of Halloween horror is easily the best part of the film. Dehaan portrays the power-hungry psychopath in a fresh and modern way, including action scenes that keep you on the edge of your seat. Willem Dafoe depicts the same villain in Sam Raimi's Spider-Man (2001) as the main antagonist whose illustration parallels Dehaan's in regard to performance. By the end of both films, he is the villain that you love to hate.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for Electro. Though the special effects and duel scenes battling Spider-Man were visually satisfying, the film never really gives an explanation as to why Foxx hates Spider-Man so much. In the beginning of the film, Spider-Man saves Electro from almost getting run over and calls Max his "eyes and ears." Max eventually becomes obsessed with Spider-Man forgetting all past feuds. The entire relationship between Spider-Man and Electro just seems to be quite dry. There was also a lack of empathy developed for the character—it was attempted but not achieved. So on the villain scale, Electro would be a

6/10 while an 8/10 is awarded to the Green Goblin.

The overall story seemed to satisfy most viewers but it is rumored that a whole subplot was removed to cut down the time of the film. With a run time of only an hour and 42 minutes, it seems strange. It could be that the editors were trying to avoid the mistake they made in the previous movie, Raimi's Spider-Man 3 (2007), where too much was going on all at once. Fans draw this absent subplot theory from scenes in the trailer of the film that never actually appear in the movie. For example, one of the trailers hinted that the mystery surrounding Peter's parents would be completely resolved by the end of the film—but the film barely covered this mystery.

Alongside that, the character of Mary Jane Watson, Peter's love affair in the comics, was set to appear in the film but was also cut. These cuts made the overall story suffer in the eyes of some Spider-Man fans; however, to the casual viewer it was an exciting new adventure in the world of the web-slinger. With two sequels and spinoffs already confirmed by Sony, it is very safe to assume we'll be seeing the scarlet spider again very soon.

## Mural showcases youth activism

Continued from page 1

To spotlight Malala for the influence she has played on people's lives the Honors G&T I art class decided to paint a mural of her and her message, which is now hanging in the far left corner of the IMC. Junior Sonay Barazesh explained that the decision process was nearly unanimous. "Suddenly it hit us that we should combine our interests and passions to create something about youth empowerment in general," she said. "We thought that Malala was the perfect way to make our point clear because of how she stood up for her rights even as a youth."

Many of the artists, including Junior Olivia Saunders, were so moved by the story that they felt the need to put her teachings into action. "When Malala's bravery inspired us, we wanted to headline her on our mural as a sign of strength for the other causes we feel strongly about," she said. "Causes such as marriage equality, animal rights, female empowerment, environmental awareness and many more were depicted in our mural," she said. "We took Malala's idea that you can fight back with the power of words."

On the mural junior Amanda

Cornetta, along with the rest of the G&T art class, depicted Malala standing in front of a brick wall which contained a collection of other important issues worth fighting for. "We included an EPA flyer to speak out against the destruction of the environment; the symbol of feminism to speak out in favor of gender equality; a rainbow brick for gay pride; a few posters alongside the right which are against abuse among humans; a banner with flags that were labeled 'coexist' to discourage the idea that one religion should be more dominant over another; and little ribbons tied to an electricity box outside a window, each representing different illnesses/cancers," said Cornetta. "Above them, we carved in Zach Allen's initials to show that even if he can't be here physically, he'll forever remain a part of Central."

Above the mural, a quote in bold, spray-painted font reads, "I speak not for myself but for those without a voice." This quote by Malala has almost become the tagline for the mural, sending the message that while others may have lost hope in fighting for what is rightfully theirs, we

must continue to raise our voices to grant them those rights to live in peace, to be treated with dignity, to have equal opportunities, and to be educated.

In Malala's autobiography, she discusses her shooting, surgery, and recovery, saying "We realize the importance of our voices only when we are silenced."

As Barazesh would attest, Malala is a remarkable activist whom we should all follow as an example. "I hope the mural we created can spark conversations like

Photo by Trent Levitt



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# Girl athletes raising the bar



Photo by Daniel Kimple

Niki Cleary, Madison Heft and Sabrina Anderson practice before a meet.

