

THE PROWLER

Quince Orchard High School

Cougars voice opinions on upcoming election

By ANNA GOOREVICH
Editor-in-Chief

In just one month, the almost two-year journey of the 2016 election will be coming to an end. The importance of this election cannot be understated: the elected candidate, who will be the first new president in eight years, will be handed a boatload of challenges and opportunities such as choosing a Supreme Court Justice, combating ISIS, and promoting economic growth, just to name a few. As the election enters its last month, we're left with the candidates: Donald Trump (Republican), Hillary Clinton (Democrat), and two third party candidates, Gary Johnson (Libertarian) and Jill Stein (Green Party).

With the election only a couple months away, polling services are in full force. According to popular polling service FiveThirtyEight, on September 29, Clinton held 46.6% of the popular vote, Trump came in at 44.2%, and Johnson held 7.8%, while data regarding Stein was neglected. FiveThirtyEight also provides a "chance of winning percentage," which, at the time of writing, is held by Clinton with 62.4% against Trump's 37.5%.

The Prowler decided to hold its own survey to see what candidate Quince Orchard students preferred. During third period on September 8, 10 classes were randomly chosen to be polled, adding up to a total of 200 students. The students

surveyed were presented with a piece of paper with the question, "If you were able to vote in the upcoming presidential election, who would you choose?"

Students could choose from the four main candidates -- Clinton, Trump, Johnson, and Stein -- or write in their own preference.

The data collected from this survey revealed who Quince Orchard students would choose for president, and the results were far from dull.

Coming in first place, therefore winning QO's presidential election, is Hillary Clinton with 82 votes, or 41%. In second place, surprisingly, was the Libertarian Gary Johnson with 56 votes, or 28%. Donald Trump earns third place with 29 votes, or 14.5%, extremely different from the average popular vote where Trump is almost in line with Clinton. Fourth place belongs to the little-known Green Party candidate Jill Stein who gained 20 votes, or 10%.

Students who declined to vote or wrote in their own answers were placed in an "other" category, which gained 13 votes, or 6.5%. (This included 5 votes for Harambe, the gorilla shot by Cincinnati Zoo officials, earning him 2.5% of the QOHS vote).

How has Johnson, the candidate who has barely collected 10% of the popular vote in national polls, been rated so highly by QO students? During the survey, many comments from

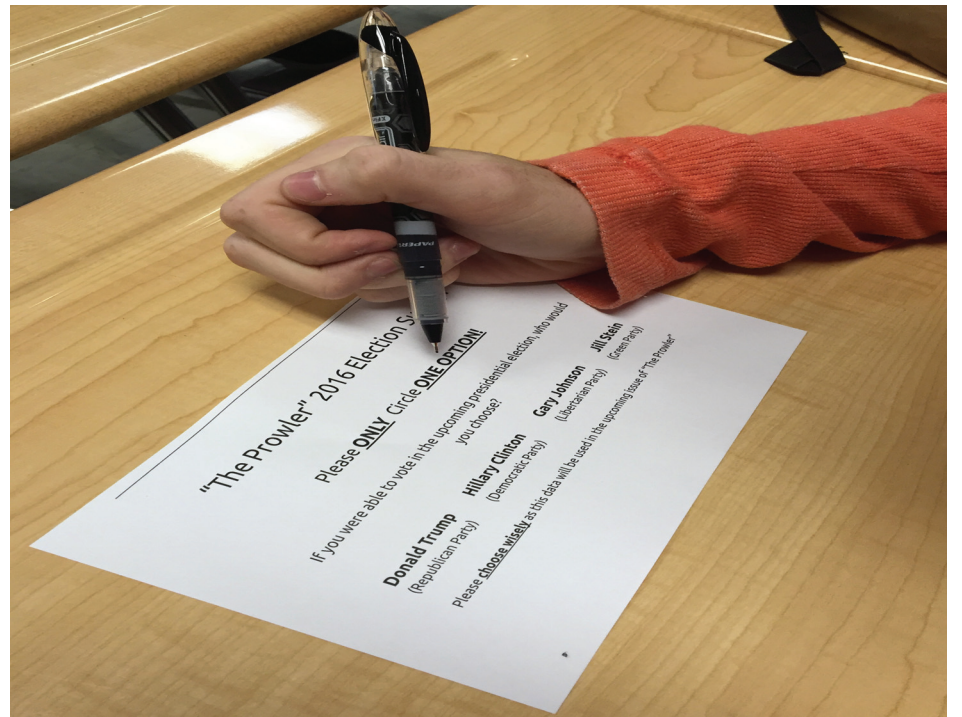


PHOTO BY ANNA GOOREVICH

THE COUNTRY IS FACING A DIFFICULT CHOICE: Students place their votes for *The Prowler's* election poll. Results have shown QO students prefer Clinton as president. Second place went to Johnson, third to Trump, and last was Stein.

Johnson voters were overheard such as "I don't like Clinton or Trump, so Gary Johnson sounds cool" and "The name Gary Johnson reminds me of that character from Spongebob," among others.

The lack of options in this election are illustrated through our data, and many voters across the nation feel the same way. Many of the students who were

CONT. ON PAGE 2

Governor mandates new start date changes for next year

By BRANDON FREEDMAN
Managing Editor

On August 31, at the Ocean City boardwalk, Governor Larry Hogan signed an executive order that will require Maryland's public schools to start after Labor Day and end by June 15. Governor Hogan plans for this to take action starting with the 2017-2018 school year. The effects of the executive order will have many consequences, both positive and negative, for families, students, teachers, and the Maryland economy.

In Hogan's press conference, he stated, "Starting Maryland public schools after Labor Day is not just a family issue—it's an economic, and public safety issue that draws clear, strong, bipartisan support among an overwhelming majority of Marylanders." The widespread support of the order is backed by teachers, students, parents, and politicians all for different reasons, but with the same intended outcome.

Based on a study in 2014 by Goucher College, politicians believe that with a post-Labor Day school start, the economic growth due to additional summer vacation time would generate \$74.3 million in direct economic activity.

Both students and student athletes have positive things to say about the

shorter school calendar. In recent years, there have been so many nonspecific days off for holidays, professional days, and snow days. Junior Elena Dietz believes that "by making the school calendar more condensed, students will have fewer breaks and be more focused than when there are so many days off each month."

In addition to starting school after Labor Day, fall athletes would not have to come back in mid-August during the hottest part of the year. Freshman Kyle Balow, a member of the Quince Orchard golf team, said, "Practicing in the 100 degree heat was not enjoyable and very physically draining." A delayed start to fall sports would give the athletes more time on vacation, and better weather to perform in.

Families across Maryland also concur because it gives them time to finish their family vacations as opposed to having to cut their trips short by a couple of days because of school starting. Junior Cameron Levine said, "What's not to like about a longer summer break?"

On the other hand, some have strong opinions as to why the the school calendar should not be changed. Both students and teachers think the condensed year could potentially be bad for kids. "There are some major drawbacks to the executive order, even though I can see the pros," said English teacher Nicholas Saadipour. "By taking out school days, that leaves teachers less days to teach the students the necessary cur-

riculum in the amount of days given."

With a condensed school calendar, that also means some disadvantaged students would not get as many free and reduced meals as they normally would.

In addition, somewhere in the schedule, professional days or holidays would need to be shortened or taken away completely. Board of Education President Michael Durso claims that "the board could be facing a scenario that puts religious holidays in jeopardy." Another resolution could be to shorten spring break to three or four days instead of the usual week off, or some snow days or professional days may have to be removed. Teachers may lose their professional days, which they use to grade papers and finalize report cards.

Knowing both sides of the argument, the Board of Education of Montgomery County wants the decision to be left to each county. MCPS was scheduled to vote in November on pushing the start date back to August 21, two weeks prior to Labor Day. MCPS may now find themselves voting whether to appeal the executive order, apply for a waiver, or accept the mandate as is. Students, teachers, politicians, and everyone else in the community are looking forward to a resolution so families can make their final vacation plans for the summer.



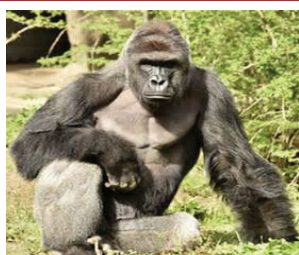
MEGAN REYMOND, DELMARVANOW

THE PEOPLE WANT SUMMER: Many people are in support of Governor Hogan's mandate, citing a longer summer as one of the benefits of this decision.

News

The death of Cincinnati Zoo gorilla Harambe has caused widespread controversy.

Page 4



CINCINNATI ZOO

Features

The It's Academic club provides a model for successful clubs at Quince Orchard.

Page 8



JOSH SCHUMAN

Sports

Girls soccer and other fall sports begin their seasons and aim for success.

Page 10



PEG KEILLER



Election 2016 closes down

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

way. Many of the students who were asked why they voted for Johnson didn't necessarily understand or support his political platform (his platform is mostly aligns with the Democrats on personal liberties; however, he aligns with Republicans on national security and economic issues), yet stated that they voted for him since the other candidates were unappealing, highlighting the major problem in this election. "I don't think we've ever had both candidates from major parties with such low approval ratings" said AP government teacher Karen Jones. "It's certainly more unpredictable than ever."

