

PROWLER

Quince Orchard High School • 15800 Quince Orchard Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Community mourns loss of Tyler Terry

By **AYESHA SHAHZAD**
Managing Editor

The front of the school building is covered in art; the loss of football player, student, friend, son, brother, and senior Tyler Terry has greatly affected the Quince Orchard community. Through chalk, students have been able to show love to Tyler and mourn his passing.

Tyler's passing was tragic for his family, his friends, and for the QO community as a whole. Junior Sophie Jabes was a close friend of Tyler's. "Tyler was an amazing person, and he was kind, and a giant teddy bear," said Jabes. "We [the QO community] need to live on through Tyler's legacy. There are so many amazing things he would've done, and I just want everyone to remember him for that."

Since Tyler's passing, hashtags like #6Strong and #FlyHighTy have been heavily used by those in the QO community and outside of it. "The QO community's support of the Terry family is very touching, and is a real reflection of the community that we are," said Principal Carole Working. On February 20, a candlelight vigil was held on the football field in honor of Tyler. Hundreds of students lit candles and let go of balloons in Tyler's memory.

Tyler left behind a legacy that will not soon be forgotten. At the vigil, QO's head football coach John Kelley told the crowd, "You want to have him live on through you? Do things for him. You go full board -- everything you do for

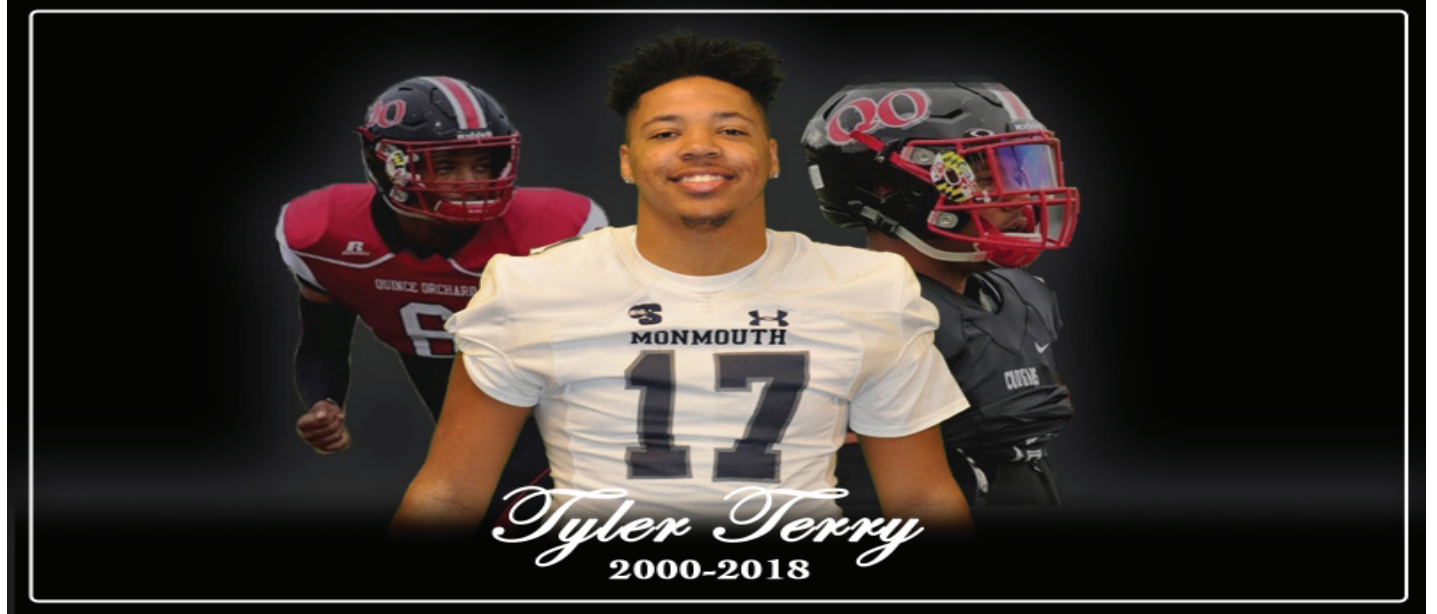


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him. Whatever it might be, that is how you keep him alive. That is how you keep his memory going strong. You do it for your brother. You do it for him."

According to Fox 5 news, senior Kendall "Doc" Bonner will wear No. 6, Tyler's former number, when he plays football at the Air Force Academy next fall. "That's a big change from 10 to 6, but it's worth it because it's honoring him and showing he had a big impact on my life as much as he did for everyone else here," said Bonner.

Tyler was committed to play football at Monmouth University, who also expressed their sentiments via their twitter

account, @MUHawksFB; "The entire Monmouth University Community mourns the loss of incoming freshman Tyler Terry."

His impact was palpable on and off of the football field. "This year, we were able to watch Tyler begin to take part in school activities beyond the football field. Seeing him become increasingly active in QO TV, it was really fun to watch him learn those things about himself," said Working.

The class of 2018 has lost a vital component. During this time of grieving, it is important to comfort each other and remember Tyler in a positive light.

"We [the QO community] need to live on through Tyler's legacy. There are so many amazing things he would've done, and I just want everyone to remember him for that."

- Sophie Jabes

QO celebrates Black History Month in assembly

By **JENNA SHATZMAN**
Managing Editor

Here at QO, the immense amount of diversity we have in our school allows us to hold assemblies such as the African American Heritage Month Assembly. The assembly, which took place on Wednesday, February 28 - the last day of Black History Month - highlighted both the past and present of African American culture. It celebrated the progress that we have made in this country in terms of race, and the figures who helped us get here, through paintings, poems, and songs, art was also showcased by both famous African American artists and QO students.

Senior Kendall "Doc" Bonner was one of the hosts of the assembly. He and senior June Kibet introduced performers and were able to "enlighten the audience with factual information about African American history," as Bonner explained. Bonner felt as though the assembly was important due to the fact that when we learn about American history, African American history can be left out. "We don't always hear or know about [African American history], which

to me is the important side of history as well," said Bonner. Bonner's motivation for participating in the assembly was to bring African American heritage to the forefront and inspire other students. "We hoped to highlight African American heritage because it's the society we live in, so we wanted to open people's eyes so they can dream big as well and achieve their goals," said Bonner.

Senior Raven Anderson was another prominent student in the assembly, performing in numerous acts. Anderson performed step, and sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing" with the choir and "Change is Gonna Come" by Sam Cooke. Being in three acts took lots of preparation both in and out of school. "For chorus we practiced every day after school for 15 minutes for the song 'Change is Gonna Come,' and for step, we practiced for an hour and 15 minutes after school every day for almost 2 weeks," said Anderson. Anderson said that it was important for her to be able to highlight the diversity that exists within her own culture. "I feel it is important to hold the assembly in order to expose everyone in the school to Black culture," said Anderson.

