

THE PROWLER

Quince Orchard High School

Trump transition

By ALEX HAMER
News Editor

As president-elect Donald Trump's inauguration on January 20 looms, Trump has begun the task of appointing members to his cabinet.

As of December 5, Trump has selected all three of the cabinet members that do not require Senate confirmation (Chief Strategist, Chief of Staff, and National Security Advisor) while also selecting ten of the 20 that do require it.

Of the three that do not require confirmation, the appointment of Stephen Bannon as Chief Strategist has been the most controversial. Bannon, the former chairman of right-wing media publication Breitbart, has also been criticized by many civil rights groups, Democrats, and some Republican strategists claiming he represents racist views, according to the New York Times. However, Trump remains confident in his selection. "If I thought he was a racist or alt-right or any of those things, the terms we could use, I wouldn't even think about hiring him," Trump said, according to Politico.

The other two positions that do not require confirmation are filled by Reince Priebus and Michael Flynn, as Chief of Staff and National Security Adviser, respectively. Neither nomination came as much of a surprise based on Priebus' experience as Republican National Committee chairman and Flynn's experience as Army Lieutenant General and director of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Of the Secretaries that do require confirmation, Ben Carson's selection on December 5 as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development has been the most recent selection, and of more surprising ones as well.

House democratic leader Nancy Pelosi said, "[Carson] is a disconcerting and disturbingly unqualified choice to lead a department as complex and consequential as Housing and Urban Development," according to USA Today.

Carson, the retired neurosurgeon and 2016 presidential candidate, was known to be a name on Trump's shortlist, but was expected to be a candidate to fill the role of Surgeon General based on his medical past. However, Carson has been vocal about his views, criticizing fair-housing regulations under the Obama administration.

"I feel that I can make a significant contribution particularly by strengthening companies that are most in need," Carson told The Wall Street Journal.

For Defense Secretary, Trump selected James Mattis, a retired Marine Corps general who last served as Commander of Central Command in 2013. One of Mattis' goals is curbing the threat of ISIS.

In 2015, Mattis said, "[The United States] needs to come out from our reactive couch and take a firm, strategic stance in defense of our values," according to the New York Times.

Trump selected Steven Mnuchin as Treasury Secretary. Mnuchin is a former Goldman Sachs executive but has no experience in government prior to his appointment.

For Transportation Secretary, Trump chose Elaine Chao, the labor secretary under President George W. Bush and husband of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

For Health and Human Services Secretary, Trump selected Tom Price, a six-term Republican Senator from Georgia.

Wilbur Ross, an investor, was selected by Trump as Commerce Secretary. For Education Secretary, Trump nominated Betsy DeVos, a former chairwoman of the Michigan Republican Party.

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Cougar football ends historic season



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MKMEDIA

COUGAR FOOTBALL MAKES IT TO STATES: After a grueling run in the playoffs, the Cougars' season ended in Annapolis in a run for the state championship. Despite losing to Wise High School 42-7, the QO community is proud of them.

Teacher's union proposes earlier start times

By ANNA GOOREVICH
Editor-in-Chief

Last month, the Montgomery County Educators Association (MCEA) submitted a recommendation to the MCPS Board of Education to return to the 2014-2015 bell schedule in which school start times were earlier for all students. After almost two years under a new, later schedule, many unintended consequences have arisen, causing teachers, students, and parents to question whether changing to a new schedule benefits or harms students and teachers.

You may be wondering, what exactly is the MCEA? Science teacher and a MCEA representative Patrick Truman said the MCEA "is an association similar to a union and teachers can join to be members. The MCEA helps to advocate for teachers and students. It is the agency that makes sure teachers are treated fairly."

In February 2015, the Board of Education voted to delay start times after a parent-led effort to push back times in order to allow teenagers to have more normal sleep schedules. Senior Lindsay Kohan believes that the delay in start times has achieved its purpose. "Waking up at a later time I think is just easier on the body, even if it is just 20 minutes," she said.

Jamie Andrews, English teacher and MCEA representative, also has seen improvements due to the later bell schedule. "I've had a few colleagues mention that they see a positive change in alertness in their students in the mornings," said Andrews.

However, many unintended negative consequences have ensued due to the later schedule, prompting the MCEA to propose a return to earlier start times. Many

of the problems with later bell times are evident in elementary schools. The current schedule holds that elementary schools either end at 3:25pm or 3:50pm, which many believe is much too late for the young students.

Elementary school teacher Molly Black supports a move back to earlier times. "For elementary school students," said Black, "it is not developmentally appropriate for them to attend school so late in the afternoon. Many of [these students] do not make it home until dinner time, leaving them little time for homework and play before having to go to bed."

Middle school teacher Kimmi Lechliger cited similar concerns. Furthermore, she added that "the current schedule puts buses right in rush hour traffic, adding to cost of fuel since they are sitting in traffic longer."

High school teachers have observed similar problems. Truman added that "elementary school students are going home and it's dark. Also, there have been many instances where parents have to go to work before they can drop off their students."

Andrews also added that "there are some Tier 2 schools that because they get out so late, they're not eligible for some after school grant programs." This causes a problem for Tier 2 schools in low-income areas, resulting in many students regularly taking advantage of after-school programs. Without federal funding, these afternoon programs could have problems functioning, causing conflicts for students and families.

Although negative consequences of the later bell times are not as extreme for high schools and middle schools, there have still been complaints that the later times are an inconvenience for students. "It's harder on practices because they go later, so you get

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Kanye West cancels rest of Life Of Pablo tour after suffering a mental breakdown.

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As New Year's approaches, people are starting to think of resolutions for 2017.

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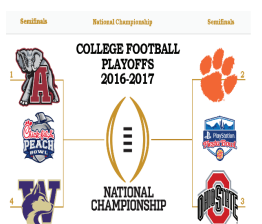


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Sports

As the college football season wraps up, the stage for playoffs has been set.

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MCEA wants new bell times *Union fights for earlier school schedule*

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home later, and do your homework later, which causes you to stay up later at night," said Kohan.

Before the MCEA submitted its official proposal to the Board of Education asking to move back to the earlier start times, MCEA members were able to vote for five different options. The first option was a return back to the 2014-2015 schedule, which had high school starting at 7:25 a.m., middle school at 7:55 a.m., and elementary schools starting at either 8:50 a.m. or 9:15 a.m. The second option was continuing the current bell schedule.

In addition to these options, MCEA members considered three brand new proposals. The first new suggestion was having elementary schools starting and ending earlier than high schools. The projected cost of this option was \$3.9 million, mainly due to a greater need for buses at various times.

The second new proposal was similar to the 2014-2015 schedule except that middle school would start at 7:25 a.m. while high schools would start at 7:55 a.m. This proposal had a projected cost of \$1.3 million.

The third new proposal suggested that elementary schools start the earliest at 7:35 a.m. and ending at 2:00 p.m. or starting at 8:00 a.m. and ending at 2:25 p.m. This proposal had high schools starting at 8:35 a.m. and ending at 3:20 p.m. The projected cost of this proposal was also \$1.3 million.

One main issue arose with having elementary schools start and end earlier than high schools: many high school students are responsible for picking up and caring for younger siblings after school. Having high school end later meant that these students would be unable to watch siblings while parents were at work after school.

Teachers were officially able to voice their opinion on the matter through a county-wide vote. QO teachers who are members of the MCEA vot-

"With bell times, it's such a complicated situation that it's going to be a difficult decision whatever it ends up being. It's not going to be ideal for everyone."

-Patrick Truman

ed on what proposal they preferred, and keeping the current schedule was the most popular response with 38.9% of the vote. In second place (31.1%) was the the first option of returning back to the old schedule.

However, within the whole MCEA, QO was on the opposite side of popular opinion: many schools, mostly elementary, voted for the proposal to return to the old schedules.

Since this is just a recommendation from the MCEA, the decision ultimately will come down to the Board of Education. said Truman. "The Board is in a position where they are thinking about not only teachers but also students, the laws and requirements, budget concerns, and more. With bell times, it's such a complicated situation that it's going to be a difficult decision whatever it ends up being."

Whatever decision (or lack thereof) is made "is not going to be ideal for everyone," added Truman. "There's never going to be one clear, easy answer."

Overall, Andrews stresses that "teachers are some of the most selfless people ever." It is important that their voice and opinions on important matters such as bell times are not overlooked.