As the election narrows down into its final month, a plethora of information has been exposed from the media about the candidates; however, interestingly enough, very little is available about actual issues Americans care about. A quick look online leads to stories about Clinton's pneumonia diagnosis, Gary Johnson's "What is Aleppo?" confusion, and even the amount of times Clinton smiles in one night; and honestly, what hasn't been said about Trump? Yet very little information is provided about the candidates' views on the country's pressing issues, at least in major headlines.

Democrat and senior Xiaolin Yao urges candidates to talk about "climate change, lowering higher education tuition, social security, and immigration reform."

Moderate Republican and junior Brent Jamsa agrees that the candidates need to openly discuss the more vital issues. "One of the top pressing issues that candidates need to address is national security... I feel that candidates have not properly addressed this is-

sue," he added. "The candidates must [also] tell the American people how they are going to tackle our economy's stagnating growth."

"We need more substance, less rhetoric," said Jones. "The media [has to] start holding candidates accountable, rather than just vamping up the sensationalized rhetoric -- stop covering the 'distractions.' But with the pull of 24/7 news ratings, this is unlikely."

While very few students will be able to vote in this year's election, it's important to follow and learn about the election now, so young people can help prevent a chaotic election like this from happening again. "Culture change starts with the younger generation," said Jones. "Just staying informed and discussing issues is important to prepare for future voting."

Jamsa agrees that whatever your values are, "an informed voter is an empowered voter!" and he encourages students who wish to get involved in the election "to contact their local political party or for nonpartisan work, the Montgomery County Board of Elections."

Additionally, Yao says that any students who want to "have their voice heard" can join political clubs right here at QO such as the Teenage Republicans and Young Democrats, both of which are active in informing students on the election.

No matter what your political views are, almost everyone can agree that the 2016 election has been quite the circus. As the time comes to vote, the responsibility lies in the American people to elect who is seen the most fit to run our nation for the next four years. Meanwhile, the majority of the devout Harambe supporters here at QO will have to wait until the 2020 election to be able to make their voice count.

Prowler Staff

Editors-in-Chief:

Anna Goorevich
Will Husted
Brittany Mills
David Suggs

Associate Editors:

Dylan Kearney, Sophie Lane
Jacob Cornblatt
Danielle Pasekoff
Logan Feingold, Jamie Fink

Managing Editors:

Brandon Freedman
Tori Berry
Hannah Pearlstein
Ben Palmer
Hunter Boothe
Matthew Gordon
David Strickman

Staff Writers:

Alex Hamer
Griffin Mann
David Shapero

Copy Editors:

Tori Berry
Jacob Cornblatt
Ben Palmer
Danielle Pasekoff

Design/Layout Manager:

Alexis Kim

Photographers:

Tori Berry
David Shapero
David Strickman

Business & Distribution:

Brandon Freedman
Matthew Gordon

Web/Public Relations Liasion:

Hannah Pearlstein

Quince Orchard
High School

15800 Quince
Orchard Road

Gaithersburg, MD

(301)840-4686

Volume 29, Issue 1

October 7, 2016



PROWLER NEWS FLASHES

By SOPHIE LANE

News Associate Editor

North Carolina passed a law blocking local governments from passing anti-discrimination rules to protect LGBTQ people that will go into effect on April 1st, 2017. This occurred right after the city of Charleston passed a measure protecting LGBTQs from being discriminated against by businesses. The state's general assembly called a special meeting-for the first time in 35 years- in response to Charleston's actions.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

By DYLAN KEARNEY

News Associate Editor

On September 22, Charlotte, North Carolina faced a state of emergency after two nights of violence in response to a police officer fatally shooting Keith Scott, 43, a black man. Officials say Scott was holding a handgun and that he refused to drop it; family and witnesses say he was holding a book. Footage of the situation taken by cops has yet to be released. This is the third state to go into a state of emergency from riots in the past three years.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CNN

By BRANDON FREEDMAN

News Managing Editor

On the morning of September 17, a homemade pipe bomb exploded during the U.S. Marine Charity run in Seaside Park, NJ. In following two days, two more bombs would explode, one in New York and the other in New Jersey. In total, 29 civilians were injured. Shortly after investigating the crime scenes and talking to witnesses, the FBI was able to identify the suspect. His name was Ahmed Khan Rahami and, after being tracked down by police, a shootout occurred, leaving three police officers wounded. As the investigation continues, there are no other definitive accomplices.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

By ALEX HAMER

News Editor

In week three of the NFL season, San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick continued to refuse to stand for the national anthem, protesting social inequality and police shootings in the US. Kaepernick's actions have had mixed responses with players around the league. Teammate Eric Reid has joined Kaepernick in kneeling for the anthem while over 40 other NFL players, have raised their fists during the national anthem in support of Kaepernick's protest.. Kaepernick's actions have also drawn a large amount of criticism from figures ranging from Republican Presidential nominee Donald Trump to former NFL safety Rodney Harrison. So long as Kaepernick continues to stand, debates about race, patriotism, and respect will rage on.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CNN



Staff and alumni reflect on changes at QO

By DYLAN KEARNEY
Associate Editor

QO has become the school it is through years of students and staff being involved, showing spirit, and working to make things great.

In 1988, QO opened for the first time, and some of our current teachers have been here from the start. AP Psychology teacher Penny Keune has enjoyed 28 years working with the staff, students, and the subjects she teaches.

When the school first opened, it was a lot smaller and less diverse. Keune says that because of this, everyone was very involved. Many people attended the school dances and

events like POTH, which happened in the first year. There was and still is a lot of spirit and support for various teams.

While Keune states that many of the years blend together, there have been some profound events. "I experienced 9/11 with my 3rd period class," she said. She also said that she was pregnant with her second son the first year the school opened, and then went on to teach him AP Psychology during his senior year.

When QO first started, Keune also stated that the school was known as a "high-tech" school. Since then, the school has become a lot older and has lost this recognition. Technology, however, has still progressed immensely. According to Keune,

the Promethean Boards were a nice change and the Chromebooks are also great to use. Her QUEST class is now entirely paperless. Cell phones, she says, are also a great source of instant information, but a huge distraction, which Keune doesn't appreciate.

Students have enjoyed going to QO over the years as well. Miranda Johnson, who graduated in the class of 2010, was proud to be a Cougar.

During the years, she attended the school, she witnessed the football and field hockey team win the state championships.

Additionally, she enjoyed events like POTH, pep rallies, and homecoming. "These were all the events that made QO great and what I miss

about the school," she said. Johnson also experienced many significant events at QO. During her senior year she became the field hockey captain and won many photography awards. Johnson also said that besides the athletic achievements the school had, they also put on phenomenal plays like Grease. "There was also a huge snow storm that let out school for two weeks!" she said.

One event that was not positive, though, was the loss of her friend, former QO student Justin Dorsey, in a car accident. "All of these events shaped who I am today, whether it was positive or not."

Even in the six years since Johnson graduated, some things have

changed. Some big trends back in her day, as far as clothing goes, were Tiffany jewelry, Vera Bradley, and Abercrombie every-

"When the school first opened, it was a lot smaller and less diverse."

-Mrs. Keune

big songs were "Tik Tok" by Kesha, "Airplanes" by B.o.B, and "Rude Boy" by Rihanna. She also remembers watching Avatar for the first time in 3D and remembering how great it was.

Johnson also enjoyed many classes, and her favorites were her photograph classes and American Sign Language.

Additionally, she also enjoyed after school activities, such as field hockey, track and lacrosse. Her advice to QO students is to get involved in any sports, clubs or activities. "You will definitely look back at your high school days and remember those events [outside the classroom] the most," Johnson said. "At least that's how it was for me."

THE PROWLER THANKS OUR PATRONS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

LIFETIME PATRONS

PATRONS

Faith and Jeff Adler
Pradeep & Neera Agarwal
Dr. & Mrs. David Austein
The Belblidia Family
The Benton Family
Ms. Barbara Blum
Uncle Charlie's Backyard BBQ
A. Benedict
Liam Brown
The Burton Family
The Burnham Family
Harry & Susan Chan
The Chehreghani Family
The Chu Family
Janice Long Coe
Terri & Ira Cohen
Joseph Conte
Michelle & Scott Cornblatt
Noel Danto
The D'Cruz Family
Philip Derfler & Linda Tollefson
Julie Dintamin
The Dyball Family
Diane & Dave Faulkner

The Fawley Family
The Feingold Family
The Fierstein Family
Fran & Ken Finkelstein
Donna & Chris Furnas
Bryn Gaertner
Gallant Financial Planning, LLC
Nanette & David Gilles
The Golan Family
The Goldstein Family
Anne Graber
Randy & Becky Hall
The Hapil Family
Robin Hieder
The Horan Family
The Humphreys Family
The Hwang Family
In Honor of the New York Yankees
Gerry and Sheila Jackson
The Kaczmarek Family
Susan Katz
Tara & Jerry Kavadias
John and Nancy Kelly
Carol Kempner
The Kennedy Family

The Kim Family
Heather Kramer
Kate Kronthal
Tim & Kathy Kurkjian
The Lake Family
Laurie & Jim Lewandowski
Karen Lindstrom
Loeb Family
Karen Loggia
The Manners Family
The Mancuso Family
Edward & Elaine McArdle
John McArdle
The McKamy Family
The Mehra Family
Evelyn & Gary Michel
The Mills Family
The Milwit Family
The Mnatzakanian Family
Mr. Brian Monk
Mrs. Janice Monk
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Monk
MTUTRT Family
Foundation
Elisa Niemtzw

The Nyland Family
Alex Okun
The Parker Family
Nina Paul
Dieter & Janet Poetzschke
Charlie & Jeanne Polcsa
The Purdy Family
Anne & Bob Quinn
Laura Rister
Jamie Rosenthal
The Rudnic Family
The Schneibolk Family
Mindy Stoler
The Strimple Family
Patricia Shaffer
Nancy & Mike Shank
Diane & John Schmid
The Schruefer Family
Carla Tevault
The Veckman Family
The Weinstein Family
The Wilson Family
Mark & Donna Williams
Sue & Jay Wingate
Carole Working

Elizabeth Cann
Michelle & Scott Cornblatt
Desiree Dietz
The Fink Family
Tracy & John Husted
Anita Klein
Saghi Modjtabei & Aliyar Agha-Khan
Micki & Trent Palmer
Sheldon & Rob Siegel

*DENOTES MULTIPLE LIFETIME PATRON DONORS

BECOME A PATRON FOR THE AWARD-WINNING PAPER TODAY!