In addition to Anderson and Bonner's

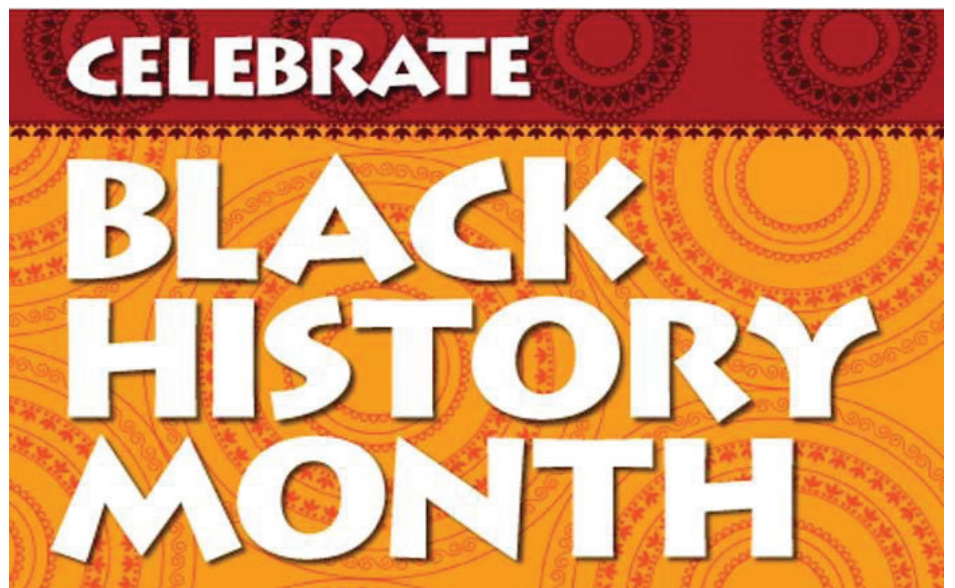


PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIETTA.EDU

contributions to the assembly, many students wrote their own songs or poems and performed them in front of the audience. QOTV also put together a demonstration of an open discussion about current topics revolving around the African American community, anywhere from *Get Out* to the controversial Colin Kaepernick scandal. The crew also put together a

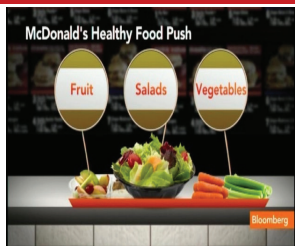
segment of "firsts" in the African American community—a part of the assembly that highlighted the accomplishments of modern African American figures.

All in all, the African American Heritage Month Assembly celebrated and showcased the rich culture and different perspectives that our community benefits from every day.

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Historic teachers' strike in W. Virginia ends

By **CINDY LIU**
Managing Editor

As of March 7, the public schools of West Virginia have finally reopened after nine days of closure. On Thursday, February 22, teachers across the 55 counties of West Virginia walked out of their classrooms and to the state Capitol of Charleston to protest for higher wages.

West Virginian teachers are among the worst paid in the nation, ranking 48th in terms of average teacher salaries out of 50 states and the District of Columbia. The last time and only other time West Virginia went on a statewide strike was back in 1990, also because of low wages.

The strike lasted 11 days and ended when "union leaders secured promises from state Senate President Keith Burdette and House Speaker Chuck Chambers to address teacher pay and other issues... receiv[ing] a \$5,000 pay increase, phased in over three years," according to the Charleston Gazette-Mail.

The ethics of a teacher's

strike has spurred much controversy, as some believe that it should be illegal for teachers to disrupt student learning in such a way. Such is the case with West Virginia, where state laws does not permit teachers to engage in collective bargaining. In fact, policies have been put into place in many states to ensure that a teacher's strike doesn't happen. In Maryland, the teacher's union would be decertified for two years if a strikeout ever happens; this happened after a teacher's strike in 1968.

Paul Foringer, math teacher, who was a student in MCPS when the 1968 strike happened, remembered they, "brought substitutes in—parents, volunteers. But they could only cover so many positions." The whole state was at strike, teachers and students. When an agreement was finally reached, the union had to also promise not to have another strike out.

Nowadays in MCPS, teachers get a raise every year. However, in West Virginia, teachers

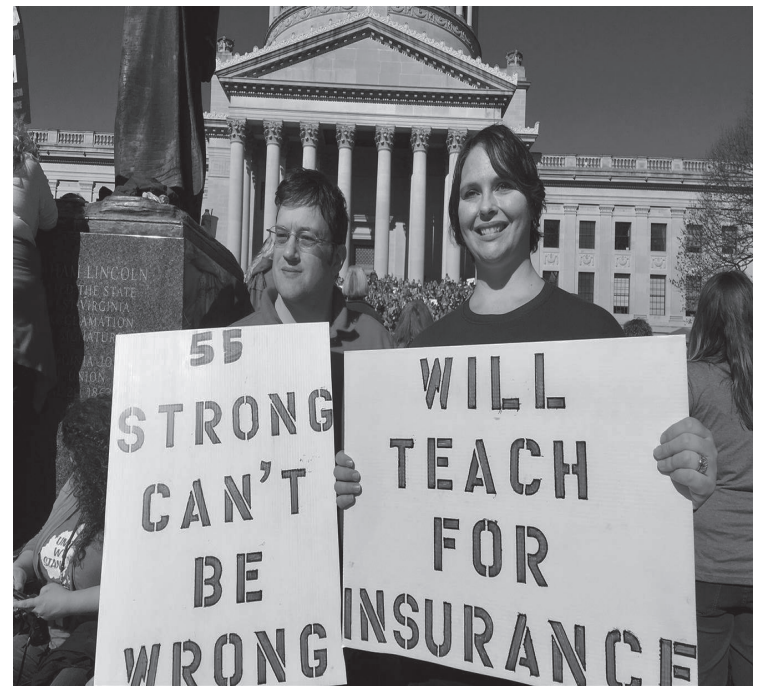


PHOTO COURTESY OF WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC BROADCASTING

haven't seen a pay raise in years, and over course of the past few days, legislators only proposed a 1-2% raise before succumbing to the teachers' demand of 5%.

"The teachers need a voice," said Foringer. "Got to have a good, solid union behind

you." Usually, unions bargain on the behalf of teachers. It seems that one of the main reasons Maryland teachers don't have sickouts is because of the strong union which granted them many benefits on top of being one of the highest paid in the nation.

NEWS FLASHES

By **FLYNN SNYDER**
Managing Editor

Troubling times



PHOTO COURTESY OF FOX 4 NEWS

In the weeks following the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, a slew of online threats targeted various MCPS high schools. The threats disrupted the daily operations of some high schools and were made in the form of social media posts, phone calls, and overheard conversations. Clarksburg High School senior Alwin Chen is accused of bringing a loaded gun to school. Police found assault rifle style weapons and a list of grievances in Chen's home shortly after he was arrested. He is being held without bond and is charged with possession of a handgun. A 15-year-old boy was arrested and charged with disrupting school after it was suspected that he directed threats to Northwest High School warning students not to come to school. County police have also investigated bomb threats at Albert Einstein, Winston Churchill, and Walter Johnson High Schools which forced students into lockdown. School board members have vowed to review school safety procedures in the wake of these recent threats.

More school, less snow



PHOTO COURTESY OF YOUR TOWN MINTHLY

MCPS officials have extended the school year until Thursday, June 14. After recent snow and wind events prompted school closures in early February and March, county leaders were forced to lengthen the school year in order to meet the required number of instructional days. Montgomery County's superintendent Jack Smith says that June 15 could still be used as a make-up day in the event of another school closure. After that, the school system could cut into days reserved for spring break using March 26 and 27 as make-up days if weather closures persist. Spring break has already promptly been cut this year from ten days down to six. Last school year, Maryland governor Larry Hogan signed an executive order prohibiting schools from opening before Labor Day and requiring schools to close by June 15. County officials say the order makes it a challenge to create a school calendar that can compensate for snow days.