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Volume 29, Issue 3

December 16, 2016



Trump's cabinet selections

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DeVos helped engineer the large spread of charter schools in Michigan, most of which score below the state average in standardized testing, according to the Washington Post. As UN Ambassador, Trump selected Nikki Haley, the Governor of South Carolina. Haley was a supporter of Marco Rubio during the primary and process and was vocal about her concerns about Trump, but now seems more convinced of Trump's rhetoric. "Mr. Trump has definitely contributed

what I think is irresponsible talk," Haley said in a January 2016 interview with NBC. The CIA Director nominee will be Mike Pompeo, a representative from Kansas and former Army officer. The last nominee, as of December 5, is Jeff Sessions for Attorney General. Sessions, a Senator from Alabama, was rejected for federal judgeship in 1986 due to concerns about racially charged comments and actions. While it has yet to be seen who the remaining ten positions will be filled by, Trump's cabinet appointments thus far have well and truly begun the Trump transition.

PROWLER NEWS FLASHES

By ANNA GOOREVICH
Editor-in-Chief

On November 29, news of a plane crash holding the Brazilian soccer team Chapecoense AF shocked the world. The plane carried 77 people, among them members of the team, coaches, and media personnel. Only six survivors were found: three players, 2 crew members, and one journalist. It has been reported that the plane crashed due to electrical problems and low fuel levels. On December 7, it was announced that Bolivian authorities have arrested the head of LaMia airlines, the company operating the flight, as part of the investigation.

Chapecoense was on its way to Medellín, Colombia to play Colombian team Atlético Nacional in the final of the Copa Sudamericana, one of the most prestigious competitions in South American soccer. Chapecoense has had a historic rise to the top of South American soccer as less than a decade ago, they were playing in Brazil's fourth division. Reaching the final of the Copa Sudamericana so soon after is a spectacular feat. As Chapecoense fans and the soccer world begin to recover, Atlético Nacional, in an act of sportsmanship, called for Chapecoense to be named Copa Sudamericana champions as a way to honor the lives of those lost.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLAZE.COM

By DYLAN KEARNEY
Associate Editor

A warehouse caught fire in Oakland, California on December 2, hurting and killing up to at least 36 of the 50 missing people reported by loved ones, the highest number of people lost in a US fire in over a decade. The cause of the fire is not known, but the building that was leased to an artists' collective was already under investigation for illegal construction and safety hazards by Oakland officials. Many family and friends mourned this incredible loss at a candlelight vigil.

Wildfires spread in East Tennessee on November 23 and left 14 people dead and 150 injured. Two teenage suspects were arrested for arson on December 7. Over a thousand homes and buildings and thousands of acres of wildlife land were lost. The communities have been trying to recuperate from this devastation and many other fires in the area caused by drought. The fires are still strong in the mountains and many around the country have rushed towards East Tennessee to aid those involved. Country music star Dolly Parton, who is from East Tennessee, has promised to donate \$1,000 each month to families affected by the fire until they have fully recovered.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CNN



Kanye West has mental breakdown following concert

By SOPHIE LANE
Associate Editor

Kanye West has been having a difficult time after his wife Kim Kardashian West's robbery in October and the 10th anniversary of his mother's death last month. The well-known rapper and performer had a mental breakdown after one of his concerts in Sacramento, California on November 19, where he only sang two songs before he began his rant about many subjects including the presidential election, Beyoncé and Jay-Z's relationship, and racism. This led to the cancellation of the rest of his tour, "Life of Pablo," and a ten-day hospital trip.

West takes drugs for physiological issues not publicly known; however, he stopped or began taking less of his medication after his wife's robbery, according to Daily Mail. The anniversary of his mother's death was November 20 - the same day he cancelled his show at the L.A. Forum.

Before his breakdown and his time in the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, West angered fans at performances in San Jose and Sacramento for performing few of his songs, and instead ranting about his support for Donald Trump, his views on racism, and his annoyance with Beyoncé and Jay-Z. Sources close to

West say that he had been having a hard time dealing with stress over the past months, and in addition to that, West never fully grieved over the death of his mother. During his wife's robbery, West was away on tour, and ever since the incident West has not been able to sleep.

During his hospitalization, West was described as being "paranoid," refusing at times to allow the doctors to touch him and also ranting that people were trying to break up his marriage with Kardashian West. Sources claim West hadn't slept "in about a week" leading up to the breakdown. Furthermore, West was also exhibiting "aggressive and terrifying" out-



PHOTO COURTESY OF EAST COAST RENAISSANCE
CALM BEFORE THE STORM: Kanye West performs at his *Life of Pablo* tour before cancelling the remainder of his tour due to a reported mental breakdown.

bursts, including one time where he threw his phone. "He was having difficulty identifying what was real," a family insider told. "He was violent, but not violent toward people."

After his concert in Sacramento, California,

West's personal trainer called his doctor, who then called 911 to get West into the UCLA Medical Center. During his stay, West refused some medication and assistance from doctors. West ended up being in the hospi-

tal over a week, and once released, West continued to receive care from doctors, ensuring that he takes all his medication.

Although there are inconsistencies in the reports on the causes of the breakdowns, there are multiple factors described and the sources are mainly just inferring what the cause is. The actual reason for the sudden outbreaks and sleep deprivation will not be officially confirmed until a reliable source announces the reasoning. Many may associate the outbreaks with the anniversary of his mother's death and his wife's recent robbery, but other factors may not be publicly known.

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VIEWPOINT

A firsthand experience: the election protests

By **TORI BERRY**
Managing Editor

Walkouts are infamous amongst high schools. Sometimes they're just a mass of students trying to avoid their classes, sometimes seniors walk out in celebration of the fact that they are, well, seniors. Today - November 16, 2016 - was the first walkout that I've ever participated in. The walkout was part of a county-wide protest against the recent election, the president elect, and the hatred throughout the nation that was aroused as a result of each.

On June 16, 2015, Donald Trump announced his candidacy for president of the United States of America. For the past 17 months, Trump waltzed through the country, spreading racism, xenophobia, religious discrimination, and sexism. For the past seven months, the Trump campaign has awoken past ideals of detestable intentions. For the past 17 months, we have been told that he will "Make America Great Again," but instead, Trump has made America hate again.

Across Montgomery County, students from three different high schools put their heads together and organized a walkout and march in protest of these recent

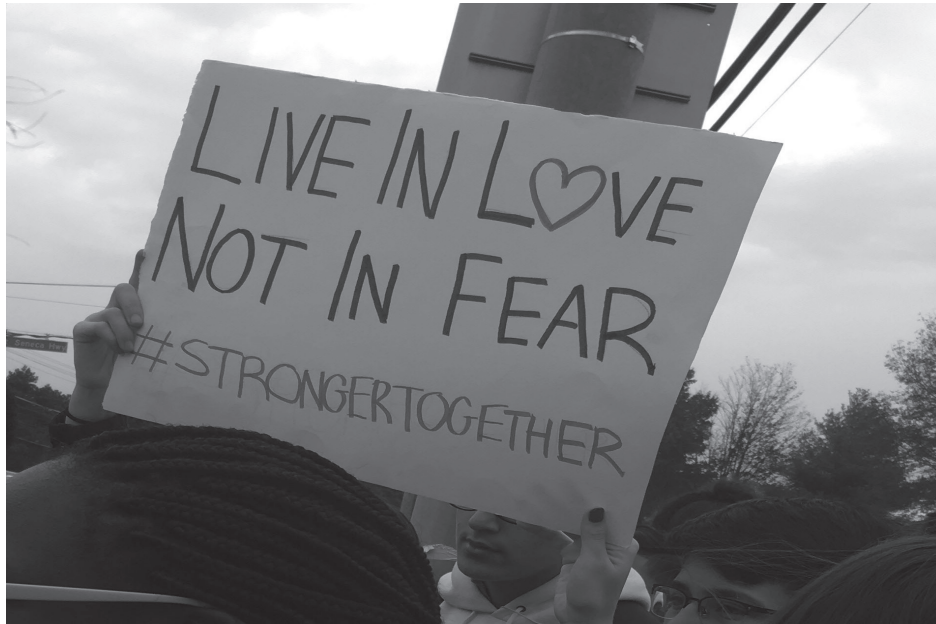


PHOTO BY TORI BERRY

STUDENTS MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD: *Students from Montgomery County and across the country have expressed their disapproval for President-elect Trump.*

events. From Seneca Valley, Northwest, and Quince Orchard High Schools, students of all ethnicities, genders, and sexual orientations exited their school buildings during lunchtime and combined at a meeting point along Great Seneca Highway where we began our march across town. Many carried posters, some of which read "You can't tell me who I can and cannot love," "Human beings aren't

illegal," "Muslim ≠ terrorist," "I am black and I am proud," "United we stand, divided we fall," and "Live in love, not in fear!"

