

The Prowler



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College application season stresses seniors

By ANNA GOOREVICH
News Managing Editor

When one thinks of fall, many images come to mind: sweaters, pumpkins, vibrant colors on the trees, and the excitement of upcoming holiday festivities. However, many seniors have recently embraced a new definition of fall—college application season.

Before the school year started, most seniors expected a relaxing and laid-back year with lots of time given to work on college applications, thinking that, after three years of hard work, they deserved a break. “I thought I would finally get a chance to slack off and have fun with my friends before we’re off to college,” said senior Jessica Manion.

Seniors, however, have discovered a much different reality. “Senior year has been pretty awful,” said senior Ben Gross. “The workload is basically the same as junior year and juggling college applications with homework makes it a not-so-fun experience.”

Senior Sarah Elkahloun agreed that the stress of senior year is much more than expected. “College applications have made the stress of senior year skyrocket,” said Elkahloun. “There is so much involved in the process and it’s hard to balance with school work.”

According to The College Board, most college applications contain multiple parts, like application forms, high school transcripts, SAT or ACT test scores, letters of recommendations, application fees, essays and much more. While all these aspects of the application are important, many seniors agree that the essays are by far the hardest part. “[The essays] are so open-ended

that I never know which way to go,” said Manion. “There are so many options and it’s hard to figure out the right way to structure it.”

While requiring the most work, the essay is also one of the most important components of applying to any college. “You are sharing something that has to do with the person you are today,” added Gross. “It’s the best way for a school to get to know you.”

However, there is a bright light at the end of the horrendous tunnel of college applications—The Common Application. Also known as the Common App, this application website is used by over 600 colleges around the country and allows students to apply to multiple colleges at once. “It’s amazing,” said Manion. “It takes so much time just entering information like family members, list of clubs, etc. and having one form for all schools rocks.”

Although the Common App involves hundreds of universities, many popular schools such as Georgetown University, UCLA, Texas A&M, and many more do not accept the Common App. “You’d have to be pretty lucky if most of your schools were [on the] Common App,” says Gross. Also, while the Common App contains its own set of essays, most universities demand supplemental essays, which require students to spend more time and effort on their applications.

While it may seem that the beginning of college applications is a long way into the future for underclassmen, lessons learned from this year’s seniors show that starting earlier rather than later is the best way to avoid being crushed by the horrors of college applications.

Homecoming Court honors students

By SOPHIE LANE
News Editor

Last month’s homecoming recognized seniors Nat Rubin and McKenzie McMahon as Homecoming royalty, the first LGBTQ+ couple to receive this honor at QO.

Among them was the rest of QO’s homecoming court: seniors Caroline O’Keefe and Jack Hanson, seniors Hannah Spector and Jack Ropelewski, seniors Romina Talledo and Jacob Elder, juniors Brittany Mills and Joseph McGowan, sophomores Elodie Clowes and Match Hanson, and freshmen Julie Blitz and Tate Newman.

All of the winners took the field on Friday night at the home football game against Whitman to accept their crowns and be recognized by the students, parents, players, and staff members.

McMahon described her experience as “weird because I didn’t think anyone was actually going to vote [for her and Rubin], especially because...we are a gay couple.” She adds that she

“never even thought about it because [she] didn’t think it was a possibility.” McMahon has a good group of friends but it “isn’t massive, and it isn’t the super popular kids.” Her friends kept approaching her and saying, “I hope you guys win!” and “I voted for you guys,” yet she didn’t consider herself a winner. Nevertheless, it did make her night more special. “It was cool and fun, but it hasn’t changed me as a person,” said McMahon. “It’s just a school thing.”

The other winners also enjoyed their experience. For example, Joseph McGowan, the junior class prince, won with his girlfriend, junior Brittany Mills. McGowan enjoyed his night, saying, “It was almost as fun as catching the game-winning touchdown in the Super Bowl, or hitting a walk-off home run in the World Series.” McGowan suspected he was going to win, but didn’t know for sure, stating, “A bunch of people in my grade kept coming up to me on voting day saying that they had voted for me.” McGowan acknowl-

edged this special occasion by saying, “Winning Homecoming court is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.”