North Korea update



PHOTO COURTESY OF NEWSWEEK

President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jung Un are set to meet in what would be a historic convention to discuss the tensions between the two countries. The announcement was made last week as South Korean leaders were briefing the president about recent meetings with North Korean officials. The proposed talks come after months of bombastic rhetoric between the two nations as both leaders have threatened retaliation for continued missile testing and military exercises on the Korean Peninsula. Trump has called the proposed talks "great progress," while critics claim that the talks could legitimize North Korea's nuclear missile program.

Carters 'on the run'



PHOTO COURTESY OF YOUTUBE

The beyhive went buzzing this week as Beyoncé and rapper Jay-Z announced their "On the Run II" tour. The couple, who rock the music world with just about any announcement they make, said that the tour will kick off in the United Kingdom in early June and enter the United States leg beginning on July 25. This upcoming tour is a follow-up to their original "On the Run" tour in 2014. Social media went into a frenzy as the music stars posted previews of the tour on their Twitter and Instagram accounts. The couple will be coming to Washington D.C. on July 28 and continue touring the United States into early October.

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ABOUT

The Prowler is published six times a year by the students of Quince Orchard High School, and it has been continuously published since the 1988-89 school year. To become a staff member, students take Journalism A & B to qualify for the Advanced Publications class.





VIEWPOINT

How many more lives lost before change is made?

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

People have marched for jobs and freedom, for LGBT rights, for less war, for women's rights, for racial equality - and now students are marching for their lives. We are high schoolers whose only worries should be what grade we have in chemistry or what to wear to the party this Friday. Why do we have to fight for our lives?

On the afternoon of February 14, at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, 17 were killed - both students and teachers - by an ex-student and a gun. As the definition of "school shooting" varies, this marks anywhere between the 7th and 18th school shooting of 2018; regardless of which it is, either of those numbers is troubling considering

the fact that we are hardly three months into the year.

One definition of school shooting is: "a [gun-related] incident that occurs on school property when students, faculty and/or staff are on the premises" as said by the Gun Violence Archive. Using this definition, the New York Times calculates that, since 2014, there have been 438 gun victims, of which 138 were killed, from 239 total school shootings.

In only four years, 138 children were killed - not total, not even just by guns, but specifically by guns in schools.

The purpose of a school is to provide an environment in which students can learn and mature, but how can students focus on either of these when they feel their safety is in jeopardy? Quince Orchard

repeatedly emphasizes the importance of us preparing for college and our futures, but how can we do so when our futures may be at the risk of disappearing in front of a barrel? Every day, when we walk into this building, we put our lives into the hands of those who run the school, whether we know it or not. These numbers, however, raise the question: do these people currently do enough to protect us?

Many feel that the way to increase protection is to arm teachers with the same weapons we need to be protected against. But when you fight fire with fire, you only end up with double the amount of fire. Not only has the recent case in Georgia proven that teachers may not always be capable of handling this responsibility

- bringing about new reasons for students to fear - but housing guns inside schools could potentially make them more accessible to students with hate lists.

While those statements may be merely hypothetical, one thing isn't: the Marjory Stoneman Douglas school resource officer, a sheriff's deputy, was on sight and armed when the gunshots rang out - and he didn't do a thing. He was outside of the building, with a gun which he had been trained and had experience in using, but he didn't go in. Whether or not this is because he caved to human instinct and froze in the heat of the moment, a person with the amount of training he has had should be more able to react appropriately with a weapon than the average teacher in

this kind of situation. Yet he didn't. Ask yourself what this says about the effectiveness of arming a less trained, less experienced teacher.

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ENOUGH IS ENOUGH: Students protest in favor of gun control legislation in light of recent events.

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VIEWPOINT

Shape of Water disappoints despite Best Picture win

By CINDY LIU
Managing Editor

The Oscars have been affected by a string of controversy in recent years. In 2016, Jada Smith publicly slammed the Academy Awards for being too white; in 2017, they announced the wrong title for Best Picture; and this year, Jimmy Kimmel's opening speech was negatively received by the public. However, the talk this year has been all about the award for Best Picture.

I am not a big fan of movies personally. Not that I don't like movies, but it's probably because I can't sit still for two hours straight watching the same story unfold. However, in preparation for this article, I have watched as many of the nominated films as I could over the past few weeks. And I've got to say, I had a blast. Many great movies came out last year and, as a result, the nominees

were from a wide range of genres.

After approximately 27 hours of movie watching, I have some clear favorites, and being so engrossed now, I was obviously sitting at the edge of my seat during the Oscars, awaiting to hear that my favorite films won their well-deserved awards.

I stayed up all night on March 4 watching the Academy Awards. While many were expected and well deserved—such as *Call Me By Your Name* for Adapted Screenplay and Frances McDormand for Best Actress—the only winner I disagree with is *The Shape of Water* for Best Picture.

First of all, let me just say that I didn't dislike the film. I enjoyed it, actually: it was like a cute, R-rated Disney movie. In fact, I can see why it went toe to toe with *Get Out* and *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*—until the romance part.

Since there were so many movies to watch in my limited time, I would just dive into them without any knowledge of its

content. So no, I did not see the trailers and did not know that *The Shape of Water* is essentially about a mute woman who falls in love with a fish creature. Now, as I said, it was not a bad film and I applaud Guillermo del Toro for his unique artistic vision. However, I do not think that it should've won over *Get Out* or *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*.

Get Out is honestly one of the best horror movies I've seen, a cultural phenomenon as some would put it, while *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* is a powerful story about a mother trying to find justice for her daughter. Full of raw emotions, *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* explores the aftermath of a young girl's death and how everyone in the community was affected. Both movies had rather complex plots full of intricate details.

However, *The Shape of Water*—as one of my friends put it—"looks weird,

sounds weird, is weird." Again I do not hate this film, but in my opinion any of the other nominees would have been more deserving of the Best Picture award.



McDonald's to offer healthier menu options

Company hopes to make up for lost profits in wake of healthy eating craze

By BRANDON FREEDMAN
Editor-in-Chief

McDonald's has decided to do some spring cleaning, which means the average person will be getting more bang for their buck.

In early February, McDonald's announced that by 2022, all stores worldwide will have healthier, more balanced menus to choose from.

McDonald's plans on taking many steps to accomplish this goal of being healthier. One part of their agenda includes removing items such as the cheeseburger from the menu, and only making them available upon customer request. This pushes customers to look for healthy choices before choosing the less healthy options.

Other things they are doing is limiting Happy Meals

to 600 or fewer calories, 10% of calories from saturated fat, less than 650 mg of sodium, and less than 10% of calories from added sugars.

As unhealthy eating habits have become a bigger concern over the past decade, fast food chains such as McDonald's, Burger King, and Wendy's have been taking the brunt of the blame.

Health teacher Susan Soule claims that a lot of these issues can be attributed to the "loss of profits that fast food restaurants are experiencing." Fast food restaurants such as McDonald's are great places to buy "food for families that need to stay on a budget, as it's cheap compared to places like Whole Foods," she added.

However, the lack of healthy food paired with low incomes puts people in a hard

situation and makes it almost impossible to eat healthy for a reasonable price. McDonald's and many of these corporations hope to draw in those customers that are looking to eat healthier but for a relatively cheap price.

Steve Easterbrook, McDonald's President and CEO, wants to also be able to "meet consumers' desire for easy access to nutrition information for menu items" he said on the McDonald's media website.

Senior and McDonald's frequenter Matthew Zlotnicki claims that "a healthier McDonald's with the same food choices 100% sounds more appealing."