Together, we marched a total of eight miles over the course of four hours. We screamed and yelled the whole way, chanting phrases like: "My body, my choice," "No justice, no peace," "If you stand with us, you stand with all," and, a personal favorite, "Hands too small, can't

build a wall." Occasionally, drivers in cars passing by would honk and raise a thumbs up or fist out of their window. A few times, students who either support Trump or were simply against the protest drove by with Trump signs and masks.

A lot of people doubted that the walkout would have any impact, let alone happen in the first place. But protesting was not limited to Montgomery County high schools. Organizations in Oregon, Florida, Wisconsin, Ohio, and other states were also leading demonstrations. All of these had the same goal: to bring attention to the amount of disapproval towards the hatred born from this election and our president elect. With media sources attending and reporting on this protest and the others taking place throughout the county, our goal was achieved.

This day, this protest, this amazing group of people - all of it was an incredible experience. By the end of the march, I was exhausted, my feet were covered in painful blisters, and I was shining with sweat. At points, my throat and head both ached from all of the chants and the volume at which I screamed them. But standing up against an injustice such as this, one which I myself am so strongly against, made it all worth it.

Clarksburg Outlets now open

By **BRANDON FREEDMAN**
Managing Editor

Are you ready to shop? The Clarksburg Premium Outlets celebrated its grand opening on Oct. 27-29 and this new shopping center brought thousands of holiday shoppers to upper Montgomery County to shop at stores such as Nike, Under Armour, Kate Spade, Calvin Klein and many others. Located just off I-270, the outlets couldn't be in a more accessible location.

The construction of the outlets required a \$15 million investment to help for the building costs. The outlets therefore created over 500 construction jobs and over 1,000 full- and part-time jobs. The benefits of the opening couldn't be more beneficial as it is estimated to bring in over \$12 million worth of tax revenue within the first year of operation.

"It will be destination shopping," said Marilyn Balcombe, president and CEO of the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce. The Clarksburg Premium Outlets features 90 shops and restaurants, a children's play area, a lovely water feature, and a racetrack-like layout, which makes maneuvering the shops much easier.

One junior, Brandon Zand, has already visited the outlets and "really



CLARKSBURG PREMIUM OUTLETS

enjoyed them." Although some shops such as Adidas and 7 for All Mankind have not been open for business yet, there are still many places to buy clothing and various other gifts. The outlets couldn't have opened at a better time as Black Friday was just a month away. This has been a great opportunity for many to buy their holiday gifts with great deals. "I was able to get a couple of sweatshirts and sweatpants for 40% off, which is a really good deal," said Zand.

Buying holiday gifts does not come without controversy. Although people love to buy gifts for friends and family, some say that spending excess money on others takes away the true meaning of the holidays and that people should just "be able to celebrate without any expensive gifts," said senior Camryn Mercer.

Others, like junior Courtney Rinehimer, believe that "presents show love and spread joy."

Many people prefer the concept of the outlet shopping over going to the mall. Junior Matt Zlotnicki added, "I don't mind spending my money if it makes others happy, but I hate going to the busy mall."

"Malls can be so crowded and the stores are so small. Also, the deals seem much better at the outlets," said sophomore Nicki Thomas. However, as the weather turns colder, some people may find the outdoor outlets less appealing. Some may opt for the warmth of an indoor mall. Whichever you prefer, outlets or mall, one thing is for sure: the month between Thanksgiving and New Year's is the busiest shopping time of the year.

JUNTOS wins seven awards

By **DYLAN KEARNEY**
Associate Editor

JUNTOS, the highly renowned Latin dance group here at QO, has been busy lately. They recently performed at the school play and also won many awards at their recent competition in Rockville. Last season's captains during the last competition of the award-winning dance team were seniors Cristina Majano and Monique Costa, and the new captain for this season is Junior Jullia Goncalves. Some of her roles will be to make sure everyone comes to practice and feels comfortable with the dances.

The group performed at their competition on November 21 at the MCPS Latin Dance Competition at the Strathmore Hall and won seven awards. They won first place in the Jack & Jill competition—a partner dance where the partners are chosen by random—second place in Merengue and Salsa, and third place in the Cha Cha, Bachata, Parent/Student, and the Group Senior divisions. "I was nervous before the show and surprised that everyone was doing so well," said senior Omar Argueta. Argueta was also excited to have placed second in Merengue, and he would like to continue to dance in college.

The members of JUNTOS work very hard to create a great performance. They have practice during the school week and on Saturdays with their dance teacher Irene Holtzman, who owns a dance studio called ClaveKazi. The choreography is written by Holtzman, but the students help and come up with their own work as well. "After the competition we all hang out. We're friends in and out of the club," said Goncalves. "We have a lot of fun practicing together and with other fun things like getting our costumes." The group also wants to stress the importance of getting more boys to join the group,

as they are important to many dances.

The group has two sponsors, math teacher Tanya Mohan and Spanish teacher Charlene Cardona, who are very dedicated to the group. Mohan has really enjoyed her experience working with the students. "I like to see the students grow and develop leadership roles," she said. One example of a leadership role are the senior members who make up their own choreography for a part of their show. "They learn to balance their roles while still helping others, and at the same time being able to keep up with school work, which can be difficult to do," added Mohan.

Cardona started as the sponsor when the group began in 2007. "I used to be able to spend a lot more time with the group," said Cardona, who would enjoy dancing with the students and helping them practice. "I take care of my kids now and help with the paperwork for the club mostly," she added. "Mrs. Mohan usually spends more time with the group for practices and social events, which makes our teamwork work so great."

This year during the fall play, Almost, Maine, JUNTOS performed after the show to practice for their upcoming competition. Staff and students alike enjoyed their performance. "The JUNTOS performance was a great way to be unified as a school and as student performers," said senior and fall play actor Alex Chase. "Not to mention it was really cool!"

Mohan said that all of the members have had no experience before joining. Even so, many members have been loyal to the group for 3 to 4 years, most since their freshman year. "I love to see the students grow," sa Mohan, "to see them work hard at something, and from this experience hopefully see that form in other aspects of their life." If you are interested in joining, JUNTOS meets on in Room 118 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2:40 PM to 4 PM and Saturdays from 11 AM to 1 PM.



PHOTO BY BRITTANY MILLS

The QO projects holds the annual Giving Tree

By BRITTANY MILLS
Editor-in-Chief

'Tis the season of giving. To brighten the holidays of families in need, The QO Project hosts their third annual Giving Tree event.

The Giving Tree is a gift-giving project in which over 50 QO students and their families are selected to be provided with their holiday wishes. In the main lobby of QOHS, cards on the Giving Tree provide information about an anonymous person in need. The card gives basic information about the person such as their age, clothing size, gift wishes and if they are in need of a winter jacket. Once participants choose a card, they sign up to buy gifts designated on the card. Participants buy new items and bring the unwrapped gifts to a designated box in the main lobby or to Mrs. Adams in room 128. All the gifts will be distributed to the selected families before winter break.

The QO Project also facilitates a gift-wrapping event that is open to any community member on December 20 from 2:45 p.m. to approximately 5:00 p.m. Participants will meet at QOHS in room 119 to wrap the gifts provided from the Giving Tree event. All students participating in the

wrapping event can receive student service learning hours for their time.

The QO Project Club has been working hard to make this 7th annual event a success. The club's president, Patty Dirlam, reflects on the event's importance: "The Giving Tree matters because it is a way to directly improve the life of a fellow QOHS student. We all need to care for each other."

Sophomore Sera Smith and her family participate in the gift giving event annually. Smith appreciates this tradition, "It is a great way for those who are more fortunate to see that our help is needed and appreciated. It also helps us remember what the holidays are really about."

However, you don't have to be a QOHS student or parent to participate in the Giving Tree. Anyone can pick up a card in the main lobby or email Mrs. Colleen Adams (collen_m_adams@mcpsmd.org) for information about an individual to shop for. In addition, there are other ways to contribute such as donating wrapping paper, boxes, tissue paper, decorative bags, bows, or gift cards to local stores to be used to fill in for missing gifts, and gift cards to local grocery stores so every family can purchase a holiday meal.