Senior Alexis Onsi, the president of the Student Government Association (SGA), helped organize the “spirit days, courtyard games, the court itself, and the dance.” The preparations done for this night began very early in the year, and Onsi had help from the

rest of the school’s SGA to make this night memorable. She believes Homecoming Court is enjoyable because “it gives people a chance to be recognized by their peers.” Onsi’s final statement reflects the difficulty that “sometimes people don’t take it seriously; it can become kind of a joke.”

In past years, this may have been the case; however, this year each grade rec-



PHOTO COURTESY OF LIFETOUCH
AND WE’LL NEVER BE ROYALS: Nat Rubin and McKenzie McMahon are recognized as homecoming royalty, sparking a milestone for LGBTQ+ rights at QO.

VIEWPOINT

Competition heats up in 2016 election

By ANDY GOLDSTEIN
Editor-in-Chief

As the 2016 presidential election draws nearer, analysts and voters alike have begun to pick contenders from among the broad Republican field and the much smaller Democratic field. Now that both parties have held at least one debate, the public has a much better idea of what to expect from each candidate, especially those with lower name recognition.

One candidate who has not had trouble with name recognition is multi-billionaire Donald Trump, who until recently was the uncontested frontrunner

of the Republican Party. Recently reaching 100 straight days at the top of the Republican polls, the once fringe candidate has been able to remain center-stage in the election cycle. Preaching

largely populist and frankly unrealistic policy, Trump has promised to deport every single one of the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States. “The leading GOP candidate

is talking about ferreting out, arresting, and forcibly removing a population of men, women and children roughly the size of the state of Ohio,” said David Leopold, former president of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. This kind of brash rhetoric has characterized Trump’s campaign, while also drawing enough support from within the Republican Party to remain a leader in the polls.

Recent polls show Trump four points behind acclaimed neurosurgeon Dr. Ben Carson. Carson has rallied a large chunk of the party, putting him on top in



PHOTO COURTESY OF AP
CRAMPED PODIUMS: Republican candidates fill the stage in their first debate, hoping to garner public support.

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The Syrian Civil War continues into its fifth year as pressure mounts from ISIS and public protests.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF AP

Features

The Drama Department prepared tirelessly to show the fall play, *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF MARTIN MACPHEE

Sports

After a successful regular season, Varsity Football aims to have a long run in the playoffs.

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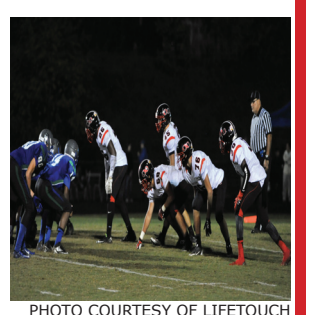


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New club aims to empower girls around the planet

By DYLAN KEARNEY
News Managing Editor

Girl Up, a new club at Quince Orchard, is bringing students together to raise money for girls in need of education, safety and healthcare around the world.

The Girl Up program is a worldwide program of the United Nations Foundation with about 1,000 clubs registered in 43 states and 51 countries. The chapter here at QO was started by juniors Brittany Mills and Hannah Pearlstein. Sponsored by English teacher Megan Cooley-Klein, the club meets in Room 252, where they've started generating fundraising ideas like hosting bake sales and getting restaurant sponsors. The money raised will go directly to the Girl Up Foundation to help girls around the world. The foundation is recognized by many important people: one of the speakers at its leadership summit was First Lady Michelle Obama.

Sophomore Brook Farber heard about the club and thought it was a great idea. "I like that the foundation involves people from all over the world and that you can search any of the groups online," Farber said. "It's

also an awesome way for people to get involved because it supports a great cause."

The donations are used to benefit countries like Guatemala, Liberia, Malawi, Ethiopia, and India to help keep thousands of girls in school and teach vocational skills so they can earn an income and have a greater impact on their communities.

One reason Mills and Pearlstein decided

"I realize how grateful I am to have been able to be a part of this every day... Every girl should have the opportunity to get an education."