Although all this change is positive, why has McDonald's just started to change their menu? Most of this can be attributed to a loss of profits

and this healthy change is a way for them to bring in new money. In 2013 the company had a net income of \$5.59 billion while in 2017 their net income was only \$5.19 billion, showing a steady decline in profits. McDonald's also recently eliminated the dollar menu because it was simply not making them any money.

Soule maintains that "if restaurants like these [McDonald's] don't go healthy within the next decade, they will all be put out of business."

With big movements such as the NFL's Play 60, and Michelle Obama's Let's Move! Campaign pushing people to become healthier via exercise and a good diet, it was only a matter of time before social pressure got to some of these larger corporations. Whether they knew it or not, going healthy could

end up being a revelation for the fast food industry.

"If restaurants like these [McDonald's] don't go healthy within the next decade, they will all be put out of business."

- Susan Soule

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How many more school shootings until they never happen again?

CONT. FROM PAGE 3

In the search for an alternative solution, we should look at the safety measures already in place. Lockdown and shelter drills, for instance, are simulations of the procedure that students and teachers should follow in the case of a threat entering the school building, such as a school shooter.

Montgomery County requires that schools have ten fire drills throughout the year, two in the first week of school followed by at least one per month; however, I could not tell you the last time we had a lockdown drill. This is due to the fact that we are only required to go through these simulations once or twice a year. Holding such drills more often would increase students' comfort, as they can be confident that they are prepared in the case of a school shooting.

Keeping students safe can also begin as they walk into school in the morning.

Ideas such as metal detectors around the entrances have arose, but bring forth further concerns that schools should not be turned into prisons. Metal detectors could most certainly help, especially in cases such as Clarksburg in which a student brought a weapon to school and showed a fellow classmate. Should a weapon be in a student's possession, it would be caught immediately by the metal detectors and detained before they step foot in the building.

While such suggestions may be beneficial, we must also consider proactive measures - ideas that limit the general accessibility to guns in order to eliminate the threat in the first place - instead of reactive ones. While gun supporters

repeatedly preach that "guns don't kill people, people kill people," the sole purpose of a gun is to kill.

Firearms don't have to be eliminated completely, as we know it will take decades for them to be able to vanish

hypothetical. Other countries have cracked down on gun laws and have enacted thorough processes that ensure guns are placed only in the hands of safe, law abiding citizens. Scotland, for example, experienced a mass shooting

shooting.

Although the UK does not have the same history with guns as the US does, there were still strong opponents to the law. Pistol shooting was an extremely popular sport at the time of the massacre and those who played the sport felt they were being deprived of the ability to do their favorite activity. However, despite the opponents, the stricter laws proved to be successful and saved the country and its people from potential occurrences of mass gun violence.

We, as students, may not be able to write or pass such reforms - but we can sway those who do have the ability. The Marjory Stoneman Douglas case is the first school shooting, maybe even the first of any kind of shooting, in which we have heard more about the victims than the shooter himself.

The school's students have been getting themselves in front of cameras, into conferences, on anything within the public spotlight, so that they can stress the importance of such a tragedy as the one they experienced never happening again.

We can follow in their footsteps by marching behind them. Walkouts are being organized by high schools across the nation, many of which are listed with essential details on the Women's March website. Then, on March 24, we can March for Our Lives. The people who most need to hear our voices are in Washington, D.C., so come into the city and raise your voice.

We cannot just turn off the news channel and neglect this issue anymore. We can not let this happen - never again.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GUARDIAN

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: Many grieve around a memorial for the twelve children and one teacher killed in the 1999 Columbine school shooting.

from the country, but by making them harder to obtain, those with future plans to purchase a gun with the intention to harm will be faced with more obstacles. The benefits of gun reform are not

in 1996 in which 16 children and their teacher were killed. Shortly after, the British government banned all private ownership of all handguns. Ever since, the UK has only experienced one mass

That goes to show . . . Anything Goes

By **CLAIRE SULLIVAN** and **ALEXA ELLIOTT**

Staff Writer and Managing Editor

The drama club is putting on Anything Goes, a musical set in the 1930s. Taking place on the S.S. American sailing from New York to England, a group of passengers adventure through romance, fun and mischief while helping a friend win over the love of his life.

"The play is a really funny show," said junior Annie Coulson, who plays Bonnie. "The drama club had a great time putting it together."

Since December, students have been working incredibly hard for the show on Fridays April 13 and 20 and Saturdays April 14 and 21. Rehearsals for the show are usually everyday after school. While the cast runs through scenes, music, and choreography, the crew builds and paints set pieces, de-

signs costumes, organizes the lighting and sound, and does hair and makeup. Bringing music to life, the pit orchestra accompanies all the actors in the show. "We are building a giant ship," said senior Erin Lanham, stage manager. "The set is going to look amazing."

The musical has also posed some challenges for the creative team. "This show is from the 30's," explained junior Keegan Lauricella-Reed, student director. "Sometimes there might be references to things that people might not understand." The student directors have tried to help people relate to the time period while staying true to the culture and influences of the decade. Flappers, gangsters, and drunks run amok throughout the plot, urging characters to live fully.

"It's all exciting," said Lanham. "The show is unique and powerful. It's sure to keep you entertained."



PHOTO COURTESY OF LIFE TOUCH

THE SHOW MUST GO ON: Meet the Drama Club, responsible for the production of Anything Goes.

Spread the word

By **ALEXA ELLIOTT**
Managing Editor

My little sister Grace plays her music so loud that the entire house sways with it. She loves to dance, swim, and binge watch Netflix. Does that sound like anyone you know? Does it sound like you? My sister is a hilarious, caring teenager who has a passion for life. She also happens to have Down syndrome.

While my sister has a lot in common with other teens, many are unsure how to act around her. One way you can

support people with intellectual disabilities is through the national campaign "Spread the Word to End the Word," which calls for the elimination of the "R-word" (retarded). The Special Olympics and groups such as Best Buddies celebrated Spread the Word to End



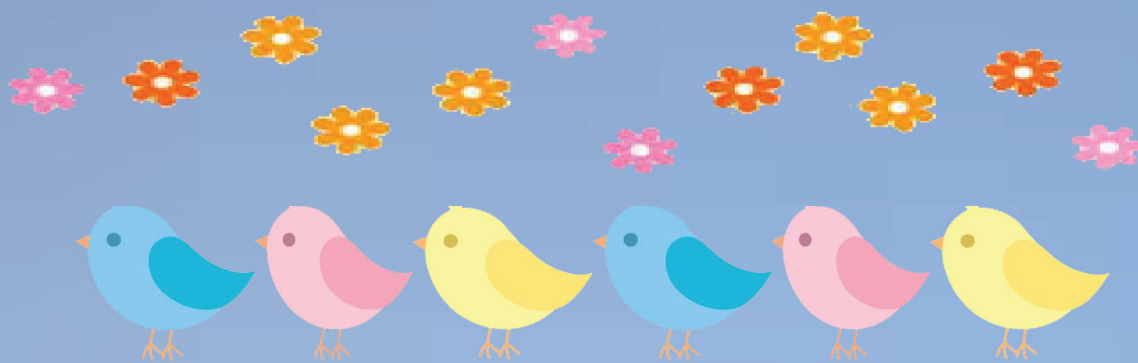
PHOTO COURTESY OF CAITLIN MOULTON

the Word Awareness Day last week on Wednesday March 7.