Survival tips to get through the holiday season with family

By TORI BERRY
Managing Editor

It's almost time for the winter holidays, and that means aunts, uncles, grandparents, and cousins flying in from all over to exchange thoughtful gifts with each other while sitting around the warm, crackling fire. The aroma of hot chocolate hangs in the atmosphere. All is merry and bright...until your Aunt Susan brings up the election. It can be pretty difficult to handle family gatherings, so here are our tips on how to survive this year's holidays.

Tip #1: Rush The Greetings

Greetings are either the best or the worst; there's no in-between. Some people enjoy the lengthy "let's catch up" conversations that follow salutations, whereas others are internally groaning the entire time. If you're the latter, there's a solution to avoid these situations. All you have to do is rush the greeting. As soon as you spot them, perform your best dog-just-saw-a-squirrel impression and act as though you are searching for something. Make sure you pass them by and say your hellos, but continue on quickly, as if you are too preoccupied to stop. Do this any time they're about to start an interrogation.

Tip #2: Hide Your Phone

In almost all families, there are at least a few small children. In this day and age, those children are given whatever they want, especially if it keeps them quiet, whether it's to stop their screaming in the middle of a grocery

store, or to silence their whining when they haven't had a nap. Parents tend to open a game on their phone and let the kid play for as long as needed. Most teenagers have experienced the consequence of this, and they're all too familiar with the infamous question: "You got games on your phone?" Once the children see your cellphone, you can't lie your way out of the situation; if you want to protect yourself, you have to hide your phone from the very start. As soon as you're in their line of sight, stash your phone in the most convenient spot. They can't deny your excuses if they don't see your phone.

Tip #3: This Should Go Without Saying

At any large social gathering - a holiday celebration, family reunion, work party, etc. - there are three topics that you just shouldn't bring up: politics, religion, and money. You can never be completely sure if these conversations will spawn an argument, a full-fledged debate, or even a food fight (it's been known to happen). Following the recent election especially, mentioning any of these could awaken some unsettled tension about differing opinions in the family. Peoples' views on religion are not always the same, either. And personal finances are both nobody's business and sometimes more sensitive than you might think. As long as you don't bring up these in conversation, arguments can be avoided.

Using these tips, you just might be able to survive the holidays with your family. We wish you the best of luck.

Letter to the Editor: Let the Red Army do it

For years I have requested, cajoled, and challenged the SGA to fulfill one of its responsibilities and provide our mascot Quincy, for all to see, at all home football games. As to this date they have performed in a less than stellar fashion in their support of our teams and QO in general.

I can probably count on one hand the number of times I have seen Quincy at a home football game in the last five years. We have an expensive costume that, if worn, adds to the game and especially to the smaller fans.

Maybe it is time to turn over this responsibility to The Red Army to have Quincy as a member of the student section. One only has to hear the cheers, the singing of the fight song, and our National Anthem to know that here is where Quincy belongs. The Red Army stirs a passion in

the stands rarely seen in any other local high school stadium or many local college stadiums.

I ask the SGA to turn this responsibility over to a group that can get it done. Let the Red Army Do It! There is no reason that The Red Army cannot find a different member each game to fill Quincy's shoes. Right?

I will make The Red Army the same offer that I made to the SGA for several years now. If The Red Army will actively fill Quincy's shoes for the first four home games, then I will do the fifth home game from the booth dressed as Quincy if I can get into the suit. Since I have not seen Quincy in forever, I cannot guarantee a good fit, but I will make the effort with a little help from my "kids" in The Red Army. Let's do it.

Most sincerely,

Mr. Lee Faris

"Voice of Cougar Football"



PHOTO COURTESY OF QOHS.COM

2017 New Year Resolution Suggestions

By HANNAH PEARLSTEIN
Managing Editor

2016 has been one for the record books: mourning dead gorillas, white Vans, and the death of Kim Kardashian on social media. But the time has come to move on to the new year; 2017, we're ready for you.

Each new year brings new resolutions. What follows will be some ideas for the ever-present, but always quickly forgotten, New Year's Resolutions. New year, new me. Let's begin.

Resolution #1: Join a gym. It's time to get #fit! Let's get that spring break body ready! One sit-up, two sit-ups, three sit-ups, aaaanddd we're done for the day. Go ahead and get some Taco Bell. You deserve it, you muscle monster.

Resolution #2: Eat healthier. All of those carbs and junk food have NOT been sitting well with you,

and it feels like the freshman fifteen has struck a bit early for you seniors. So, next time you go to McDonald's, try for only a six-piece chicken nugget and



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OLYMPIAN TIMES

a medium fry instead of a large. But don't worry, you can keep your Burger King order the same: we all know Burger King is the kale of fast-food chains.

Resolution #3: Get more sleep. It's time to stop going out all night and sleeping all day. It's not beneficial to your health, and it's important to establish a good sleep schedule and keep that circadian rhythm humming. Try going to sleep before 10 PM every night, and plan a time that you can wake up at every morning...wait, my phone just buzzed. Someone just sent me the cutest video of a puppy walking on its hind legs. Oh look, another one. These are hilarious. Oh no. It's three AM. Oh well, I'll try again tomorrow.

Resolution #4: Stop %4\$@ing cursing. Some people tend to have dirtier mouths than others. It's nothing to be ashamed of, but this ^&*! can stop! Just \$@!*ing stop it, you dumb %^\$*@!

Resolution #5: Improve my GPA. Haha, just kidding. Happy New Year's, everyone. Have a safe year full of productive healthy days that are empty of Kim K snap stories.



DAMN  **DANIEL**

A Year in

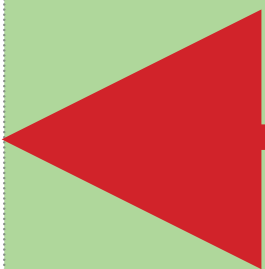
By DANIELLE PASEKO
Associate Editor and M

January: The Zika virus, a mosquito-carrying disease that could potentially lead to birth defects, spread to over 21 countries. Though no cure has been found yet, vaccines will soon be available for widespread use.

March: The US Women's National Soccer Team filed a lawsuit fighting for equal pay to US Men's National Team.

May: After Ted Cruz and John Kasich drop out of the presidential race, Donald Trump secures the Republican nomination.

July: F
in the ha



February 15: The first explosive meme of 2016 happened when Joshua Holz filmed a Vine of his friend, Daniel Lara, and his outfits. Soon after, the term "Damn, Daniel" became known by adolescents everywhere.

April: An official from the National Treasury announced that Harriet Tubman would replace Andrew Jackson on the 20 dollar bill, the first woman on U.S. paper currency for over a century. The new bill design is set to begin printing in 2020.

June: Britain voters o
the United Kingdom
leave the European Union
mately known as "Brexit"
er UK countries, such as
land and Ireland, were u
this news, and many vote
left confused and bew
on the decision they

The "In"s and

IN

By HANNAH
Managing Edi

- Chokers that double as a collar for pets.
- Posing like a mannequin to gain fame over social media.
- Acting like a safe human being and not letting iPhone apps run your life.
- Complaining about politics.
- Not looking like an idiot.
- Micah Wiggins (Principal intern)
- Newspaper

Review



OFF and BEN PALMER
Managing Editor

Harambe's legacy is placed
hands of the meme makers.

September: The first pep
rally of the year excites stu-
dents and motivates them
to succeed first quarter.

November: The Chicago
Cubs win the World Series
for the first time in 108 years.
President Barack Obama and
Vice President Joe Biden pre-
pare to leave the White House,
but the Biden meme adminis-
tration has only just begun.

decided
should
on, ulti-
t." Oth-
s Scot-
pset by
ers were
ilderred
made.

August: The greatest supervil-
lain movie of all time, Suicide
Squad, is released. The Olym-
pics are held, allowing superstar
Michael Phelps to be memo-
rialized as an angry sith Lord.

October 14: The Cou-
gars beat the Northwest Jag-
uars in football, propelling
the QO team into playoffs.

December: The students of
Quince Orchard lip-synched
to a full audience at the annu-
al Putting On the Hits perfor-
mance, which worked wonders.

"Out"s of 2016

PEARLSTEIN
tor

OUT

- Necklaces that don't restrict your airway.
- Using mannequins to display clothes in store windows.
- Traveling to remote locations and risking death because of your Pokemon Go addiction.
- Actually understanding what is going on in politics
- Traveling on possibly-explosive hoverboards.
- Mrs. Working
- Yearbook



Plugging in and tuning out: music mania

By **WILL HUSTED**
Editor-in-Chief

A fellow student walks by and you try to get their attention, but there is no response. A familiar sight around the hallways of Quince Orchard is students listening to music while walking. This has been an increasingly popular choice for students to make. However, there is more to this seemingly simple action.