—Hannah Pearlstein

to start this club was to get involved in the community. "As a junior, I have experienced a majority of my school years," Pearlstein explains. "I realize how grateful I am to have been able to be a part of this every day and that every girl should have the opportunity to get an education." They started a Girl Up club not just to get involved in the community but also to get others involved as well.

Their first meeting had a great turnout and they have already chosen other leadership roles like publicist, treasurer and historian. "We're really welcoming and the girls here so far are great," said Pearlstein. "We're looking to make a difference in the community." The group's goal is to raise five hundred dollars by the end of 2015.

Their club is registered on the Girl Up website as QO Girl Up Club, and on the page of the site it states, "We plan to raise local awareness that goes beyond the borders of our high school." It is mentioned to be a way to be connected to a great foundation while working with other people around school. They also want to stress that the group is open to boys and girls alike, so everyone is welcome.

Primary contest polls shift in surprising directions

CONT. FROM PAGE 1

in a race where the rest of the party's candidates are at least 15 points down. Other than his kind and gentle manner, Carson has very little actual substance. He has repeatedly shown he has next to no knowledge on foreign policy and the state of the economy. In an interview with conservative commentator Hugh Hewitt, Carson blundered on a question about potential policy towards Putin and Russia. "You've been a great neurosurgeon all these years, you haven't been deep into geopolitics, and that the same kind of questions that tripped

up Sarah Palin early in her campaign are going to trip you up," Hewitt told Carson. He also received criticism for his ignorant and offensive statements about Islam and Muslim-Americans. Carson stated, "Muslims feel that their religion is very much a part of public life and what you do as a public official, and that's inconsistent with our principles and our Constitution." Comments like this drew large praise from his conservative base. Carson raised \$1 million within 24 hours after the controversial statements. "The money has been coming in so fast, it's hard to even keep up with it," he said on Fox News.

At this point, we should all feel bad for Jeb

Bush. The former Florida Governor was the expected nominee coming into the election cycle, but the fallen contender now sits in fourth place, 16 points behind Carson. In a largely polarizing primary, more moderate candidates like Bush have been sidelined in favor of Trumpesque right-wing populism. Bush's establishment views and uninspiring rhetoric have failed to garner the support expected of the favorite of the Republican National Committee, as outsiders toppled the big-name politician in the polls.

In the Democratic field, what was expected to be nothing more than a crowning ceremony for former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

has become a competitive primary. Challenging Clinton from the left, Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont) has inspired the progressive base of the Democratic Party, riding a wave of support from young voters across the country. Laying low for the first few months of the cycle, the Clinton campaign was caught off guard by Sanders' rising popularity. His calls for universal healthcare, free public college, and the breaking up of big banks have caused Clinton to release a surprisingly progressive economic plan, likely in response to her further-left challenger.

The first Democratic debate saw the reconsolidation of confidence in Clinton—

who reaffirmed her place as the party's frontrunner—and the confirmation that this is indeed a two-candidate race. Sanders is accustomed to being a political outsider; as the longest serving Independent in Senate history, he has openly favored equal rights for the LGBTQ+ community since the 70s, voted against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and has proposed a Nordic-style economic plan, favoring welfare programs and breaking up the banking giants on Wall St. While Clinton maintains her 20-point lead, she must appeal to the progressive wing of the Democratic Party to assure victory over her unlikely challenger.

Democratic Primary

Poll	Date	Sample	MoE	Clinton	Sanders
RCP Average	10/24 - 11/10	--	--	54.2	32.6
CBS News/NYT	11/6 - 11/10	418 RV	6.0	52	33
FOX News	11/1 - 11/3	505 RV	4.0	56	31
Quinnipiac	10/29 - 11/2	502 RV	4.4	53	35
NBC/WSJ	10/25 - 10/29	400 LV	4.9	62	31
IBD/TIPP	10/24 - 10/29	356 RV	5.3	48	33