PATRON'S NAME (FOR MAILING DISTRIBUTION) _____

PATRON'S NAME (AS YOU WOULD LIKE IT TO APPEAR IN PAPER) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____ CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ DONATION \$40 _____ OTHER \$ _____ LIFETIME PATRON \$150 _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO QUINCE ORCHARD HIGH SCHOOL

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____



The good, the bad, and the ugly of Harambe

By **ALEX HAMER**
News Editor

Harambe was a 17-year-old Western lowland gorilla who lived in the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden up until May 28, 2016, when he was fatally shot one day after his birthday. The shooting happened after a four year old boy crawled under a rail and fell over the wall in the gorilla land moat after he apparently told his mother he wished to meet the gorilla.

Cincinnati Zoo director Thane Maynard said, "The child was being dragged around, the child was at risk," as he defended the zoo's actions to shoot Harambe. Primatologist Jane Goodall agreed with Maynard's sentiments that the zoo had no choice but to kill Harambe.

Understandably, the reaction to the shooting sparked debate about animal welfare, parental responsibility, and the potential use of non-lethal weaponry. The story soon after received national attention. Even Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump weighed in at a May 31 press conference in New York. "It was a very tough call," Trump said, "It's too bad there wasn't another way."

However, perhaps the most unique storyline to come of Harambe's death was the barrage of internet memes that followed. Some

of the most popular memes included "Remembering Private Harambe," and Bleacher Report also suggested Harambe as a potential replacement for injured quarterback Robert Griffin III.

Not all the memes were used so innocently, with a picture of Harambe used to mock former Australian football player Adam Goodes. Goodes is of aboriginal descent, a group that is often the subject of racist attacks in Australia. Other Harambe memes have also been used as racist jabs, such as the ones that lashed out at the Black Lives Matter Twitter account.

Petitions about Harambe have also had a wide range. A petition on change.org to hold the parents of the child who fell into Harambe's enclosure responsible has over half a million signatures. Additionally, a petition to change the NFL team the Cincinnati Bengals name to the Cincinnati Harambes has just under 25,000 signatures.

Other forms of protest for Harambe's death have taken place in the Cincinnati area as well. A high school football game in Cincinnati had a bizarre sideline show when a student dressed in a gorilla costume ran onto the field dragging a fake child. People at the game also claim a second Harambe-related tribute a second gorilla ran onto the field chasing a person in a banana costume

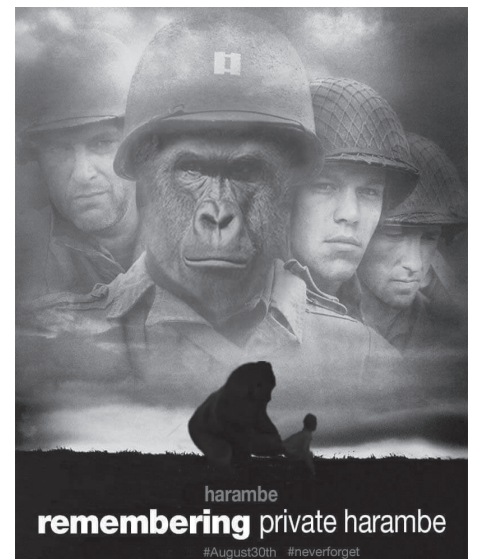
who was holding a sign which read "RIP Harambe," according to The Independent.

Most shockingly, Harambe was an option on a Texas presidential poll and received two percent of the votes, equal to Green Party candidate Jill Stein, according to The Independent.

"I think Harambe was innocent and should not have been murdered and people used the memes as a way to raise awareness to the injustice," senior Jessica Valenti said.

The memes were also often used as a way to "troll" and harass the Cincinnati Zoo on social media. Eventually, the Cincinnati Zoo shut down their Twitter account during the onslaught of memes. "We are not amused by the memes, petitions and signs about Harambe," Maynard, told the Associated Press. "Our zoo family is still healing, and the constant mention of Harambe makes moving forward more difficult for us." Users on Twitter suggested the deletion of the account was reminiscent of the way Harambe was "deleted."

Although the Cincinnati Zoo has no love for Harambe memes, many people still enjoy them. "I think Harambe memes are really funny," says junior Scott Fan-Loh. "Harambe was innocently killed and people are outraged about the stupidity of a mother not being able to watch her child."



HUFFINGTON POST

The Harambe meme culture has still stayed strong months after the death, with a baby Gorilla born at a Chinese zoo named Harambe McHarambeface on September 13 after the zoo put the naming to an online vote, according to The Mirror. It seems that although Harambe is no longer with us, his memory will continue to live online for the foreseeable future.

New AP Physics course available to students

By **SOPHIE LANE**
Associate Editor

Not all AP courses in Montgomery County are taught at QO, but 24 of them are offered to students. However, there are still classes that students could be interested in taking but they do not have the option to. Nevertheless, school president, senior Patty Dirlam, proved to the staff, students, and parents that nothing can prevent students from learning what they want to. Dirlam has reintroduced AP Physics

C: Electricity and Magnetism, a class that was no longer taught at QO, and now has a whole class full of students enrolled in it, including herself.

Previously, this class was taught by William Wu as a double period AP science class. This year this class is only offered one period and is taught by Joseph Boettcher.

Dirlam explained that she is all for learning something she is passionate about, so if she decides she is passionate about a subject, she wants to pursue it with

all she has. It took a lot of effort and time to get the class into QO. Not only is she happy with her decision, but she wants people to be aware of the class so they can become interested and ensure it is a recurring class. "[It was] an informative process: dealing with people who don't want anything to do with what you're trying to accomplish," said Dirlam. "I learned how to advocate for myself in harsh environments."

In addition, she became closer with people because most of her

friends are taking the class and she genuinely thinks they enjoy it.

One of those friends is Colin Crews, a senior who took AP Physics A last year. Crews said he has already learned about "electro forces, using electroscopes, stuff like that," and he hopes to learn more because he is interested in physics. "It's somewhat like my physics class last year, but it's different because we started where we left off last year, so it's going to go in more advanced material." He hopes

other students are interested in this course and he recommends this class to "anyone interested in anything electrical-based going into college because it will give [students] a good background."

Boettcher also enjoys teaching the course. "I haven't taught it in a really long time, and it's more challenging and it's really fun to teach challenging courses." Since he taught most of the students before, Boettcher speaks highly of them. "I think they are high achieving students, so

I really do believe they will be successful."

The students in Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism all must be taking or have taken an AP Calculus class as a prerequisite. Although the class is an AP, there's no physics prerequisite, so technically one could take this course without taking any physics classes before it. Introducing a class to the school is not only limited to this physics class: there are other courses that may be available to students, but they just have to look for them.

FOLD BOLD.

Our street tacos combine the bold flavors you love with the fresh ingredients you crave from Cal Tort — grab your crew and enjoy them in our newly renovated dining area!



ENJOY A BOGO TACO!

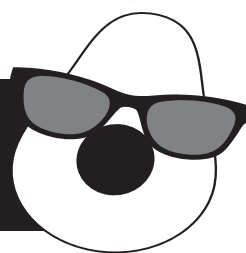


Buy one taco, enjoy another of equal or lesser value for **FREE** when you present this coupon at California Tortilla Quince Orchard.

 **SHARE YOUR #TACOTUESDAY WITH US, @CALTORT!**


WE'RE PUTTING THE **FUN** BACK IN **FUNDRAISER**

Email acolby@caltort.com to set up a weeknight fundraiser for your team or organization!



 **California TORTILLA®**

**12211 DARNESTOWN ROAD
GAITHERSBURG, MD 20878
301-330-8214**

Expires 12/1/16. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Valid at Quince Orchard location only.



Sully crashes, no survivors

By JACOB CORNBLATT
*Double-Truck Associate
Editor*

1/5 Stars

What lies in a name? Ideally, a hint.