There are a multitude of reasons students listen to music especially while walking from class to class. Senior Sine Wari says music allows her to hear what she wants to hear and “not other people talking in the hallways.” Listening to music between class periods especially

helps students to keep focus throughout the day and not be distracted or annoyed with other people in the hallways.

However, listening to music in the hallways raises concern for some at Quince Orchard. “The kids are not engaged in daily life. They [the students] are tuned out from their reality,” said an anonymous student. With the earbuds in, a student may not interact with their peers, which some say could lead to a lack of proper social development.

But what exactly are students listening to? When asked about their favorite music, the student body had a wide range of answers from the ever popular “Caroline” by Animé to the Hamilton Remix track that sopho-

more Annie Coulson has called “nothing short of spectacular.” With ranges in tastes from rap to Broadway and everything in between, the effect of the music can be felt in the focus and mindset of students. The vast range of music so readily available allows students to listen to their favorites as much as they want or discover songs they never knew they would enjoy.

For a long time, iTunes was the essential tool for any music lover. However, new music services such as Spotify, SoundCloud, Tidal, and Pandora have created more choices. There are fierce loyalties to each service. As senior Spotify user and music enthusiast Alex Romano puts it, “Spotify gives better sug-

gested songs and is an all around a better service.” Both Apple Music and Spotify provide flat, monthly rates to customers and allows them to download as much music as they want in a library that includes almost every song recorded.

With the increase in ability to listen to music, the rise in students using earbuds to entertain and focus themselves throughout the day should not be a surprise. The music provides an escape, but with that escape comes the responsibility of taking the earbuds out every once in awhile and talking with the person next to you. A healthy balance of usage is vital to the increase of media especially in the form of listening to music while in school.



Jackie (R)

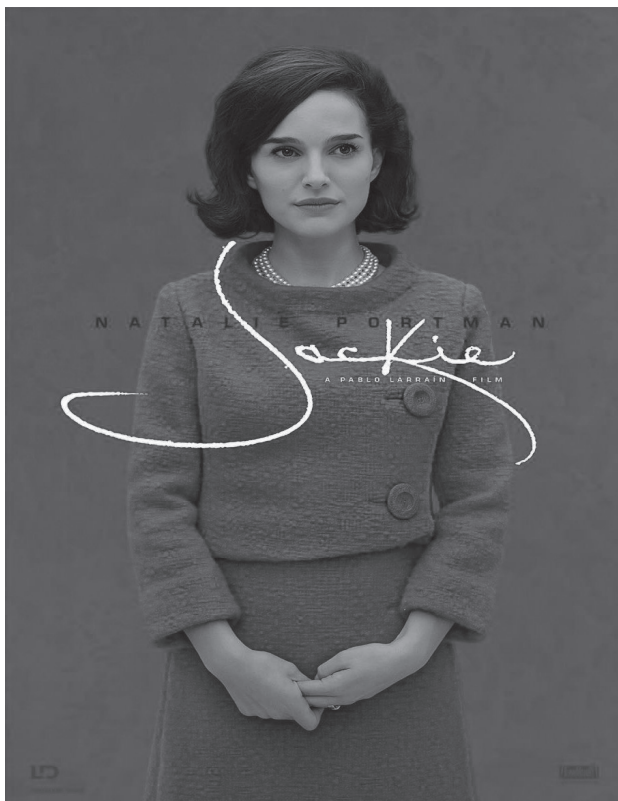


PHOTO COURTESY OF TEASERTRAILER.COM

Jackie fails to meet expectations

By **JACOB CORNBLATT**
Associate Editor

Jackie may be one of the most hyped movies this year has to offer. It's not the first biopic of former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, but Hollywood has made it clear that this one was to be different; it wouldn't have the same sappy nature of other biopics, for it was to be made by famous Chilean director Pablo Larrain, who strives in small dramas (see: last year's *The Club*). Unfortunately, however, *Jackie* was fundamentally the same as every biopic before it.

Larrain obviously tried extraordinarily hard to tell Jackie's story in an idiosyncratic way—it was shot on a 1.66:1 aspect ratio (which means the movie is not widescreen, as per usual), contained very little real plot, and worked mostly inside Onassis' head. Larrain somewhat succeeded: the look of the movie is in no way traditional, and the foreboding atmosphere may have been the only thing keeping me truly tied to the story. There was one key factor where he failed, however...

I'll just spit it out: Natalie Portman is horrid as Jackie Kennedy. From her first frame to her last frame, she was not Jackie, but rather Natalie Portman playing Jackie. The weird way she moves, the bizarre way she speaks, all just took me out of the film. The entire picture relied on Portman's performance, yet neither Larrain nor the actress could make it work. There are a few moments here and

there that work (most notably the scene where she accepts her husband's death at the funeral), but Portman never convinced me she was Jackie Kennedy.

The surrounding performances were fine, though. Greta Gerwig, who I usually don't love, shined as social secretary Nancy Tuckerman, and Peter Sarsgaard encapsulated Bobby Kennedy especially well. It was just Portman who fell flat.

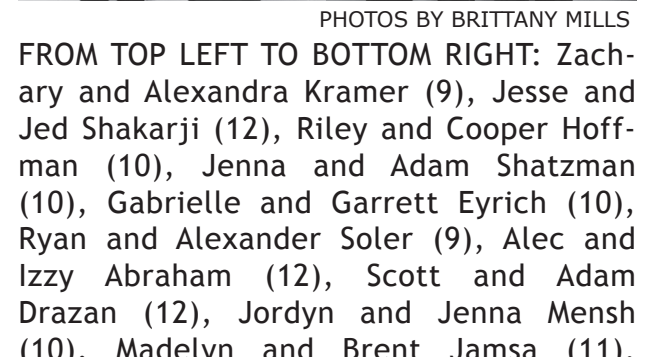
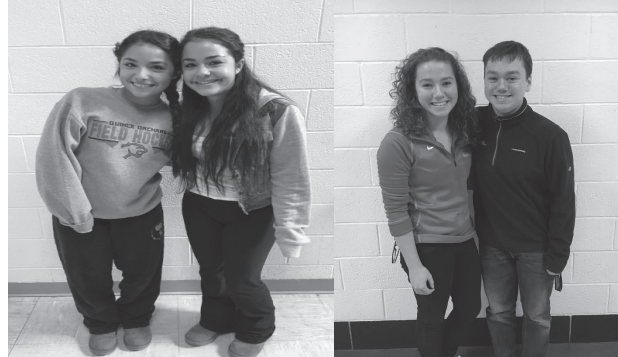
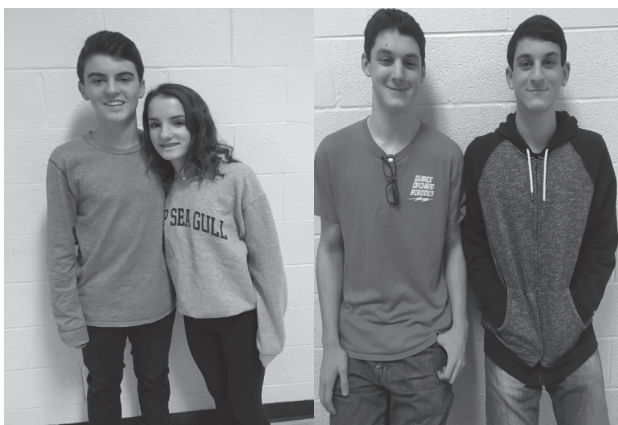
My biggest issue with *Jackie* was the structure, the reason Larrain's movie is not unique. Like almost every biopic I can think of (*Chaplin* and *J. Edgar* are prime examples), the whole story is framed around an interview with a journalist. Writer Noah Oppenheim utilized said interview to explain—at least on the surface level—what we are seeing it, why we are seeing it, and what it means. Most of the story is told through flashbacks, and right as the flashbacks begin to get compelling...BOOM! We are back in the interview, learning about the importance of what we just saw. Interviews are frankly lazy, boring, and insulting when used to keep a story coherent.

Just a few final notes: the editing isn't bad, but cinematographer Stephane Fontaine doesn't seem to know how to shoot for an edit; every shot is so drastic that even normal cuts seem like smashes. Mica Levi's score works better at some points than others, but overall impressed. The sound design falters when there's no music. The costumes were bland—I expected much more out of a Jackie O movie.

In short, *Jackie* is nothing special.