While mental retardation was once a medical term used to describe people with intellectual disabilities, it is now often used as an insult to degrade people who have disabilities or as a synonym for "dumb" or "stupid."

The R-word often supports stereotypes that people with disabilities are unintelligent or contribute little to society. Although many do not use the R-word to intentionally insult people with intellectual disabilities, it can be hurtful to people with special needs and their loved ones.

Every time I hear the R-word, I feel a pang in my chest. It makes me worry about my sister and the way she is being treated. Words matter, so spread the word to end the R-word. Small acts like saying hi to classmates with special needs, or sitting by someone who needs a friend, can make a big difference in the lives of others.



Spring Cleaning Tips

By MADISON MILLS and KAITLYN PRICE
Double Truck Managing Editors

With the arrival of a new season, spring brings more than just April showers and May flowers—it brings a time of new beginnings and cleansings. Spring is often the season where those who don't fulfill their New Year's Resolutions attempt to redeem themselves by setting new goals. Plus, everyone has more motivation to change their lifestyle when the sun is shining and the sky is blue as opposed to the depression of winter. When it comes to “spring cleaning” here are some tips on how to refresh your usual ways:

Get rid of toxic people in your life – people who are negative, stress you out, or ALWAYS flake on your plans are not necessary and need to go. Making sure you are happy and positive is the main priority.

Reorganize your life – creating new, clean spaces for either work or entertainment is a great way to switch things up and help increase levels of productivity. Try to find different, creative ways to organize your daily agenda.

Focus on your health – a healthy life is a happy one! Make more time to exercise every day, whatever kind you prefer, and look into starting new eating habits.

Do a digital detox – all the technology and social media in our lives today can contribute as a big stresser. Spend more time reading to get away from it all. At night put that phone down and, most importantly, **GET MORE SLEEP!**



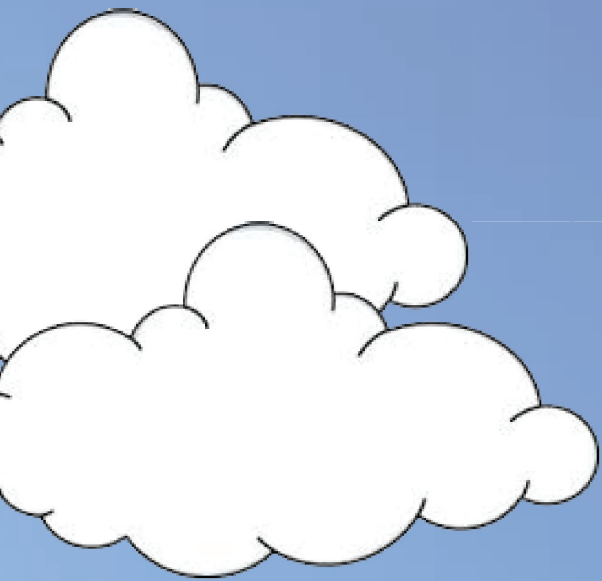
All I

SPR



DOs and DON'Ts of Spring Break

By MADISON MILLS and KAITLYN PRICE
Double Truck Managing Editors



Things

SPRING



DON'T

Put 100 seconds on your Snapchat story about your awesome tropical vacation

Sit inside your room all day and play Fortnite

Worry about your diet and summer body plans

Already stress about APs and begin studying

Come back to school looking like a freshly picked tomato

DO

Spend time away from your phone and enjoy yourself

Go discover new exciting places to hike and enjoy nature

Eat that really yummy looking, Insta-worthy dessert

Go on fun, college tours and look forward to your future

Put on sunscreen and take care of yourself on vacation

Spring Word Search

B S P R D O E L W Y G F F U Y
 C D E T I K U Z L R R R L B L
 Y U X G P F R E E Q A E O F F
 X O L R R A V E B E G S W I R
 O L T O I N E H L R H E H E
 X C L N L B U N N Y O B R A T
 V O B T N A R B I V K S S G T
 C O A C D U G U Z A R X S N U
 W A I O M N T Z O O R C W I B
 R F M B S U N S H I N E J Q M

BLOSSOM
 BREEZE
 BUNNY
 BUTTERFLY
 CLOUDS
 COLORFUL
 FLOWERS
 FRESH
 GREEN
 KITE
 LIVELY
 RAIN
 RAINBOW
 SUNSHINE
 VIBRANT



Club Corner: Engineering club

Team reaches new heights as they reach first state championship

By **CLAIRE SULLIVAN**
Staff Writer

A world of programming, 3D printing, robots and constructing occurs in the Quince Orchard Engineering Club, who reached their first state competition last month.

The club, composed of members with a range of engineering skills, put their heads together to construct an intelligent robot at their most recent competition, which was held at UMBC.

The club is made up of two teams, the CouGears and CougarBotics, who compete in a nationwide robotics competition called First Tech Challenge (FTC). In the beginning of the robotics season, both teams created robots to pass through qualifying competitions, which, if passed, would bump up the team to the states

competition. The club participated in two qualifying competitions, and at the second qualifying round, held in Annapolis at the Naval Academy, the teams ended up battling each other.

This year was an archaeology-themed challenge, where the team's responsibility was to construct a robot which would move blocks into stacks inside of a storage container, called the "Cryptobox." For extra points, the team had an opportunity to create different patterns; balance their robot on the balancing stone; move the relic, simulating a gold statue, to a far location; and more. In addition to the challenge of performing the tasks with a person controlling the robot, the team could also have the robot drive itself using various sensors and very technical and precise programming.

The CouGears came in 3rd

place and was able to create a "finalist alliance" in the championship rounds, where only 12 of the original 30 teams compete.

Even though the CouGears's alliance did not win the championship rounds, the team was able to move on due to their achievement in winning the Rockwell Collins Innovate Award, for the hard work and dedication put into their engineering notebook for the competition. The CouGears and CougarBotics also both won awards for participating in the championship rounds.

"I'm really proud of how far we were able to go," said senior Bayan Labay, co-president of the club. "We worked really hard this year and we saw that in our robot."

When the CouGears reached the state competition, the team had to focus even more to complete the tasks in the compe-

tion. The state competition is essentially the same as the qualifying competition, except there are higher stakes, a better and greater number of teams, and no room for error.

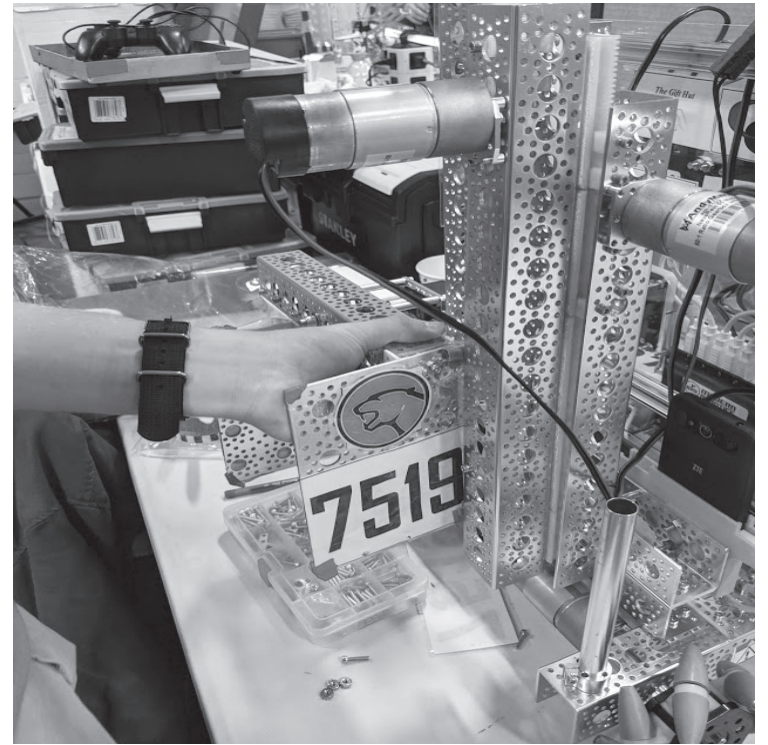
The team arrived to the competition in suits and the same CouGears black shirt to match, but also to impress the judges on the field and in the judges' meeting. The team also created a big tri-fold, full of pictures and descriptions of the robot, to grab the interest of the judges, other teams, and passerby.