Take *The Silence of the Lambs*: without the title, the film is about a do-good woman surpassing all adversity to do what's right; however, with the title, we get a major clue as to the film's true argument: people become do-gooders out of selfishness.



IMDB

Well, the title of *Sully* describes exactly what's wrong with the film. Esteemed director Clint Eastwood (Gran Torino, American Sniper) and newly-successful writer Todd Komarnicki team up to tell the story of "The Miracle on the Hudson" as a means of convincing humans to work together to achieve greater things... supposedly. The problem is that, like the film's title, very few components of the picture actually emit this theme—*Sully* proves to be nothing more than a mess of ideas.



IMDB

The movie depicts the events centered around Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger's fateful landing of a United Airlines flight onto the Hudson River, saving everyone on the plane after birds destroyed the plane's engines. Sully switches between the actual plane landing and the aftermath (in which Sully was investigated for possibly making the more dangerous decision).



IMDB

As evident by the synopsis, there's a fair amount going on in the short 93-minute runtime, yet Eastwood doesn't know how to handle it. He takes a boring biopic approach to the film, utilizing a framed story where Sully's defense for his actions result in flashbacks to the landing, except he doesn't quite understand when to flash back. For instance, instead of the Miracle on the Hudson being projected while Sully explains what happened, the audience is unfortunately treated to the description and then the flashback.

The landing doesn't even appear during appropriate moments, though. It flashes when he's on the phone or on a walk, resulting in not only confusion in the audience, but also disjointedness in the film.



IMDB

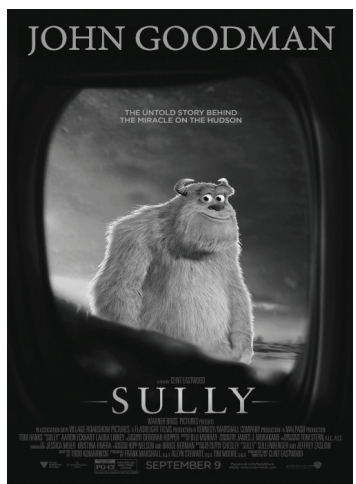
Speaking of disjointedness, the editing doesn't do Eastwood's work justice. After working in the editing department on the incredibly cut American Sniper, editor Blu Murray somehow created a plane-crash scene with zero tension in *Sully*. The cuts are so harsh, so purposeless, and so mundane that it rids the viewer of any suspense or attentiveness. Even during simple conversation scenes, every shot becomes noticeably separated from each other.

Many of these editing issues are, in part, thanks to Eastwood's regular cinematographer Tom Stern, who crafted decent-at-best shots with little to no purpose at all. Without a distinct purpose in each frame of the movie, the editor can never truly understand how the story is supposed to feel, how it's supposed to progress. Every shot seems rushed and insignificant.

Sully angered me. Whenever I became interested in one storyline, Eastwood shifted to the other one; this creates two issues: 1) the audience will never become fully engaged, and 2) the two storylines don't forward the theme of togetherness. If *Sully* is about working together, then why did I have to listen to Tom Hanks, who plays Sully, defend himself for 30 minutes? Why'd I have to watch the actual plane crash? Why'd I have to learn all about Sully's home life? The answer is simple: because that's not what the movie's about.

In reality, this movie was just another pointless blockbuster with a monologue thrown in at the end to squeeze in a pseudo-message.

Tl;dr: don't see this trash.



reddit.com

#Exposed: Common White Girl

By HANNAH PEARLSTEIN
Features Managing Editor

Leaves make a crunching sound as she saunters by in her Ugg boots. Her infinity scarf hangs around her neck, layered above her flannel that likely hides a pearl choker. With the fresh aroma of a pumpkin spice latte from Starbucks in the air, you can tell she is near. The common white girl has entered. 'Tis the "szn."

The "common white girl" has become a widely known species, publicized throughout all forms of social media and easily spotted on the streets. To find one, just search for the nearest Starbucks, pair of white Converse, or store selling t-shirt dresses. Fall is usually the most successful szn for the search, but summer and winter can work as well. To quicken your search, use these ten quick tips:

Tip #1:

Go to the Apple store and find the rose gold iPhones. The common white girl is entranced by its shininess and metallic exterior.

Tip #2:

Search up the hashtag "#goodvibes" on either Instagram or Twitter; there are no bad vibes when you are a common white girl.

Tip #3:

Find a pearl. Not a real one like from a clam in the ocean, that would be ridiculous. Look for a fake one attached to a

piece of black string that is made to pass as a super trendy necklace.

Tip #4:

Advertise a class on how to learn the correct way to spell the word "season." All of your students will likely be common white girls. Remember that long and tiring way they taught you to spell it in elementary school? The common white girl does not listen to teachers -- she knows the actual way to spell: it is s-z-n.



NBC

Tip #5:

You need to be able to differentiate between the different szns. There is not just winter, spring, summer, or fall anymore. There is also bonfire szn, snrszn, good vibes szn, bikini bod szn, legging szn, Friday Night Lights szn, and many others you should probably study up on during your search.

Tip #6:

Look for odd people. The common white girl can't even.

Tip #7:

Blast the song "Closer", "Broccoli", the new Taylor Swift album on repeat, or a random rap song she pretends

to know the words to. The common white girl has special echolocation skills that can hear this music from a radius of 20 miles.

Tip #8:

Make a Twitter account and use it as your personal tissue. Make sure your tweets are #relatable so you can gain common white girl followers.

Tip #9:

Go to Starbucks and buy five Starbucks Pumpkin Spice Latte's and four Frappuccino's in the flavor of your choice. You must have exactly nine drinks (remember -- she can't even) to make a trail starting from Starbucks and leading to the closest Pacsun where you can wait for her arrival. The common white girl's spidey senses will tingle and she will be able to follow the trail right to you.

Tip #10:

Post a Selfie Sunday on Instagram or Twitter using the Snapchat dog filter. Wait for comments such as: "Omg you are so pretty!", "Can I BE you", "My bfflaeae (my best friend for life and ever and ever) is soooooo hot!", and "in- insert five heart-eyed emoji's here!". Now track these commenters down.

The common white girl seems like an elusive species, but in reality they are easier to find than you would think. You have probably seen many of them without even realizing it. The common white girl is out there, and it is finally time that they become #exposed.

Autumn affairs get spooky

By ALEXIS KIM
Design/Layout Manager

Fall is finally here, and if you're like me you started stockpiling sweaters, blankets and hot chocolate mix the second the calendar read September 1.

October, however, is the ultimate autumn month. It's not as warm as the previous month but not quite as frigid as November. The brilliantly colored leaves on trees haven't quite dropped all the way but still allow those satisfying "crunch crunch" sounds on the walk home, and you can finally wear layered outfits without sweating out your body weight. The demon spawn of Satan himself (mosquitos) suffer their icy deaths and are replaced with crisp breezes, pumpkin-flavored drinks and afternoons spent curled up on the couch watching movie marathons.

However, the best part of October, is Halloween. The moment I get a glance of a pumpkin or an autumn leaf, my internal dialogue immediately shifts away from existential dread to demonic chanting of "This Is Halloween" on repeat in some sort of possessed frenzy.

My affinity for all things Halloween began because I was allowed to go trick-or-treating a whopping total of one time in my entire life. By the time I reached an age where my mom

stopped caring about whether or not I celebrated "The Devil's Holiday" (her words, not mine), I was too old to be trick-or-treating. In the wake of this depressing realization, I began to plan one of my favorite annual events— a Halloween party. I probably get a little too hyped planning them but hey, they're like the inside of a jack-o-lantern, if you catch my drift. *wink*

If you're stuck on what to do on the spookiest weekend of the year, try your hand at some pagan party-planning. Here are a few suggestions for your ghostly get-together!

1) Macabre Movie

This holiday wouldn't be complete without scary movies like *Scream*, *Halloween* and *The Night of the Living Dead*. If you're a wimp, like me-- Ironic, I know. Who would think someone who cries during horror movies would declare Halloween their favorite holiday? -- softer picks like *Hocus Pocus*, *The Addams Family*, and Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas* and *Corpse Bride* are still great choices. If you're stuck on space, get creative! Last year, I cleaned out my garage, laid down a tarp and a truckload of blankets, hung a white bedsheet on a blank wall and used a small projector to create a space big enough for everyone to comfortably lay around in. I went ahead and decorated the

garage as a haunted asylum (complete with bloodied wallpaper!), but you can incorporate whatever theme you'd like.

2) Chilling Costume Contest

Halloween events without costumes are as sad as Trump supporters. Bring a competitive edge to your party and have your friends vote on who had the best costume of the night, and provide a small prize as an incentive. Add a Couples Costume prize to see what creative coordinations you and your friends can come up with! If your friends think dressing up is lame, take this as a sign from the Halloween gods themselves and drop them like a brick -- you don't need that kind of negativity in your life.

3) Fang-tastic Feast

Decorating, hosting and feeding a whole party could be financially, ahem, ambitious for a high schooler, especially if you're planning on inviting lot of people. Ask party-goers to pitch in by doing a potluck or providing any decorations. Halloween is a great day, but one night of fun probably isn't worth mooching off your friends for the next month.

Good luck conning your parents into letting a crowd of rowdy teenagers into their lovely, quiet abode. Have a spooktacular Halloween from the #1 fan of the holiday herself!