Seeing double: QO's collection of terrific twins

Twins are basically the superheroes of siblings: they interact in the womb and sometimes develop their own language to communicate. Researchers from University of Utah even found that moms of twins tend to live longer than moms without twins. The Prowler found several of these sibling superheroes that attend QO.



PHOTOS BY BRITTANY MILLS

FROM TOP LEFT TO BOTTOM RIGHT: Zachary and Alexandra Kramer (9), Jesse and Jed Shakarji (12), Riley and Cooper Hoffman (10), Jenna and Adam Shatzman (10), Gabrielle and Garrett Eyrich (10), Ryan and Alexander Soler (9), Alec and Izzy Abraham (12), Scott and Adam Drazan (12), Jordyn and Jenna Mensh (10), Madelyn and Brent Jamsa (11).



Football slips 42-7 to Wise in the state championship

By DAVID SHAPERO
Sports Editor

The Quince Orchard Cougars fell in a tough game against Henry A. Wise High School 42-7 in the 4A State Finals. The Cougars started the game strong, with a defensive stand against Wise on their first possession. However, during QO's first drive of the game, they fumbled on their own 40-yard line. The turnover led to a Wise touchdown and a two-point conversion to lead early 8-0.

The mistakes kept happening for the Cougars: a three and out followed by two straight fumbles to end promising drives. Credit should be given to the Cougar defense, though, as they kept the team in the game for as long as they could, but the powerful, fast offense could never get anything going. The fast-paced Pumas kept charging forward as the points started piling up. Wise had two straight touchdown drives, with a 50-yard bomb from Senior Jabari Laws to Junior Anthony "AJ" Lytton and a 20-touchdown run from junior John Oliver. In the end, the Wise offense was too much for QO to handle, and Wise won their second straight state championship.

Despite their loss season filled with many doubts turned into a special one for the Cougars. The unity and support of the community this season, especially the Red Army, was special to see. The season started off slow, with a loss to Damascus, but that didn't deter the Cougars. QO rattled off 12 straight wins to get them to the title game, including wins over rivals Northwest, Clarksburg, Blair, and Richard Montgomery. The heart and soul of the Cougar football team was seen every Friday night. When they got down, they never gave up. The heart, resilience, and adversity were their



RUN DOC, RUN: Quarterback Doc Bonner tries to evade a defender in the team's 42-7 state championship loss to the Wise

PHOTO COURTESY OF PHIL FABRIZIO

keys to success. They loved being the underdogs, as that gave the Cougar football team the will to fight. Even then, when Quarterback Doc Bonner got hurt and had to be carried of the field on a stretcher in the state title game, the fight and will to play became stronger. They played harder

than anyone has seen all season to pick up their "brother" who is now going through a tough time.

They may not have been the flashiest team to play, but grit defined the team this year. Going from a run-heavy offense to a passing one back to running showed the team was able to do anything to win.

Offensive lineman Joe Hodges stated, "We made it to states this year because of how close of a family we are." Family describes QO football and definitely this season. Junior Pom Shannon Marsh added, "Everyone comes together [for] Friday night lights and cheers for the football team: it feels like family." No one ex-

pected the Cougars to make the playoffs, let alone the State Championship, but, the doubters were proved wrong. Congratulations QO football on an incredible and special season.

On behalf of the Prowler staff, we would like to wish Doc Bonner a speedy recovery.

Basketball looks to build off of last year's success

By DAVID STRICKMAN
Managing Editor

Now that fall sports has

come to an end, it's time to shift your attention to the new boys' basketball season that is now underway.

Coached by Paul Foringer, the team is led this year by seniors Matthew Kelly and John Fierstein and juniors Jack Faraone

and Daniel Dorsey. "The goal this season is to push through the playoffs and make it to the state championship. We have some really good players and the trick is to work together and make good decisions during the stretch of the season," said Foringer.

The players and coaches have been anxious to start off the new season with an impressive record. "Every game is important. Clarksburg beat us twice last year so payback would be sweet," said Foringer. The team has been working hard all year during in-school workouts and are now eager to get back on the court for the upcoming season. "We participate in shooting drills for the first 45 minutes of practice, then ball handling for a little while and then cap it off with passing, fundamentals, and running," said senior shooting guard Colin Crews.

The team is looking good so far, coming off a stellar season last year in the regular season. Unfortunately, the Cougars were defeated by Clarksburg in the playoffs last season. "Last year was a pretty fun and positive season. We played well and practiced well, but we didn't finish well," said Fierstein. The team looked superior entering

the playoffs last season with a 20-2 regular season record and received a bye in the first round of the playoffs. However, Clarksburg defeated the Cougars by two points, ending their season.

The team is ready to forget about what happened last year in the playoffs and willing to move forward to prepare for the next few games. This season, the boys play three crucial games the first week of the season against Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Wootton, and Einstein.

The long winter season consists of hard practices and workouts, but they also have some fun, too. Before every game, center Ulric Ayivi-Fandalor starts off with some pregame rituals. He begins listening to pump-up music on his phone, then "krumping" with Kelly and junior Niko Brown and listening to the "SODG anthem." The quad this year is experienced and ready to go, only losing two seniors from last year's team. "We graduated two seniors from last year in Damon Daniel and Jack Ropelewski, but we have adjusted to the loss and we are ready to go!" said Foringer. You can catch the boys in action when they play at Wootton tomorrow, December 17, at 7:15.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TONI L SANDYS

TAKIN' IT TO THE RACK: Guard Matt Kelly hopes to help the team advance deep into the playoffs this year.



Alabama looks to defend the CFP National Championship

By **LOGAN FEINGOLD**
Associate Editor

The College Football Playoff (CFP) is back again: Alabama, Clemson, Ohio State, and Washington—the top four teams in the rankings—look to get their hands on the ever-elusive College Football Playoff National Championship in another exciting series of matchups.

Selection Sunday was tense as always, as it was expected that top four would make the playoff. However, Penn State, who upset Ohio State 24-21, had secured a Big Ten Championship with a come-from-behind victory over Wisconsin. Despite this, the committee chose to go with the original four as their top four for the playoff this year.

The two semifinal games this year are the Peach Bowl (#1 Alabama vs #4 Washington) and the Fiesta Bowl (#2 Clemson vs #3 Ohio State). The winners of those two games will face off in the College Football Playoff National Championship.

As of today, Alabama looks like the clear favorite to repeat as national champions. The team is the only undefeated Power 5 team in college football, riding a stout defense to a 12-0 record. Alabama's defense was so dominant that they held 10 of their 12 opponents to 16 points or less, and crushed a solid Florida team 54-16. The Crimson Tide was so commanding during the regular season that only one of their 12 opponents came within two touchdowns of beating them.

The Washington Huskies are led by quarterback Jake Browning, who threw 3,162 yards and 42 touchdowns en route to leading the team to a Pac 12 Championship. Despite a close loss to USC during the regular season, the Huskies rallied to win their last three games and the Pac-12 Championship. As of December 5, the Crimson Tide are favored by 17 points over the Hus-



PHOTO COURTESY OF COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF

PLAYOFF SEASON!: The final 4 teams face off as they battle to make it to the championship game held in January.

kies. Despite many expecting a lopsided game, the Peach Bowl looks to be competitive as ever this year.

The other CFP semifinal features two veteran coaches who have much experience competing in the playoff. The Ohio State Buckeyes are the first team in College Football Playoff history to make the playoffs without winning their conference. Despite this, the Buckeyes are extremely talented, with victories over Oklahoma, Wisconsin, and Michigan, all ranked teams. The Buckeyes won the

inaugural playoff in 2014 and are looking to reclaim the championship after barely missing the playoffs last year.

Clemson lost to Alabama in last year's CFP National Championship, and they too are looking for to get back on top. Star junior QB Deshaun Watson is back in the Heisman Race after leading Clemson to the CFP for a second straight year. Clemson survived an upset loss to Pittsburgh earlier this year, winning their second straight ACC Championship. It should be a close matchup between

the two teams, with both defenses among the top ten in the country. Ohio State will hope their spread offense can find the holes in the Clemson defense, while Clemson hopes its more pro-style attack can pick apart Ohio State's vaunted defense. Either way, this game will definitely be a fun one to watch.

Tune in on New Year's Eve to find out who advances into the next round of the playoffs!

Clippers are giving the Warriors a run for their money

By **HUNTER BOOTHE**
Managing Editor

After a stunning offseason in which superstar forward Kevin Durant joined the super team Golden State Warriors, many predicted an NBA finals between the Warriors and the defending champion Cleveland Cavaliers. However, seven weeks into the season, Western Conference stalwarts such as the Los Angeles Clippers and San Antonio Spurs have proven to be formidable competition.