As for battling in the competition itself, the team did well on reaching a new level they never had the chance to reach before. The team succeeded in the judges' meeting, gained quite a bit of interest in their robot, and did okay on the playing field, but it was not enough for them to

qualify to super-regionals, which is the next competition above.

After the competitive season, the Engineering Club plans to slow down and try mock competitions on their own to improve from what they learned in their competition. "This would be a great time to join," said senior Ben Bernstein, who was a CougarBotics planner and programmer. "If you want to get a feel for the world of engineering, join and you get the opportunity to try new things and explore."

The Engineering club meets a couple times a week in room 133 to expand their knowledge on the engineering and robots world while planning, testing, building, and bouncing ideas off of each other. "Everything we accomplish is thanks to our hard work as a team," said senior Ezra Trost, the CouGears team leader.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF QO ENGINEERING CLUB

MEET THE TEAM: The engineering masters of QO pose for a photo after participating in a competition (left); one of the team's robots (right)

Excuses, excuses: lies from QO students and teachers

By **NICKI THOMAS** and
REID PLOSHNICK
Managing Editor and
Journalism Student

School is a fishbowl full of excuses - creative ones, as a matter of fact. Whether a student is constantly busy or wasting their time playing Fortnite,

excuses are utilized for their personal gain.

These excuses are presented to you for your entertainment purposes.

Junior Brandon Kelly utilized his creative excuses when he wanted to play Xbox instead of doing his homework. When Kelly went to school and

was asked why he had not completed his work, he explained that his "WiFi was out or that he just didn't feel well." While the standard "my dog ate my homework" isn't going to cut it these days, you can always get

more creative. "My funniest excuse was that my mom lost my homework," said Kelly.

Now excuses won't work for everyone. Senior Edgar Olivas uses excuses to get out of doing his work. "I'm never here or I just don't do my homework, that's when I use excuses," Olivas said. "I didn't do my homework because I was watching Vine compilations." Olivas uses excuses such as that he was at church and was unable to do his homework.

Teachers have heard a number of inventive excuses as well. English and theater teacher Nicholas Saadipour will not hesitate with a comeback when a student presents an excuse. "Sometimes students will say to me that they were sick and didn't do their homework. I respond with 'so Google doesn't

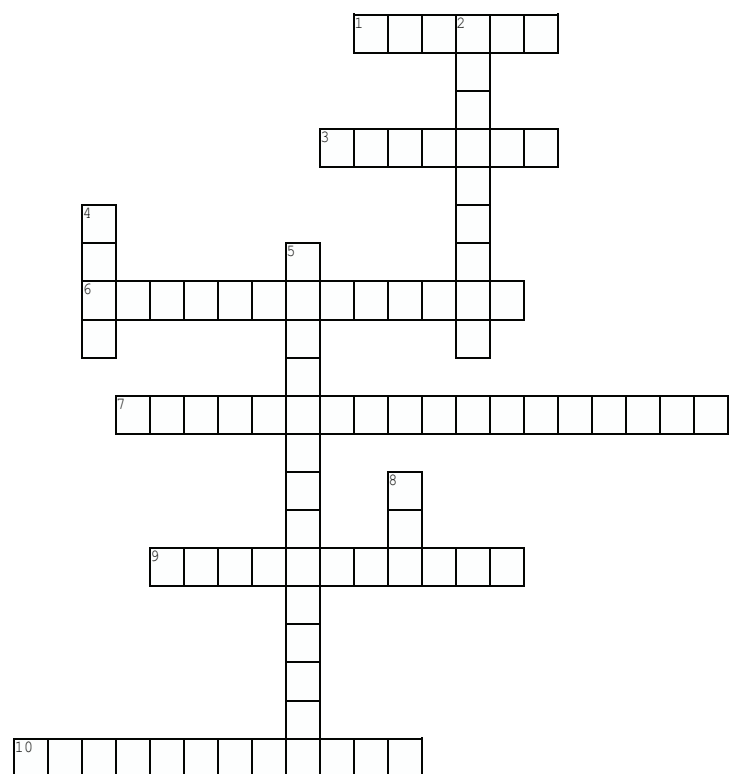
work when you're sick?" Additionally, students will ask teachers why their papers were not graded. Saadipour would respond with, "I have over 130 papers to grade, I go to grad school and I'm directing a play. What do you have going on in your life?"

"I didn't do my homework because I was watching Vine compilations."

- Edgar Olivas

OSCARS

See how well you remember the 2018 Oscars



Created with TheTeachersCorner.net [Crossword Puzzle Generator](http://CrosswordPuzzleGenerator.com)

Across

- Host of the Oscars
- Best Original Screenplay that thrilled millions
- A nominated film featured this ice skater
- Best Director
- Played Winston Churchill in 'Darkest Hour'
- Has been nominated for 21 Oscars

Down

- Best Actress in a Lead Role
- This year, the Oscars celebrated its ___ anniversary
- Aquarium gone wrong
- Before the show, the movie stars walked the ___ carpet



Jantzen's Journal: Pressure on Nats to perform in 2018 rising

With the playoff losses mounting, pressure forming for Nats to win WS this season

NATIONALS

By JANTZEN FOCHT
Staff Writer

I'd like to think that 2018 is our year; this is the year we finally make that magical championship run we've sought after for the last 6 years. But after two heartbreaking playoff losses in a row, I feel as if I should set my expectations low this year, in fear of what now is considered a given in the landscape of DC sports: the inevitable choke in the first round of the playoffs.

It's happened four out of the last six years, with three of them occurring in do-or-die Game 5s. But this year, due to multiple circumstances, should hopefully be different than all these other years.

This team is considered by many, including me, to be the most well-rounded, well-put-together team in the short history of the Washington Nationals. At the top of the lineup, by having speedy-contact first players in Adam Eaton and Trea Turner bat in front of power-players Ryan Zimmerman and 2015 NL MVP Bryce Harper, the combination of their skill sets should produce many valuable runs over the course of the season.

Another thing I haven't even touched on yet is the bottom half of the order, which includes two time Silver Slugger award winner



PHOTO COURTESY OF USA TODAY

THE GANGS ALL HERE: 2018 could be the last year in which this core of players compete together.

2B Daniel Murphy, and the slick fielding and RBI machine Anthony Rendon. Consequently, pairing them up with the upcoming, power-hitting OF Michael A. Taylor should solidify the 5, 6, and 7 hole in the lineup, along with the 8 hole being filled by Catcher Matt Wieters.

One weakness that plagued the Nats over the last two sea-

sons was their oftentimes dismal bullpen, yet after General Manager Mike Rizzo addressed the problem during last years' trade deadline and offseason, the pen is now, funnily enough, one of the team's strengths.