QOHS FALL STA

Every year, our QO halls are grazed by a new
class of 2020 and QO's new teachers. We invite
schools to experience the Cougar Invitational
this unique occasion to bring glory, success
in Montgomery.

By BRITTANY MILLER
Editors



Name: Megan Wormald
Grade: Freshman
Height: 5'2"
Special Skills: Can walk on hands
Fun Fact: Eyes change colors
depending on clothing
200M Butterfly Time: 2:34 seconds



Name: Graham Chen
Grade: Freshman
Height: 5'9.75"
Special Skills: Tap dancing
Fun Fact: Grilling zucchini
Middle School: Hoover
100m Hurdle Time: 9.34 seconds



Name: Natasha Chisaka
Grade: Freshman
Height: 4'9.5"
Special Skills: Sing guitar riffs
Fun Fact: Guinea pig can bellydance
Vertical leap: 12ft
Fear: Tall people



Name: Benjamin Quintanilla
Grade: Freshman
Height: 5'8"
Special Skills: Speaks 7 languages
Fun Fact: Saw a light when he broke
his leg
Power Squat Weight: 625 pounds



Name: Andrew Wong
Grade: Freshman
Height: 5'11.5"
Special Skills: Can hold breath 2
minutes and 50 seconds
Fun Fact: Can basket weave
Free Throw Percentage: 103.5%



Referee
Mrs. T
Height: 5'10"
Fun Facts: Afraid of
Special Skills: Can

STARTING LINEUP

with the presence of new faces. The
ers said goodbye to other mundane
festyle. These rookies must rise to
spirit and success to the best school
ery County.

S AND WILL HUSTED
-in-Chief



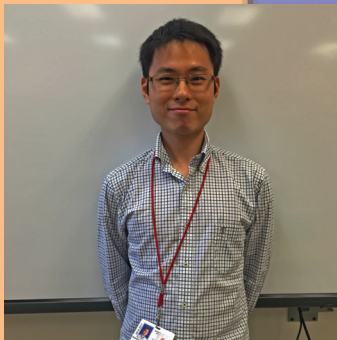
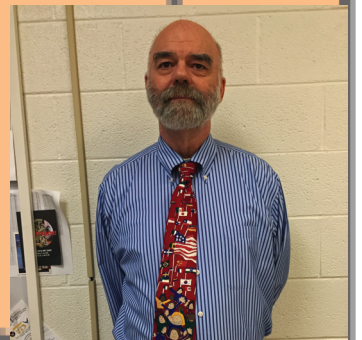
eree
Tyson
t: 5'9"
of heights and dark
Can wiggle ears

Name: Mr. "Koz" Kozlowsky (Social Studies)
Height: 5'11"
Special Skills: Great chess player, Google guru
Fun Fact: First baby just born
Long jump distance: 8 inches



Name: Ms. Callan (English)
Height: 5'7"
Special Skills: Double jointed
Fun Fact: Freckled foot
Fastball time: 70 mph

Name: Mr. Jones (Technology)
Height: 6'4"
Special Skills: Can solve any problem given to him
Fun Fact: Arrested in a movie theater
10 Mile time: 20 minutes, 53 seconds



Name: Mr. Shim (Music)
Height: 5'6"
Special Skills: Piano virtuoso
Fun Fact: Fan of Arsenal Soccer
Mile Time: 5:41

Name: Ms. Pankova (Science)
Height: 5'9"
Special Skills: Speaks three languages (Russian, Ukrainian, and English)
Fun Fact: Has met Bill Nye the Science Guy
Average Points per Game: 35 points





What's Academic? *It's Academic!*

By **TORI BERRY**
Managing Editor

Question: which high school has one of the top academic teams scoring high in both local and national quiz competitions? Answer: our very own Quince Orchard High School! Led by NSL teacher Joshua Schuman, QO's Academic Team brings a strong game to events in the District of Columbia and other places all over the country, including the trivia-based TV show *It's Academic*.

One of the two team captains, senior Logan Feingold, said that the team has "been to a lot of tournaments all around the country and we made it to the finals last year." QO's Academic Team finished 34th and 21st out of about a thousand other teams in national championships last year. When they finished in 21st, 14 of the 20 teams that beat them were magnet and private schools, so their competition was slightly more advanced and yet QO still prevailed.

Most of the competitions that the

team participates in "are pretty much all day on a Saturday and every school shows up with their team," Schuman explained. "You play six games, then break for lunch, and - depending on how you did in those six games - you play the playoffs in the afternoon."

The competitions aren't all they

do, however. Twice a week - on Mondays and Thursdays - the team meets in Schuman's classroom at lunch for practice and preparation. Sophomore Riley Hoffman, a newer member of the club, said about their meetings, "We have a set of buzzers... and we all sit at desks in a little half-circle and

they just read the question and you buzz in when you know the answer."

Although the team was created mainly for competing, the members of the club all point out that there is a lot of fun and games mixed into the work.

"It's a pretty small club, so it really has a kind of family feel to it," Schuman agrees. "We spend a lot of time together: lunch twice a week, after school pretty often, lots of Saturdays, overnight trips, trips out of town. That's one of the reasons why I kept coaching the team - because it really does have a family feel. We work together towards a common goal."

"It's been a lot of fun, it's been a lot of work, it's probably become my biggest extracurricular activity," Feingold said.

When QO's Academic Team comes together through hard work and brain power, they truly will be a force to be reckoned with. If you are interested in joining this high-achieving club, contact Schuman or attend a meeting on Monday or Thursday at lunch in room 329.

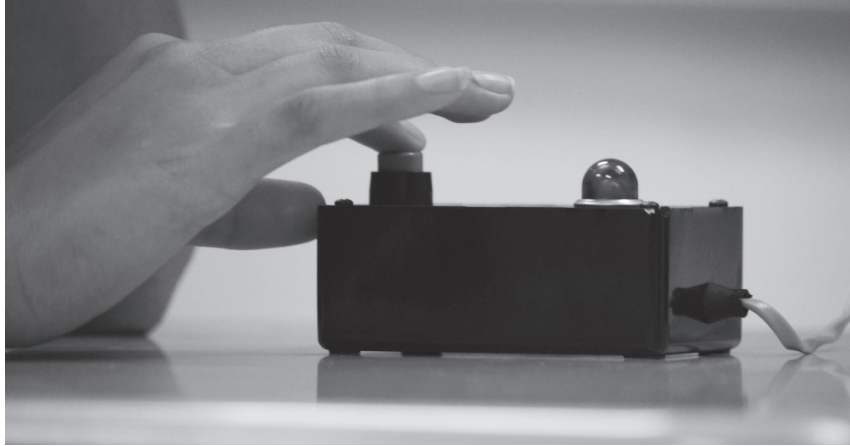


PHOTO BY TORI BERRY

Sophomore Juliana Bonilla listens to a question being read and anxiously waits to buzz in and answer.

SSL opportunities with gender equality group

By **DANIELLE PASEKOFF**
Associate Editor

Are you desperately in need of SSL Hours? Interested in volunteering around the community? We sat down with **Johann Dretchen**, President of Soroptimist International of Upper Montgomery County, to ask a few questions about the organization and learn more about getting involved.

What is Soroptimist?

Soroptimist is an international volunteer organization for women to use their collective power and provide women and girls with the resources and op-

portunities they need in order to reach their full potential and live their dreams.

What problems do you hope to solve through this organization? We fight for gender equality. We work globally to help women and girls live free from discrimination, to act in their own best interest and to lead full and productive lives through access to education.

What kind of activities do your members partake in?

Our members support many local community projects as well as several international programs. We provide the Soroptimist "Dream

It, Be It," a program providing career support for girls. This program is also taught at Interfaith Works Wilkins Avenue Women's Shelter, a local shelter for women who are transitioning out of homelessness to employment. We also provide community outreach programs to "STOP Trafficking" by raising awareness in the general population about trafficking in our community, as well as others.

What is Soroptimist's biggest success so far?

Soroptimist has been around for 100 years. Each year, more than \$1.6 million in education grants are awarded to more than 1,200 women,

many of whom have overcome enormous obstacles including poverty, domestic violence and substance abuse.

What does it mean to be a Soroptimist?

Soroptimist membership provides a unique opportunity to do meaningful, life-changing work in an atmosphere of fun and friendship. Working with other women who have similar interests and values is a central aspect of Soroptimist membership.

If you are interested in joining Soroptimist, please visit www.soroptimist.org, or email Johann Dretchen at jdsd1021@gmail.com for more information.

Dear Freshmen: Gr8 advice for the Class of 2020!

By **BEN PALMER**
Managing Editor

Hello, freshmen! Over the past month, you've probably learned a lot about QO and what it has to offer. You may know the best walking routes and the best lunch spots, but that is only the tip of the iceberg. As a senior with 2020 vision, I do believe I am qualified to give you uncommon advice that will turn your QO experience from the "best thing ever" to better than the "best thing ever."

As freshmen, many of you are shorter than the amount of time we get between classes, and it can be hard to assert yourself in this new high school environment. One of the best ways to earn respect fast is to sit in the senior hallway during lunch.