By Chris Testa

Despite falling short at the conference meet, the Hunterdon Central girls' track and field team had some very strong individual performances this season, strong enough to break quite a few records. While the team as a whole worked the entire season to earn fourth place in the conference and second in the section, certain individuals and relay teams found themselves breaking a standing meet or school record.

As a starting point, the varsity pole vaulters have racked up points for the Devils all season long.

Niki Cleary, one of three junior pole vaulters, reflected on the success of her team this year. "Right now, myself, Madison Heft and Sabrina Anderson are the top team in the state, being the only high school with three female vaulters all jumping over 10 feet," said Cleary. "We are also the only high school with three members from the same team to qualify for the Group Championships."

At the sectional meet at Ridge High School on May 24 and 25, the vaulters scored big with Heft placing first, Anderson in second and Cleary earning a fourth place finish. Heft talked about accomplishing her personal best. "The moment I landed on the mat after I cleared the 11' 5" bar I couldn't stop smiling," said Heft. "All of my countless hours of practice, lifting, studying videos and learning proper technique... I finally reached one of my biggest goals."

Clearing that height gave Heft something other than a personal record: a ticket to the national competition on June 14 and 15.

Alongside Heft, Anderson and Cleary also had impressive performances, clearing 10' 6" and 10' 0", respectively. The trio of Heft, Anderson and Cleary scored a total of 22 of Central's 71 points at the sectional competition, giving the team a major lift into second place.

Cleary, along with being a strong asset in the pole vault, also showed talent in her other events. After being put into the 4x400 relay with fellow juniors Jackie Berardo and Christine Tack and sophomore Hannah Fay, they not only won the meet, but set a school record. Cleary and her relay team could not be more happy with their performance. "The previous record was set in 2001, with a time of 3:56.66 and we ran a 3:56.08. Breaking this record felt absolutely amazing," she said.

That group of four had a personal record of 4:01, so they were certainly able to rise to the occasion and shatter their previous best. Berardo was also very proud of her team's overall accomplishment. "Each of us was able to run a sub 60-second 400-meter time, and when we found out we broke the record everyone just jumped on

each other and started screaming," said Berardo. "That record has us qualifying for nationals by four full seconds."

Berardo was also a standout in the 800-meter dash, placing third at the sections with a time of 2:16.16, just four seconds off of Columbia superstar Olivia Baker, who won the event. "My goal is to break the 800 meter outdoor school record [2:12.48] senior year," Berardo said.



Photo by Daniel Kimple

Madison Heft consistently cleared great heights this season.

If she were to achieve that mark, she would have a great chance at winning both the conference and the section in the event next year. With Baker graduating this year, Berardo—assuming she'll achieve her goal—would be a serious contender for gold at the next year's meet.

All of these athletes competed in the group meet on May 30, and there is no doubt their success over the season translated to their performance that day. Everyone on the team will be looking to advance as far as they can with nationals in the balance.

## Central Speaks

Who are you rooting for in the World Cup?



Photos by Jon Spilletti

"Switzerland because it's the greatest team in the world!"

-Aaron Lewy and Ian Vogel, juniors



"I'm cheering for the U.S.A. because I know absolutely nothing about soccer and I am a proud patriot!"

-Meghan Stark, senior



"You should always cheer for the motherland, so naturally I'm rooting for Honduras."

-Abel Castro, junior

## There is no off-season for fall athletes

the skills they have acquired during the summer. Paul Kolody, the strength conditioning coach at Central, says that the summer is a time for athletes to get in shape during the tryouts.



Photo by Sebastian Machado

Girls soccer and volleyball train for the upcoming fall season.

Paul Kolody, the strength conditioning coach at Central, says that the summer is a time for athletes to get in shape during the tryouts.

of the aforementioned agreed with Kolody, citing it as an integral part of training. From this, summer plays an important role in an athlete's life and allows them to get an upper hand, both physically and mentally. Coaches athletes to train over the

summer if they hope for a successful fall season.

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