By having a solid closer in lefty Sean Doolittle, and great setup men in Ryan Madson and Brandon Kintzler, this talented

group of arms should spare us some of the drama heading into the late stretches of the games.

It should also be noted that the Nats rotation still includes multiple time Cy Young Award-Winner Max Scherzer, and 3x All Star Stephen Strasburg, both of whom are signed for another four or more years. The rotation, rounded out by southpaw

Gio Gonzalez and Tanner Roark, will again be another one of the Nationals' strengths.

This team is considered by many...to be the most well rounded, well-put together team in the short history of the Washington Nationals.

Another storyline heading into the season is the newly hired manager, Dave Martinez. The light hearted Martinez was signed to a 3 year deal at the beginning of last year's offseason. He will look to positively impact the team through the positive vibes he brings to the team.

Overall, if the Nationals can stay healthy under newly appointed manager Dave Martinez, they SHOULD be able to get at least past the first round. They have one of the best teams (on paper, that is) and SHOULD therefore be able to acquire the one thing that has eluded them for so long: a World Series trophy. Anything short of a trip to the Championship series, though, will be considered by many fans, including me, to be one major disappointment.

Baseball team looks to follow up successful 2017 season

Veteran led 2018 squad looks to put their game experience to good use, win games

BASEBALL

By JANTZEN FOCHT
Staff Writer

It's March in Maryland, and for the most part, the grueling winter is finally over. The trees and flowers will be in full bloom soon, the once-brown grass is green again, and for the ballplayers of Quince Orchard, they can finally get back to the game that has remained ingrained in America's culture since the early 1900s: the game of baseball.

"We can still continue to improve throughout the season as we adjust to our competition and needs."

-Ethan Frank

The Baseball team, coached by Jason Gasaway, will look to follow up their successful season last year with an

even better one this year. Led by seniors Ethan Frank, Garrett Beloff, and Mark Schwendinger, the team is very experienced heading into the spring season.

With their first game at home against Seneca Valley on the 21st, the Cougars will also

look to keep their strong hitting alive from last year. Last season, some success could be attributed to the amount of runs they scored (128, to be exact), which was further helped by their lofty on-base percentage.

Frank, who has been a part of the program for a long time, feels the team is "in a good spot due to all of our practices and scrimmages we've been doing in the preseason." However, he also believes that they can still continue to "improve

throughout the season as we adjust to our competition and needs."

One of the ways the team prepares for the season is by working out as a group in the offseason. The team is always looking to feel good both physically and mentally heading into the season, which can be seen through their increased workload both in the gym and inside the cages during the cold winter. By going through what is thought of by some to be an egregious amount of work, the team can ensure they are in top form heading into the season.

With a mix of talented veterans and young guns making up the team, the Cougars look very sharp heading into the season. Over the offseason, they have trained hard, bonded as a team in the gym, and have worked tirelessly at their craft even during the shortened days of the winter. Therefore, theoretically, if the team can stay healthy, play as one selfless unit, and give it their all every time they head out onto the diamond, expect the Cougars to be back in contention this season.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GIOVANNI PIZZINO

ENGAGED: In his last year at QO, Garrett Beloff looks to make an impact both on and off the field.

Softball team looking to have a stellar season

GIRLS SOFTBALL

By JENNA KASE
Managing Editor

After graduating eight seniors last year, QO's varsity softball team looks more youthful than last season. Despite having only three seniors this year, the Cougars are hoping to use the youth to their advantage and win States.

Senior captain Sydney Rourke said that it is expected that the Cougars will have a successful season this year due to "all the new incoming players and strong coaching staff." "We are a young team this year because of the loss of last year's graduating seniors, but it is exciting to be a part of a youthful team," she added. "There are a lot of new players and new talent," Junior Tehya Harbaugh said, "so I'm excited to play our games [with the new players] and win."

As the captain, Rourke will lead by example in building good chemistry with her teammates. "Strong chemistry will help us work hard in practice and perform well in games" she said. "Last year we did have very strong chemistry on the team," Rourke added. "However, this year since there are a lot of new players, I think we will be able to bond easily throughout the



BATTER UP: Senior captain Sydney Rourke is up at bat.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SYDNEY ROURKE

season." Harbaugh, a two year varsity veteran, agrees with her. "We all support each other throughout the entire season." It's not a challenge for the team to get along. "In the car rides to the away games we just have a lot of fun together," Harbaugh said.

"We all support each other throughout the entire season."

- Tehya Harbaugh

The love for softball motivates many of the girls on the team to come and play for QO. "I wanted to be a part of a group of girls that I could relate to on an athletic level outside of the classroom," Rourke said. As for Harbaugh, she "really enjoy[s] softball and wanted to play in high school," she said.

Despite being a senior, the youth on this year's team is something that Rourke is excited to see grow over the years. "We have a lot of fresh talent coming in the will only continue to grow over the years," she said.

Come out and support the Cougars on March 21 at 3:45 P.M as they take on Seneca Valley for their first home game of the season.

Varsity basketball finishes season in playoffs

VARSITY BASKETBALL

By JENNA KASE
Managing Editor

Looking back at this past winter sports season, both boys and girls varsity basketball teams finished off the season after posting records of 11-12 and 12-11-1, respectively.

The girls varsity basketball

team will be graduating three seniors this year: guard Maggie Regan, center Ally Blue, and forward Yekta Kamali. Junior forward Jenna Williams said that she will "miss the leadership and examples that the seniors have set this year. The three graduating seniors have been on the team for a long time and always helped people understand plays and drills during practice."

The leadership from this

year's senior class helped the Cougars accomplish one of their biggest achievements this past season, "getting revenge on Wootton by beating them in the first round of the playoffs," Williams said.

This past season, the Cougars "exceeded many expectations," Williams said, "and we had a strong season that went very well." Looking on to next year, Williams expects the same.

"I'm expecting a very solid team next year as we are only losing three seniors. Hopefully we can jump right back into the season and keep moving forward from there," she said.

As for the boys, the seniors are hopeful that the team will have even more success than this past year, since the season "did not go as well as we had hoped," according to senior Jack Faraone. However, Faraone is confi-

dent in the success of the team next year. "I know the younger guys will have to step up, but I am confident in them doing so," he said.

Unlike the girls, the boys are graduating twice as many seniors, with a large senior class of six consisting of John Bikim, Niko Brown, Daniel Dorsey, Jack Faraone, Mike Fierstein, and Steve Ukiteyedi. Faraone said next year the team is going to have "a lot of rebuilding with all the new guys coming in."

Confidence from the upperclassmen is reassuring when looking ahead to the 2018-2019 basketball season. Both boys and girls basketball are expecting strong seasons and hoping to top the success of this past season in the years to come.

"I know the younger guys will have to step up, but I am confident in them doing so."

- Jack Faraone

"We had a strong season that went very well."

- Jenna Williams



From left to right: Seniors Yekta Kamali, Ally Blue, and Maggie Regan pose for a picture.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @QOGIRLSBBALL



Boy's Tennis hopes to serve up a successful season

With a new team forming, the boys prepare for a state championship

By **GABI EYRICH**
Managing Editor

With hopes to serve up a successful season, the Boys Tennis team works together to improve individually, and as a whole.

As the players gain skills and new playing techniques this Spring, they also gained two new coaches with hopes to give beneficial insight and motivation.