You may be met with some opposition at first, but over time they will come to respect you and give you a rightful place there. Standing in the middle while screaming "THIS IS MY HALLWAY" at the top of your lungs works wonders. Standing with the seniors in the Red Army will help as well. If the seniors start dragging you out by your shirt collar, you know you're close to gaining their undying respect.

Need to get to class faster? Take the Cougar Wing intersections. Never before have you seen such a marvel of traffic, with students flawlessly crossing it and even making beautiful left turns. The more students use it, the merrier, as the traffic only gets better the more people cram—er, I mean grace, the intersection. Also, there's a magical doorway at the end of the Cougar Wing that will

take you wherever you need to go.

Wear black and cheer for Northwest at football games, even when we're not playing Northwest. The sudden change in tone will psych the opponent out and cause them to play poorly. Cheering whenever Northwest scores a touchdown will inspire the QO football team

"As freshmen, many of you are shorter than the amount of time we get between classes, and it can be hard to assert yourself in this new high school environment."

to increase their effort on the next drive. Finally, your choice in attire will make you stand out among everyone in the Red Army, and uniqueness is always a good thing.

I'm sure you've heard many jokes about the pool on the fourth floor, so it may surprise you to learn that it's not actually real. However, I know the exact way to access the very much real Chipotle in the school lobby. If you have no food and are absolutely desperate for something to eat (well, not desperate enough for the cafeteria), this hidden

establishment will serve you very well.

After setting down your belongings in the senior hall to eat there, give a senior 10 dollars, which will cover the cost of your food. Then, step in the middle of the lobby and sing at the top of your lungs "Chipotle, Chipotle, Chipotle, I want Chipotle, that's all I want, that's all I need, my satisfaction is guaranteed!" Your order will then be instantly delivered, and I recommend walking away from the encroaching administrators and security guards, as they are sure to want a bite, too.

Are you ready for my last and

greatest piece of advice? OK! Don't be yourself. You're here to LEARN, not SOCIALIZE or EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS! Just be on time, sit at your desk, and fill your head with information that will help make you a productive member of society. This is not a place to foster uniqueness or creativity; who has time for those things? The sooner you accept what public school really is, the earlier you will submit to its all-encompassing authority. If you heed these five pieces of advice, you will be guaranteed to be a standout student. Wait, don't stand out, you need to learn. Just...be something.

**TWO HAUNTED TRAILS,
HAUNTED TOWN,
HAUNTED MAZE,
NOWHERE TO RUN...**

**Sept 30, Oct 1, 7, 8,
14, 15, 21, 22, 27, 28,
29, 30, 31**

**MARKOFF'S
HAUNTED FOREST
BACKWOODS MAYHEM**

Patrons must be in the parking lot by 10:30pm on Friday, Saturdays, & Halloween. All other nights by 9:30pm

markoffshauntedforest.com
POOLESVILLE • MD



HERE WE GO COUGARS! *The Cougars' defense tries to stop the Damascus offense from scoring a touchdown*

PHOTO BY DAVID SHAPERO

QO Football prepares for yet another great season

By DAVID SHAPERO
Sports Editor

The 2016 Quince Orchard football season is officially underway. The Cougars had a showdown versus the Damascus Hornets on September 2nd. They played a hard fought game but fell 21-13 in the end. In the beginning of the game both offenses started slow, and the night became a defensive showdown. QO got on the board first with a ten-yard touchdown pass to senior Kyle Moats. Following the Cougars' score, Damascus came charging down the field with a two yard touchdown run by Markus

Vinson. QO struck again shortly after the Damascus score with a 17-yard touchdown pass from Doc Bonner. The Cougars went into halftime with a 13-7 lead. It became a defensive struggle again in the second half, but Damascus scored twice on two long touchdown runs by Vinson to give the Hornets the lead. In the end, the three big runs by the Hornets stung the Cougars and were the deciding factors of the game.

The Cougars only return eight starters on the whole team. Five on offense and three on defense. QO's star quarterback, junior Kendall

"Doc" Bonner, headlines the returning starters on offense that showcases two Division One commits Marvin Beander (Temple) and Fofie Bazzie (Maryland). "Week by week, game by game [our goal] is to get better" said Bonner. On the offensive side of the ball, they will showcase a balanced offense with the run game and hit you with a play action pass or they can go spread and beat you through the air. The "Black Paw" defense returns four starters headlined by linebacker Noah Pagley, who already has an offer from Davidson College. Coach John Kelley has a new defense but

don't doubt they'll come ready to play.

The Cougars play a ten game schedule and make sure to take every game seriously, "We are going into each week like we are playing the best team," Bonner noted, but certainly Northwest or Clarksburg", when he was asked of the Cougars' toughest upcoming competition. Northwest and Clarksburg are going to be two tough games like they are every year. Northwest went 9-4 last season, defeating the Cougars in the regional final. Clarksburg went 5-5 last season. A sleeper team that can give the Cougars a run for their

money is Paint Branch, who went 8-2 but missed the playoffs last season. In the playoffs last year the Cougars had success, as QO ousted the Blazers of Montgomery Blair 48-17. The Cougars used the power run and the play action pass to keep the Blazers off balance. In the regional final, the Cougars played archrival Northwest. A combination of the deep pass and the power run caused a lot of confusion for the Jaguars defense. Expect to see a lot of those combinations this year to help the Cougars thrive and make that exciting offense potent. A couple players to watch this year

are seniors Titus Johnson (RB) and Moats (WR) on offense, and senior Larry Hinson (LB) and sophomore Johnny Hodges (LB) on defense. These four new starters this year may be the key for the football team's success. The QO football team always relies on the great student section, the Red Army. "It's a constant yelling and screaming, it actually pumps us up, and make us play harder", said Bonner. The team has a lot of tradition. Expecting to win a state title every year, QO has a lot of their plate this year, and expects to compete with the best of them.

Cross Country runs towards states with passion

By LOGAN FEINGOLD
Associate Editor

Sneakers pounding against the pavement. Sweat dripping from foreheads. Long days on the track with athletes preparing for greatness. This cross-country season is poised to be better than ever, with both QO

teams fielding competitive varsity squads that are looking to make it to states again.

The girls cross country team this year features four of their top seven runners returning from last year's 4A state championship: senior Maya Jacobson, who finished 32nd at states, junior Isabelle Sajonia, who finished

35th, sophomore Margaret Lilyestrom, who finished 56th, and junior Elizabeth Cassell, who finished 103rd. The team finished 13th overall at states last year. At the team's first event this year, the Track'n Trail at Fair Hill Racetrack in Elkton, the girls team finished fifth out of eleven teams, despite missing a lot of

runners due to ACT testing. sophomore Natalie Nyborg set a personal record in the 5K race with a time of 21:40.4. While some runners try and conserve their stamina for later in races due to the extreme length of these races (3.1 miles), Nyborg prefers to "all out sprint or walk," going all out throughout the race possible instead of starting out races with a slow jog and pacing herself. With all these talented runners, the QO girls' cross country team has a great chance to improve on last year's results at the state championships this year.

The boys cross country team is also very optimistic about its chances to put in a solid showing at states this year. Over the summer, some of the top runners ran hundreds of miles in order to prepare for the grueling season. Junior Chris Thoms has very high expectations for the team this year, and noted that the team "[is] gonna try to place pretty high in counties." Senior Yonatan Babore thinks the team can go pretty far due to being "a lot deeper than it was last year." Babore, like Nyborg, also likes to start out races by sprinting, noting how some of his teammates "make fun of me for starting so fast. They say I'll die later." This year's team returns juniors Ethan Mara (68th) and Thoms (78th), and seniors Matthew Owens (91st), Wyatt McCabe (147th), and Babore (157th), who all

competed in the Maryland 4A Cross Country State Championship last year. Although the team lost standout runners Liam Walsh and Christian McCann to graduation, the team's surplus of talented runners should allow the team to make another impressive run to states. The boys team also got their season off to a good start at the Track'n Trail, with the team placing sixth out of fifteen.

Every cross country runner has a different ritual to prepare themselves for their 5K on race day. Nyborg enjoys "team bonding" before meets by having meals with her teammates. Babore makes sure to "drink a lot of water in every class" and eat a healthy breakfast and lunch in order to prepare for meets. Thoms does exercises known as "burpees," which are like a combination of push ups and jumping jacks right after he wakes up in the morning, to get his body ready to race. These routines help the runners get mentally and physically prepared for races, and allow the runners to be in peak shape for their long, grueling, races.

Quince Orchard Cross Country will be as competitive as ever this year with two deep squads with the potential to make a run to states. Be sure to cheer the Cougars on at the County Championships on October 22 at Gaithersburg High School!



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS THOMS

READY TO RUN!: *The girls cross country team poses for a group picture before a meet.*



Volleyball's success continues: Fockey's redemption

By **JAMIE FINK**
Associate Editor

The girls volleyball season is underway and off to a great start with a 5-0 record. With the return of all the same players, they are hungry for some revenge against teams like Northwest and Gaithersburg.

The Cougars faced off against Poolesville on

of intensity to start off the game. QO also took control by beating Paint Branch with another powerful win of a three game victory. Junior Elizabeth Cooke stated that "Paint Branch had strong hits, but our team defended them well and communicated."