All 2016 Democratic Presidential Nomination Polling Data

TABLE COURTESY OF REALCLEARPOLITICS

Republican Primary

Poll	Date	Trump	Carson	Rubio	Cruz	Bush	Paul	Kasich	Fiorina	Huckabee	Christie
RCP Average	10/24 - 11/4	24.8	24.4	11.8	9.6	6.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.4	2.2
McClatchy/Marist	10/29 - 11/4	23	24	12	8	8	5	4	3	3	2
FOX News	11/1 - 11/3	26	23	11	11	4	4	4	3	4	2
Quinnipiac	10/29 - 11/2	24	23	14	13	4	2	3	3	1	3
NBC/WSJ	10/25 - 10/29	23	29	11	10	8	2	3	3	3	3
IBD/TIPP	10/24 - 10/29	28	23	11	6	6	2	1	3	1	1

All 2016 Republican Presidential Nomination Polling Data

TABLE COURTESY OF REALCLEARPOLITICS



Writing Center helps students *NEHS incorporates helpful methods for tutoring*

By **MATT LOWINGER**
News Section Editor

The National English Honors Society has been successfully offering a free service called the Writing Center, located in room 235 and online, which can help students with any written assignments.

When English teacher Audrey Boettcher transitioned from Richard Montgomery to Quince Orchard, she realized there was no Writing Center offered. She wanted to incorporate a program like the one at Richard Montgomery because the “student tutors were... insightful and hands-on” while working with students. At Boettcher’s

former school, there was not a way to have peer tutors edit papers through Google Docs. However, after her transfer, she introduced the online Writing Center that would take advantage of the technological tools at Quince Orchard. Although the online Writing Center is a very useful tool, “Google Docs will never replace one-on-one individual tutoring,” said Boettcher. She gives credit to English Composition Assistants Lynn Meister, Erin Odorisio, and Chris Campbell for their ability to “coach students in their writing.” After its continuous success, Boettcher is extremely “proud of the growth” for the Writing Center as it becomes a year old in

November. She would love to see every teacher and student submit papers of all subjects in hopes of providing an “effective, efficient, and integral” service.

Junior Tori Isaacson has taken advantage of both the online and in-person Writing Center. Last year, Honors English 10 teacher Kunal Arora highly suggested the service to all of his students. Isaacson credits both the English Composition Assistants and the peer tutors for the “super easy” submission process and for giving “great advice.” Isaacson keeps returning to the Writing Center because the assistants give pointers on how to “improve [one’s]

writing in general.” She benefits greatly from the one-on-one advice from the National English Honors Society tutors because they are “never too harsh and it helps hearing suggestions from a peer.” Not only has Isaacson self-submitted papers for English help, but she has submitted assignments for science lab conclusions and dissertations.

English teacher Jenifer Soykan is a new member of the Cougar family and loves every minute, especially because of the Writing Center. She encourages her English 12 and AP English Language and Composition students to submit papers to the Writing Center because it makes the author

“focus on content” while not getting “distracted by concerns about grammar and spelling.” Soykan believes the Writing Center is a “great way to set [students’] creativity free.” She would like to thank the Writing Center for improving her students’ grades, thereby making grading easier on her. Soykan “loves the Writing Center and [she looks] forward to working with the student tutors more.”

Senior Francesca D’Cruz is the president of the National English Honors Society as well as the student sponsor for the Writing Center. Her responsibilities include “[checking] the online Writing Center daily” for new submissions from students and teachers. Once there are several submissions to the online Writing Center, she sends

out an email to the student tutors “to make sure [the tutors] are on top of their editing duties.” The role of peer tutors is to make sure the submitters “are answering the prompts, covering all of the points on the rubric, and providing sufficient explanations in their writing,” said D’Cruz. Not only is D’Cruz responsible for the Writing Center, but she also submits her own papers to the Writing Center because of the “valuable and encouraging feedback.” She prides the tutors on helping “improve the quality of [student’s] work” for all students.

The Writing Center has increased its amount of patrons significantly since opening its doors to students and teachers. This is due to the monumental amount of help from all English Composition assistant and peer tutors.

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Timeline of civil war in Syria, as country continues to fracture

By **ANDY GOLDSTEIN**
Editor-In-Chief

The Syrian Civil War, a long and brutal conflict that has stretched into its fourth year, has killed or displaced half of the entire population of the country. Filled with human rights violations, proxy-wars, and ever-evolving alliances, the conflict has become a concern for major world powers as it continues to destabilize the region.