Junior Zack Pearlman, who is a star of the team, says, "We have two new coaches, Coach Rebecca Corey and Tyler Brown," said junior Zack Pearlman, "I believe that these two are the dynamic duo that our team has been looking for."

Junior Jack Dacy says, "I think Coach Corey will be able to coach us in a new way" and, "she teaches in a different style."

As the season begins, the players look forward to gain more knowledge of the game during practices in hopes to win as many matches as they can.

Dacy says, "In practice we focus a lot on doing different drills, so that we can get a lot of balls in play."

Pearlman shares, "Our team focuses on consistency," and "It is how we will win most of our matches."

Although the team had successes last year, they strive to improve even more and become better players, both physically and mentally.

Pearlman says, "We need better depth on our team. Therefore, we need everyone to work hard in order to have our best line-up on every match."

Junior Jake Perlman, who is also a star for the team says, "I am look-

ing forward to getting better over the course of the season, improving my skills, and having fun with the team."

Perlman also says, "Our team goal is to get better every practice," and to "surprise some of the teams we play this year, because we have a strong team."

The team hopes to win their

division by the end of the season, in order to move up to Division I. However, the boys plan to play every match this season with power, intuition, and good judgment. Come out and support the tennis team, as they have all of the talent that they need in order to win themselves a state championship!



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TONY KOSIYACHINDA

EYES ON THE PRIZE: Juniors Jake Perlman and Zach Pearlman dial in on the ball in a crucial match.

Lacrosse teams strive for greatness as seasons starts up

By **GABI EYRICH**
Managing Editor

As Spring approaches, the Boys and Girls Lacrosse teams bring out their cleats and sticks to the Cougar Dome, and begin practicing for the season. Having had workouts all school year long, both teams are well prepared for intense daily practices and competitive games.

With high expectations from the coaches and from themselves, the Girls Lacrosse team focuses on uniting and working hard to improve.

Junior Jenna Mensh says, "The team's goal is to build up and grow, because we have a young team," and that they are "looking to improve and win hard games." She also reveals that what the team hopes to focus on is communication and playing smart.

Although the team makes their skills look effortless on the field, having daily practice will benefit the team tremendously. "During practice, we mainly focus on game play and field awareness," Mensh added.

"At practice we really try to get the basics down perfectly, so we can perform well in our games," says junior Lauren Ransing, "Our team wants to work as hard as we can this season, so by the end we can say that we did everything we could."

Just as the girls strive for success, so do the boys. With similar hard work and determination, the boys are looking forward to a winning season.

Junior Brendan McGonagle shares, "I am looking forward to making strong relationships between teammates." He also hopes to make it far into the playoffs, especially playing competitive teams such as Bullis, Churchill, and DeMatha.

McGonagle believes that defense is



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GIOVANNI PIZZANO

AGGRESSIVENESS IS KEY: Returning players Senior Mallory Rosenfeld and Junior Logan Feuer zone in on the field in order to find their open teammates.

the priority focus of improvement this year, and that during practices the team works hard to reach their goals.

Junior Brandon Kelly is also looking forward to seeing how the team will play this year. He shares that, "We have a lot of new players joining the team, so we focus a lot on teamwork and communication."

With both teams having their eyes on the prize, the Boys and Girls Lacrosse teams are focused on winning as much as possible and creating strong, united teams.

"Our team wants to work as hard as we can this season, so by the end we can say that we did everything we could."
-Lauren Ransing





The madness has returned; who will bring it home?

MARCH MADNESS

By **MATTHEW GORDON**
Editor-in-Chief

It's that time of year again: March Madness, where hearts are broken, while some are not. March Madness is the nickname for the NCAA Division I Basketball tournament in which 64 teams duke it out to each try to make it to the big dance, which is the National Championship.

The #1 seeds this year are Virginia, Villanova, Xavier, and Kansas. All 4 teams have top-tier players, and each have a great shot of taking it home. I personally believe only Virginia will make it to the Final Four, a stage consists of each team that wins their region. Virginia is highlighted by star Kyle Guy, who has been a consistent 3-point shooter all year. On the other hand, Villanova is led by Jalen Brunson, who has proven to be one of the best players in the country. Xavier, led by Trevon Bluiett, who is averaging 19.5 points per game also has what it

takes, finishing first in the Big East this year. Lastly, Kansas is always a favorite, once again led by Devonte Graham, who attempts to end his Jayhawks career in style. My final four consists of Virginia, Michigan, Duke, and Villanova. Yeah, I know, a lot of the top teams. The thing is, taking a lower-ranked team is very risky, as they have a lot more at risk losing than a top seed. Some sleepers I'd watch out for are Alabama, Seton Hall, and Murray State. Each, in my opinion, have doable paths in their regions and can each have a shot at a potential cinderella run. I believe those teams also have a legitimate shot of making it to the big game. That's what March is all about!

The first round games begin Thursday at 12:15 pm, starting with Oklahoma vs. Rhode Island, and many others game following that one on channels CBS, truTV, TNT, and TBS. Friday will continue the first round games, and then the next round will begin Saturday, and so on forth until the Final Four and National Championship, from March 31- April 2!



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW SHURTLIFF

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH QUESTIONNAIRE

BOYS LACROSSE



Sean Peck '19

Junior Sean Peck is a wizard on the field. His quickness and agility gives him a huge advantage, as well as his accuracy while shooting.

GIRLS LACROSSE



Lauren Ransing '19

Junior Lauren Ransing is the heart and soul of the QO lacrosse team. She's an experienced varsity player and uses her knowledge to help her team excel.

BASEBALL



Ethan Frank '18

Senior Ethan Frank is quite the player. His baseball IQ helps him dictate his teammates where to go, and his arm makes it easy to strike people out.

COED VOLLEYBALL



Courtney Rineheimer '18

Senior Courtney Rineheimer's bump, set, and spike is an art. People constantly ask her to demonstrate it, and her opponents have to suffer through it every game.

COED TRACK



Natalie Nyborg '19

Junior Natalie Nyborg has the speed of lightning. She pushes her teammates outside of their comfort zone to get them better, and leads the team in events.

BOYS TENNIS



Jake Perlman '19

Junior Jake Perlman has a wicked serve, which causes many aces in his matches. Don't hit it to his forehand, as that won't benefit you in the end.

We asked these athletes the following questions...

	Sean Peck	Lauren Ransing	Ethan Frank	Courtney Rineheimer	Natalie Nyborg	Jake Perlman
What is your favorite thing to do in the Spring?	Lax all day and all night for Heiney LC	Hang out with friends	Rip dingers for Gasaway	Go outside	Hang with friends	Relax
Who do you think will win March Madness?	Virginia white boy gang	I don't follow it	Loyola Chicago	Balow	Duke	Trae Young
Who will win the lottery next?	Ginger, he's a charismatic guy so he deserves it	Karoline	Gasaway	Justin Minkoff	Idk	Ryan Balow
What is the best thing you've ever eaten?	Empanadas	Chick Fil A	Bacon Cheeseburger	&Pizza	Chocolate chip cookies	Chipotle
What is your current favorite song?	Back on the Road - G-Mann	I don't like songs	Kentlands Freestyle-Lil Schwenny	Shock the World-Feastie Boys but never roast me again	Meant to Be- Florida Georgia Line	Shock the World-Feastie Boys
What's the name of a movie you've recently watched and loved?	Despicable Me 2	I don't watch movies	Black Panther.	High School Musical	Spider-Man: Homecoming	Black Panther