Being an older team with many familiar faces, the Cougars have a huge advantage

biggest rival, defending state champions Northwest, and having an undefeated season.

The Cougars are looking forward to competing against the Jags and making a statement on October 10.

Another great part of the season was the Dig Pink game last night. This annual night was used to raise money for the Side Out foundation and

By **JAMIE FINK**
Associate Editor

"Good vibes:" this is the motto used by the girls' field hockey team. With the outstanding leadership of seven seniors, the Cougars have a lot to live up to.

The girls' field hockey team has been putting in plenty of hard work since they last stepped off the field, losing in the regional final against Springbrook and ending with a 9-5 record.

enced and aware of the expectations their coach has set.

"Each of the seven seniors play an important role on this team on and off the field," said senior Morgan Avissar. Avissar also explained that everyone on the team contributes in some way and makes this season such a positive experience.

"The underclassman look at us as role models and respect us," said Saffer. The team also participated in team bonding activities such as sleepovers, team dinners, and



"Each of the seven seniors play an important role on this team on and off the field."

- Morgan Avissar

Last winter, spring, and this past summer, the girls have participated in leagues to enhance their skills as well as reviewing strategy.

Senior Skylar Saffer explained her goals to earn their way back to the state semifinal game and relive the game against Springbrook two years ago. QO's main goals this fall is to go undefeated, win the division, and get past the regional game.

There are many benefits that comes with having an older team. The seniors demand the respect and commitment from the underclassmen. With seven seniors the team is well experi-

lunches. As such a cohesive unit, the Cougars have the potential to make it a great season and make a run far into the playoffs.

The Cougars started off on the right foot, sweeping Holy Cross 2-0 in their opening game. Goals were scored by Saffer and sophomore Lauren Ransing. The players came out fierce and focused to come away with their first victory.

Continuing on into the season, the Cougars took on Linganore and Paint Branch, improving their record to 4-1. QO field hockey is definitely playing this season to make a statement and earn their way back to that semifinal game!



PHOTO BY DAVID STRICKMAN

BUMP, SET, SPIKE! Senior Brooke Savell serves against Watkins Mill and earns a point for the Cougars.

September 7 and dominated with a three set victory in the first game. QO has fallen to Poolesville eight straight years, but with their determination and focus this year they were able to overcome them.

According to senior captain Jesse Van Valkenburgh, the main strategy was "to keep the ball away from their best hitter and get big blocks." The girls worked together and came out with lots

this season. Playing with each other for at least one year already, they are set up for a deep run into the playoffs.

"We all get along really well and want to keep our energy high [throughout the season]," said Van Valkenburgh. Their chemistry has evolved over the years and the future looks very promising.

Girls volleyball has set very high standards for themselves, which include beating their

increase awareness about breast cancer. All the players and fans dressed in pink to show their support for those fighting breast cancer. There were many games, bake sales, and raffles in which the proceeds went to the Side Out foundation. Dig Pink was another successful night and raised a lot of money.

QO girls volleyball is a team to be reckoned with. Their drive and fire in the belly will make

Girls and boys soccer prepare for a long kick in playoffs

By **DAVID SUGGS**
Editor-in-Chief

As the freshly-manicured lawns of the Quince Orchard fields breeze with the arid autumn wind, and the leaves flutter towards the ground with a yellowish-reddish disposition that stain the drying grass fields, the Quince Orchard soccer teams aim to exorcise their post-season demons and rise towards the top of the Maryland soccer standings.

For the boys team, the season has gotten off to a fantastic start, with the Cougars going 4-1 through their first five games. For "Kevin FC," nicknamed after the team's beloved coach Kevin Gnatiko, the importance of avenging their playoff defeat to Kennedy in the second round of the state tournament is clearly on the mind of each and every player. Senior midfielder Alex Martinez commented on the lessons that the team learned from their upsetting loss last season, saying, "We have to make sure that we don't underestimate any team, play hard every game, and keep working."

Throughout the first five games of this season, the Cougars have taken every measure to ensure that last season's playoff defeat was a fluke, dominating Sherwood, Gaithersburg, and Poolesville to the tune of 4-1, 3-1, and 19-1 scores, respectively. However, for the Cougars, the real season did not begin until their game against the number one ranked school in the state of Maryland, Whitman. The Bethesda-based school, who defeated the top-ranked team in the state, DeMatha, to claim their number one seed prior to their battle with QO, did not intimidate the Cougars, as last year's team defeated the Vikings 2-1. The Vikings went up 1-0 within the first ten minutes of the game, but the Cougars fought back, with a stunning second-half hat-trick by senior Eli Holmstead, highlighted by a curling 25-yard goal, and a fantastic diving save by senior captain Scott Dragan, leading the Cougars to an emotional 3-1 victory. As the victorious team walked off the pitch, the raucous Red Army crowd greeted the players with a



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICH MILLER

LET'S GO TEAM! Girls soccer receives a pep talk from Coach Peg Keiller before the game against Clarksburg.

standing ovation, a testament to the immense quality displayed in the game. A special mention should be made for the performances of senior Isaac Zuniga and junior Sammy Zuniga, who each had an assist, and the center back pairing of seniors Marco Capraro and Ryan Kirk, who led the lines for an impenetrable defense, as well as the match-winning performance by Holmstead.

On the girls' side, the season has gotten off to a rapid start, with the Cougars going 2-2 through their first four games. The loss of last year's seniors Jessa Toone, Francesca D'Cruz,

and Karley Hampton certainly hampered the team, but the leadership of senior captains Jamie Fink and Brittany Mills has certainly lessened the blow of losing such impactful players. (Full disclosure: Fink and Mills are members of the Prowler staff.)

The season got off to a tremendous start, as the Cougars shut out Sherwood, winning 3-0, with a brace from Fink and a combined clean sheet held by senior goalkeeper Katie Ericson. "It was really important to start [the season] with a win to set the tone for the season," said junior Mallory Rosenfeld.

The team, coached by Peg Keiller, was an inexperienced bunch last season, with the team laden with underclassmen. However, the team was able to grow together during last season, as Rosenfeld alluded to, adding, and "These girls are like my family. I feel that sense of sisterhood we have sets us apart from everyone else." Despite close losses to Northwest and Whitman, the Cougars rallied to defeat Gaithersburg 1-0, with Fink scoring once again and Ericson keeping her second clean sheet of the season. They then added

a 3-2 victory against Poolesville in a riveting match, with the Cougars overcoming a 2-1 deficit with two late goals by junior Amber Argubie and Fink. Quince Orchard then defeated Seneca Valley 7-0, improving their winning streak to three games.

Both teams look to rally behind the increased support of the Red Army, with both teams receiving massive boosts from the chants and cheers of their counterparts. With an upcoming matchup against Clarksburg on September 27th, both teams look to ride their current momentum on their way to states!



Band, cheer, and poms bring spirit to Cougar Dome

By HUNTER BOOTHE
Managing Editor

Fall at Quince Orchard means Friday nights in the Cougar Dome, with a lively atmosphere among the best in the D.C. area. Local news stations routinely cover home games, making sure to compliment Quince Orchard for its spirit. So what created this giant spectacle? Along with continued excellence by the football program, a commitment to marching band, poms, and cheerleading top the list.

Last year, Quince Orchard's varsity cheerleading squad took home second place in all of Montgomery County in the County Competition; an impressive feat, but an unsurprising one to the QO faithful. Whether it be pep rallies or games, the squad performs with precision and grace. This year they are led by senior captains Carly Porter, Erin Roche, Briana Lewis, and Carley Welch. Porter, a four-year member, describes the team's goal during games: "For all sports that we cheer for, our team really tries to get the crowd excited and the players pumped up."

Although they cheer for the Cougars, the group embraces other squads. During the Damascus game, both schools' cheerleaders came together to perform an action-packed routine on the sidelines, and at the Wootton game, they paired up with the Joy cheerleaders, a team comprised of special needs girls with great enthusiasm for cheerleading. Porter described the experience as "unforgettable," gushing, "The girls are amazing to work with and teach us that you can do whatever you put your mind to."

Looking forward, the squad has the upcoming County Competition on November 12th. They will look to improve on last year's stellar performance and take home the title for Quince Orchard.

Another integral part of QO's spirited atmosphere is the Marching Band. At games, they provide music after crucial moments and put on a show for the fans



PHOTO BY ALEXIS KIM

LEADING MAN: Senior head drum major Michael Bauer conducts the band's first halftime performance.

at halftime. Head drum major, senior Michael Bauer, said that the band "likes to bring the noise to the games" and tries to set the tone for the Red Army to follow.

Throughout the course of a game, the band plays a variety of songs. These range from the fight songs to whatever the band has rehearsed. As head drum major, Bauer has the authority to decide which of those songs the band will perform during any given game.

"We have a list of songs that I choose from, which might change slightly from game to game," Bauer says.

Like cheer, band had great success in competitions last year. Band consistently finished first and second in their six competitions over the course of the year. Bauer looked back on the accomplishments fondly, remarking, "We were proud of being the highest scoring band in Quince Orchard history last year,

and the highest in Montgomery County, in our class, for many years in a row." With many returning members, there is reason to believe that this high level of performance will continue.