The Clippers, returning their four core players for yet another year, are playing at their highest level yet as a group. Boasting an 11-3 conference winning record, they have largely dominated their conference mates. Although they have been on a recent slide, their peak performance will give them a chance against the Warriors.

For the Spurs, there was uncertainty coming into the year following Tim Duncan's retirement. Clearly, the Spurs have adapted well, as they stand at 18-5, only two games behind the Warriors. Sixth-year forward Kawhi Leonard has upped his production once again, emerging as a dark-horse MVP contender with 25 points per game and his usual lockdown defense.

The next tier of Western

Conference teams includes the Rockets, Grizzlies, Thunder, and Jazz. There likely isn't a true contender in the bunch, but the Rockets and Thunder can be especially dangerous once their superstars heat up. James Harden of the Rockets and Russell Westbrook of the Thunder are bonafide MVP contenders, with Harden averaging 29 points, 12 assists, and 8 rebounds; and Westbrook averaging 31 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists.

In the East, the Cavaliers are on top again, although they haven't been as sharp as one may expect. The team has recently lost three straight, prompting LeBron James to tell reporters that the team must move on from last year's title triumph. Still, there is reason for optimism: James, at age 31, has shown no signs of decline, and forward Kevin Love and point guard Kyrie Irving are scoring well above last year's averages.

After the Cavs, there is very little separation in the conference. The Raptors are currently in second place due to their balanced and experienced backcourt, but the third-place Celtics and the eleventh-place Magic are only 4 games apart.

Directly underneath the Magic lay the hometown Wizards, who have massively underperformed this season. In the offseason, a lot of buzz was

created out of point guard John Wall's and shooting guard Bradley Beal's comments about the duo's rocky relationship on the court. Both downplayed their comments soon after, but so far the saga has proven to be a

Smith has failed to produce, as have wings Marcus Thornton and Kelly Oubre. Another offseason acquisition in point guard Trey Burke has disappointed, proving unable to provide a reliable backup to John Wall. With

through the regular season—the continued development of uber talented seven-footers Karl Anthony Towns, Kristaps Porzingis and Giannis Antetokounmpo will provide a look at the future of the game. The Lakers



PHOTO COURTESY OF LATIN TIMES

SLAM DUNK!: Chris Paul and Blake Griffin strategize with each other after a made basket.

precursor to the Wizards' struggles. At 8-13, the Wizards have struggled immensely with bench play. Most notably, an injury to offseason acquisition center Ian Mahinmi has forced NBA journeyman Jason Smith to play important rotation minutes.

the team struggling despite excellent performances from Wall, analysts are beginning to question whether the Wizards should make a major move before the trade deadline.

There is much to look forward to as the NBA moves

are playing inspired basketball after the hire of Luke Walton, and Russell Westbrook will look to maintain his triple double average. Come playoff time though, the Cavs, Warriors, Spurs, and Clippers will surely dominate the NBA discussion.



US men's national team struggles; Klinsmann fired

By DAVID SUGGS

Editor-in-Chief

Costa Rica's 4-0 victory over the U.S. men's national team on November 15 signified the end of the five-year tenure of head coach Jürgen Klinsmann, who was relieved of his duties shortly after the defeat.

Klinsmann's term was filled with controversy. Following the departure of former coach Bob Bradley in 2011, the USSF hired Klinsmann, a soccer legend who won the World Cup with Germany, previously played for European superpowers AS Monaco, Tottenham, and Bayern Munich, and who coached the German national team to the semifinals of the 2006 World Cup.

Fans had high expectations when Klinsmann was announced: he had overseen the development of some of the world's best players while coaching Germany, including Philipp Lahm and Bastian Schweinsteiger. The first test for Klinsmann came in the 2014 World Cup,

with Klinsmann notoriously leaving U.S. soccer legend Landon Donovan out of the World Cup squad, saying it was due to his old age. Despite this, the U.S. team was able to reach the round of 16, defeating Ghana and drawing against the Cristiano Ronaldo-led Portugal team. Ultimately, the U.S. team lost to Belgium in the Round of 16, but with the performances of youngsters like Julian Green, John Anthony Brooks, and DeAndre Yedlin, the future looked bright.

However, over the past two years, the U.S. team has lagged behind its biggest adversaries in CONCACAF. Victories over high-profile teams, such as Germany and Holland, were followed up with underwhelming performances against international minnows like Jamaica and Guatemala. Copa America Centenario, held in the United States for the first time, was seen by many experts as the last chance for Klinsmann to secure his coaching position. Despite a surprising fourth-place finish, the Americans were thoroughly outclassed by Argentina,

losing 4-0.

With the dismissal of Klinsmann, the United States Soccer Federation quickly hired a replacement, naming Bruce Arena as the next head coach of the national team. Arena, a former goalkeeper at Cornell, was previously hired as the coach of the national team in 1998, leading the team to its best finish in a World Cup (fourth place, 2002), and the team's highest FIFA ranking (fourth, 2006). After a disappointing finish in the 2006 World Cup, Arena was fired.

Arena inherits a team at the crossroads, as many of the team's veterans are nearing retirement. It is imperative that Arena cultivates the talented youth players. One such player, Christian Pulisic, will be of particular importance to the future of U.S. Soccer. Pulisic, an 18-year old Pennsylvanian, plies his trade for Borussia Dortmund, one of the biggest clubs in Germany, and has earned critical acclaim for his ability to control the tempo and attack of the Thomas Tuchel-led side.

Pulisic headlines a youthful, exciting attack for the Americans, as Pulisic works alongside Gyasi Zardes, Darlington Nagbe, Bobby Wood, and Jordan Morris in the attack. These players are certain to continue the legacy that players like Clint Dempsey, Michael Bradley, and Jozy Altidore have dedicated their international careers to create.

Ultimately, Klinsmann's tenure ended due to his inability to help take the team to the next level of international football. Klinsmann deserves credit for increasing the international attention given to the USMNT, as his legacy as both a footballer and as a coach gave the team credibility. However, he was unable to properly develop the team's young talent, and his disrespectful attitude certainly did not make the United States Soccer Federation any more patient. It will be interesting to see the changes in the team following Arena's hiring as the team attempts to qualify for the 2018 World Cup in Russia.



PHOTO COURTESY OF EZEQUIEL BECERRA

LEADING MAN: Costa Rican attacker Joel Campbell scored two goals against the US, leading Costa Rica to a 4-0 victory over the Klinsmann-led squad.

Bocce begins quest for title defense

By MATTHEW GORDON

Managing Editor

The Quince Orchard bocce team is coming off a state championship, and they have no signs of fatigue whatsoever. They're fired up, hoping that they can reach their goal once again.

Led by senior captain Turner Thackston, the team is poised to be a serious contender. Junior Allyson Hirsch has high expectations as usual. "Our goal is to make it to states and be back-to-back state champions. With Turner leading us as our captain, I'm sure we'll be successful," she said. Hirsch was a key factor of the powerful lineup last year, and looks to put her name in player of the year talk.

"Our goal is to make it to states and be back-to-back state champions. With Turner leading us as our captain, I'm sure we'll be successful,"

-Allyson Hirsch

Practices are never easy, but the team works hard every day. Coach Gregory Benas pushes them to the limit, says Hirsch. "He makes us sprint four laps around the school if we ever make any mistakes as a team." Benas added that "We want to repeat as state champions." To do this, it is essential that the team practices their skills. Furthering this idea, Benas stated "You have to adjust to get as close as you can to the pallino. It's more about practicing and getting that muscle memory to know where the ball is going to roll."

"You have to adjust to get as close you can to the pallino. It's more about practicing and getting that muscle memory to know where the ball is going to roll."

-Gregory Benas

As a team, bocce will look to improve and push themselves until they reach their ultimate goal: another state championship. Junior Emily Kramer also returns to the team, looking for revenge on the teams she lost to last year. She looks to improve this year on certain skills she wasn't so comfortable with last year. "As a player I can improve on my power," Kramer said, "I have a difficult time determine how much force is needed to roll the ball." It's been her number one goal to improve on power, and she seems ready to present her developed skills.

With a loaded lineup and a spectacular coaching staff, Quince Orchard seems to have all of the weapons for success, and the run for another state championship is underway very soon. Come out and support the bocce team whenever you're able to, as they would love the Red Army to be present at every game.