One of the most electric parts of any Quince Orchard home game is the halftime performance by poms. The team takes advantage of their time block, using fast-paced mixes and snappy choreography to energize the crowd. This year's squad of 21 girls is led by senior captains Kasonde Chisaka, Alyssa Alalouf, and Kelly Brott. Chisaka calls performing at the games "a privilege," stating, "Our main goal is to keep the crowd cheering and alive on game days."

Much of what makes poms so entertaining is their variety and versatility. No routine is exactly the same, as the group cycles through different music and different styles of dance, whether it be

pom, jazz, lyrical, or hip hop.

"We perform many different routines throughout football season," said Chisaka, "Those routines change based on what will best hype up the crowd at football games."

While the poms team is known for its halftime performances, when it comes to competitions, Chisaka explains, the team's focus is different.

"Our competition routine focuses on technique as well as visually appealing choreography and is constantly changed to ensure it is perfect for competitions."

Speaking of competitions, Chisaka has a message for the Red Army:

"We want the Red Army to know that we work extremely hard preparing for every performance and hope they come to our competitions this year!"

Given Quince Orchard's propensity for school spirit, I have a feeling they will.

Golf, tennis teams strive for states

By MATTHEW GORDON
Managing Editor

Another season has arrived of thrilling sports at Quince Orchard. For the golf and tennis teams, this means another opportunity to stake their respective claims for state championships.

Golf, coached by Russell Doane, is looking to shatter records of previous years. They're led by senior captains Jordan Swick and Austin King. Juniors Ryan Balow and Jack Faraone are entering their third year of playing, starting as freshmen. "Man, we have one of the best teams in QO history," Balow said. He looks to contribute to the team positively and win states for the first time.

In addition, Faraone has always had a tremendous relationship with his coach. "He's great," Faraone said. "He always gets me prepared for the next match and always helps me improve as a player."

Captain Austin King knows the drill by now. He's entering his senior season, and he's now the role model for this team.

"We have a great chance to win states this year. Our team is young and full of potential, so we have a bright future as well. But obviously I want that ring in my last year of being a senior" King said.

Key players on the team also include Brandon King, Justin Minkoff, and Kyle Balow.

The golf team also recently shattered a Quince Orchard record. They broke the school record for the best score, ever! The golf team may be a bit under the radar, but they're just as dominant as any other Quince Orchard team.

But how could you forget about tennis? Led by Coach Chris Barber and Captains Serena Tong, Laura Wagner and Daniela Gil, the tennis team strives for a successful season.

The tennis team might be one of the quieter sports in Quince Orchard, but they're doing their best to try to make a statement this year with a young squad.

"Man, we have one of the best teams in QO history."

-Ryan Balow

When asked about her goal for the season, sophomore Brooke Wibberley said, "My goal for the season is to play the best tennis I can and to use every match to improve on something new to improve my game." Just a sophomore, Wibberley looks to have a bright future as well as a successful season with loads of potential.

Excited about that? A confident captain just might make you even more excited. Tong is not worried about the competition this year.

"Some of the teams like Wootton have players who are at the top of the county, and many of the teams we're facing have multiple solid players in their lineup," Tong said. "QO girl's tennis will definitely rise up to the competition though."

The team looks to win every game, as they believe they have the talent to do so.

Fouts, Canova lead swim & dive

By GRIFFIN MANN
Sports Editor

Two of the most high-profile athletes in the Quince Orchard community ply their trade in the pools, as All-Americans Eli Fouts and Joseph Canova look poised to lead the lines of a resurgent Quince Orchard Swim and Dive team this winter.

For Fouts, a junior, this season represents a massive opportunity for him to stake his claim as one of the best breaststrokers in the nation. A two-time Metros champion and a Maryland state champion, Fouts is entering his third season as a Cougars swimmer. Despite the expectations, Fouts still remains committed to excellence, constantly looking to improve his splits. Fouts trains rigorously to stay in shape for swim season, saying "working hard in practice translates to fast times in a meet."

While Fouts certainly enjoys the competitive aspect of swimming, it is the connections he cherishes the most, adding, "I enjoy meeting new people and being able to train with my friends." Ultimately, Fouts' demeanor is very similar to that of his swimming idol, Michael Phelps. Phelps' impact on the sport of swimming is immense, and his shadow looms large on any competitive swimmer, including Fouts. Ultimately, Fouts has achieved so much in his young career, and with his determined attitude and willingness to continue to improve, the sky's the limit for Fouts in regards to his swimming career.

While Fouts has been lauded for his

skills in the swimming pool, Joseph Canova looks to lead the lines for a resurgent Cougars diving team this season.

Senior Joseph Canova is entering his final season as a Quince Orchard diver. Over the course of his illustrious high-school career, Canova has reeled off a series of accomplishments, including second-place finishes in the past two Metros championships. Canova's success on the board has brought him to the attention of numerous colleges, with varying schools vying to add the talented senior onto their diving teams. Canova's success has also led to a plethora of local newspapers, including *The Town Courier* and *The Washington Post*, writing about his success on the board. Canova's ability is integral for Quince Orchard to improve upon a resurgent season for the boys' team, a season that reestablished the Quince Orchard community's reputation as a swimming haven. Be certain to pay attention to Canova as he aims to improve upon those second-place finishes and win first prize at this year's Metros.

Fouts and Canova place high expectations on themselves, but their expectations help keep them focused and concentrated on each aspect of their training. Both will be crucial in helping the Quince Orchard swim & dive team return to the upper echelons of Maryland swimming. These two athletes are going to be trusted on to lead the Cougars to a new level of success in the pools, and with their talent and work ethic, they look to head an impressive Cougars swim & dive team.



Nationals and Orioles ready for postseason push

Star players step up their game in preparation for intense competition

By **DAVID STRICKMAN**
Managing Editor

As the baseball regular season is winding down and football is starting to begin, the Nationals and Orioles are still trying to make a playoff push in the MLB.

The Orioles, 86-72, hold the number two wild card spot in the American League. Led by center fielder Adam Jones and third baseman Manny Machado, the Orioles hold third place in the American League East division with the Blue Jays and Red Sox right above them in the standings, while the Nationals are at a commanding 7.5 game lead above the second place team Mets in their own division, the National League East.

The Nationals, 92-66, have been stellar so far against National League East opponents with a record of 47-20 against those teams, while the Orioles have a record of 34-28 against



LET'S PLAY BALL!: The National and Oriole mascots looks forward to winning in the playoffs.

their rival teams in the American League east. This season the Orioles have recorded 232

home runs, leading all of the American League East and even the whole MLB.

One player that the Nationals have been excited about since the All-Star break

has been shortstop Trea Turner. Turner is batting .340, and has 8 home runs and 30 runs batted in in only 57 games this season. Not only is Turner helping out in a big way, but Wilson Ramos and Daniel Murphy are having spectacular seasons, with both of them batting over .300 all this season.

The Nationals hope to clinch home-field advantage for the first round series in the playoffs. While the Nats are trying to clinch home field advantage, the Orioles are trying to clinch a playoff berth and play ball in the month of October.

As fans don't have to worry about the Nationals making the playoffs, Orioles fans have to root hard for their favorite baseball team in the last stretch of the season. Hopefully both teams make the postseason and end up meeting each other in the World Series.

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH QUESTIONNAIRE

FOOTBALL

Johnny Hodges '19



Sophomore Johnny Hodges is a force to be reckoned with in the middle of the field. He is poised to make a huge impact this season.

FIELD HOCKEY

Lara Amar '18



Junior Lara Amar, a prolific passer and dauntless defender, is expected to lead her team to victory. She is very excited for a state title push.

GIRLS TENNIS

Daniela Gil '17



Senior Daniela Gil motivates her team with a nasty forehand and wicked back hand. She is a leader on and off the court.

CROSS COUNTRY

Peter Vaka '17

Senior Peter Vaka runs like the wind on the steep hills of Smokey Glen Farm. Peter is one of the leaders on the mighty cross country team.



GOLF

Tyler Schwartz '17

Senior leader Tyler Schwartz is ready to lead the QO Golf team to a state title. He has a great drive and has patience when putting.



GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Brooke Savell '17

Senior Brooke Savell has a mean dig, serve, and spike. She is a leader on and off the court.



The Prowler asked these athletes the following questions...

	Johnny Hodges	Peter Vaka	Lara Amar	Tyler Schwartz	Daniela Gil	Brooke Savell
<i>What is your favorite Halloween candy?</i>	Crunch bar	Any preopened package	Candy corn!!	Jolly Rancher	Twix	Kit Kat
<i>What is your favorite Halloween movie?</i>	Monster house	Tyler Perry's Boo! A Madea Halloween	Casper	Star Wars	Haunted Mansion	Practical magic
<i>What are you going to be for Halloween?</i>	Fred Flintstone	John Denver (R.I.P)	Baseball player	Jordan Swick	Mrs. Incredible	IDK
<i>Trick or treat?</i>	Treat	I plead the fifth	Trick ;)	Treat	Treat;)	Treat
<i>What teachers would you go trick or treating with?</i>	Mr. Nelson	J i m m y Marsden	Mrs. Greenspon	Mr. Lynch	Mr. Lundquist	Mr. Lynch
<i>Sweet or Sour?</i>	Sweet	Mike Wazowski	Sweet	Neither	Sour	Sweet