Cougar swim and dive teams stride towards Metros

By JAMIE FINK

Associate Editor

Cats are generally afraid of water, but our Quince Orchard Cougars can't wait to dive into the pool this season. Led by senior swim captains Maddy Zarchin, Sophie Lane, Griffin Mann, Robert Steinwandel, junior Eli Fouts, and senior dive captain Joseph Canova, the team is excited for a spectacular season. (Disclaimer: Lane and Mann are both Prowler staff members.)

The dedicated Cougars practice Monday afternoons and Friday mornings. During practice they work on stroke technique and make sure their endurance is ready for their races. According to Zarchin, the drills "prepare [everyone] for the meets because they force the swimmer[s] to work on their technique." Practices consist of light warmups, kicking drills, endurance testing, and racing practice from the blocks.

QO kicked off the season with a scrimmage against Whitman on December 3, which was a great way for the swimmers to practice for the real season. Not only did this event benefit the swimmers, but it also helped Coach Todd Garner figure out what the best line-up should be for the first meet, which was held this past Saturday against Poolesville.

The team has many aspirations for this season, which include having "high placings at Metros and States, particularly in relays," said Zarchin. And

like any great swimmers, the Cougars also want to improve throughout the season, cutting their times at each meet. To make the meets more enticing and engaging, "everyone cheers each other on at the meets," said Steinwandel. Steinwandel wants to attend Metros, which consists of all the best swimmers in the metropolitan area.

"To help the team win, I am prepared to give advice to those who need it, as well as contribute in the pool by swimming whatever events the team needs me to," said Zarchin.

Northwest is by far QO's biggest rival in swimming, but the Cougars are prepared to face them in the water this season. Having such a large team, the Cougars "have so much depth, especially on the girls team this year, with so many new freshmen who are capable of scoring," said Zarchin.

On the boys side, QO beat Northwest last season by only a few points. This year the Cougars will be expecting another close matchup with standout swimmers including Fouts and sophomore Jacob Lindor leading the lines for the Cougars.

In addition to the returning swimmers, QO is fortunate to have a strong incoming freshmen class. "Even though I am a freshman, my goal is to make an impact on the team by getting fast times every meet," said freshman Eric Blackman. He swims year-round for a local club team and trains 3-4 times a week. Blackman "wants to make sure

[his] swimming is at that best it can be."

The swim and dive team is large, so in order to make the team closer, the captains orchestrate a few team dinners and activities for each other to get to know one another outside of the pool. "Nothing brings people together like pizza and lemonade," said Steinwandel.

The dive team also expects to have some big performances to help the Cougars to victory. The team looks forward to competing to show off their hard work and dedication in the pre-season. The Cougars have also had practices twice a week working on their takeoffs.

Junior Hannah Morin has been on dive for three years and her goals for this season include "learning new dives" as well as "trying her best." The team also have some new divers who plan on gaining some points for the Cougars. It's nice to have freshmen that are "willing to go up on the board and score points for the team," said Morin.

Canova, an Ohio State University recruit, has big intentions for the upcoming season. His main goal consists of becoming state champion. "As captain, Canova wants to "encourage swimmers to give diving a try and recruit some new talent into the program for when [he] graduate this year."

The Swim and Dive team looks very promising for this season and many plan on making it far in Divisionals as well as Metros. So get your towels ready: the Cougars are going to make a big splash this season.



Wrestling, indoor track prep for season

By GRIFFIN MANN AND DAVID STRICKMAN
Sports Editor and Managing Editor

For Quince Orchard's track and field and wrestling teams, their journey to states begins now. The track and field team looks for a successful season this year, carrying on from a stellar season last year. The team has lost much talent from last year, including the reigning Maryland state champions, Dylan Bikim and Liam Walsh, so the returning upperclassmen are expected to take on a larger responsibility. Senior captain Maya Jacobson elabo-

rated on this, saying, "Seniors like myself, Matthew Owens, and Wyatt McCabe lead the squad by setting an example, but also making it fun, and not too serious for everyone." The long-distance team, coached by Seann Pelkey, is particularly impressive, with runners performing admirably in their first meet of the year. One athlete who deserves special mention is junior Chris Thoms, who finished with the second-best time in the state of Maryland and the

sixth-best time in the nation. Thoms is one of the top 2-mile runners in the county with an incredible time of 10:09. He looks to help lead the track squad to success this season. For the short-distance squad, coached by William Goodman, the team is led by a multitude of upperclassmen, including seniors Abby Potter, Ian Zeid, Chris Sterling, and Madi Wellinghoff. The seniors are expected to encourage the underclassmen and lead the workouts, with coach Goodman providing moral support and helpful tips on ways to become better

sprinters. For Goodman, the importance of having experience and leadership is obvious. A former track coach at the University of Maryland, Goodman has been coaching the Quince Orchard track team for many years, having seen some of the most dominant track stars in Maryland history gaining his knowledge and expertise. For the wrestling team, this season will be defined by how the team performs in state championships. The team, coached by Rob Wolf, lost numerous impactful seniors from last season's team, in-

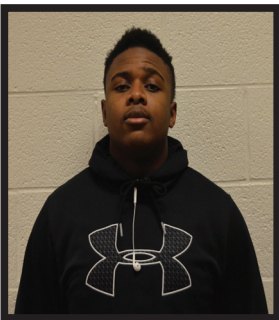
cluding Antonio Lopez, who finished fourth in the Maryland State Championships. However, the team brings back a plethora of talent from last year's squad, such as senior Bret Williams, who qualified for states last season. Senior Blake Adkins commented on the importance of senior leadership, stating how true seniors "provide an example for the younger wrestlers" and helping them out with new moves. Another person to look out for is sophomore 106-lb wrestler, Jose Echeona, who had a remarkable freshman season. Echeona

further alluded to the contributions of the seniors, stating how "[they] have many juniors and seniors trying to get their records up and make states." With the leadership of coach Wolf and the seniors, it is certain that this season will be a great one for QO wrestling. Players on both the wrestling and indoor track team are excited to start off the season right. Each team looks to improve their squad and hopes to use their experience from last year to win more matches and events. The season will surely be an exciting one.

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH QUESTIONNAIRE

BOYS BASKETBALL

Ulric Ayivi Fandelor '17



Senior center Ulric Ayivi Fandelor is a formidable defender in the middle of the Cougar defense. He has a high basketball IQ and is also a fan favorite.

SWIM AND DIVE

Maddy Zarchin '17



Maddy has become one of the strongest swimmers on the team. Her work ethic and dedication put her ahead of the competition.

INDOOR TRACK

Wyatt McCabe '17



Senior runner Wyatt McCabe runs like the wind, lapping everyone he sees. He is a leader on and off the track and is almost impossible to beat.

WRESTLING

Bret Williams '17

Senior Bret Williams is a master of the double leg takedown. He is a leader on and off the mat and the anchor of a formidable wrestling squad.



GIRLS BASKETBALL

Alexa Sanmartin '17

Senior Alexa Sanmartin is a top scorer on the varsity basketball team. She has a knockdown three point shot and handles like Kyrie Irving. She puts her team on her back.



BOCCE

Allyson Hirsch '18

Junior Allyson Hirsch has a sharp toss with pinpoint accuracy. She is a leader on and off the pitch. She hopes to lead the team to another state championship.



The Prowler asked these athletes the following questions...

	Ulric Fandelor	Bret Williams	Maddy Zarchin	Alexa Sanmartin	Wyatt McCabe	Allyson Hirsch
What is the best holiday gift you have ever received?	A nice red blanket	Friendship	Jesse Van Valkenburgh as an adopted sister	A laptop	Low top Heelys	Love
What is the worst holiday gift you have ever received?	NBA Live	Socks	Jesse Van Valkenburgh as an adopted sister	A book and a towel	Griffin Mann	No gift
What is your favorite holiday song?	Mariah Carey's "All I Want For Christmas Is You"	"Ludacrismas"	"Santa, Tell Me" by Ariana Grande	"Rocking Around the Christmas Tree"	Anything by East Atlanta's Santa AKA Gucci Mane #burr	"The Hanukkah Song" by Adam Sandler
What is your favorite holiday meal?	Eggnog	Milk and cookies	Candy, candy corn, candy canes, and syrup	Steak	Bacon	Santa Cookies
What is your favorite activity in the snow?	Snow football	Eating snow	I don't like snow; I prefer liquid water.	Sledding	Overcharging for shoveling driveways	Snow Angels
Who belongs on the naughty list?	Toby and Mitch	Marcus Fosdick	Brian Zarchin	Amanda Bishop	Sophomores	Elena Dietz