In March of 2011, thousands of protestors marched on the capital city of Damascus, demanding that the regime of President Bashar Al-Assad institute democratic reform and release political prisoners for anti-government speech. Government forces opened fire on the protestors, killing 15 people. In retaliation, the headquarters of Assad's Ba'ath Party was burned to the ground. Twenty-two people were killed in clashes between police and protestors.

In April, protests overtook twenty Syrian cities, demanding liberal democracy, increased political freedom, and the abolition of emergency military rule. Assad's regime began a series of deadly large-scale attacks, using tanks, infantry, and artillery to disrupt anti-government demonstrations and kill hundreds of civilians. Significant armed rebellion began in the city of Jisr al-Shugur, when government forces fired on the funeral proceedings of a pro-reform leader. Mourning protestors burned the government building to the ground, stole weaponry from the police armory, and

joined a group of defecting government forces who had refused to fire on civilians in open rebellion against the Assad regime.

Seven high-ranking officers in the Syrian Army defected from the regime and together formed the Free Syrian Army (FSA) to unite opposition against the Assad government. After a failed ceasefire attempt, intense fighting began around the cities of Damascus and Aleppo as the rebels pushed to take the capital city. Government warplanes began bombing rebel positions in the suburbs of the two cities, breaking the offensive on Damascus, and pushing the rebels into the outskirts of Aleppo as the death toll rose to 16,000. In August of 2013, the UN confirmed the use of chemical weapons in the suburbs of Damascus, killing approximately 1,000 men, women, and children, in a neighborhood suspected of harboring FSA fighters. The UN did not blame any party due to a lack of evidence.

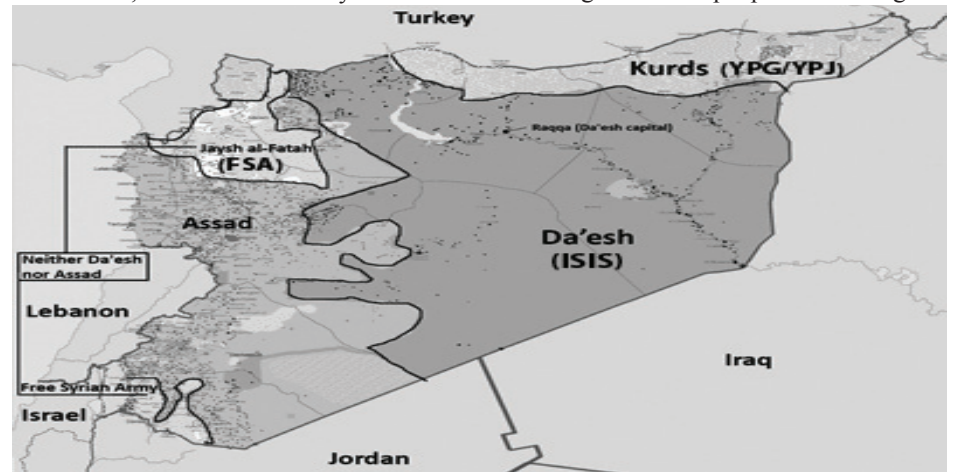
The FSA remained a fractioned organization, as links between certain branches of the organization and Al-Qaeda became more transparent, forcing the US to halt their support of the rebel group. Drawing membership from extremist factions of the FSA, The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) swept through central and eastern Syria, carrying out sectarian attacks and engaging government and rebel forces alike, in an attempt to establish what they see as a true Islamic caliphate. As ISIS pushed northwest from Iraq, they began to approach Rojava, the region in Syria home to a large Kurdish minority.

Capitalizing on the instability in the region, the long-oppressed Kurdish people in Syria declared independence from the Assad regime and began to defend the northern regions of the country from ISIS forces. The Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) have been more successful in fighting the fundamentalist group than any other, liberating the major city of Kobani, and driving ISIS out of the Turkish border region in early 2015. The Kurdish government differs largely from the rest of the combatants in the conflict, promoting democracy, gender equality, and libertarian socialism. ISIS called for the extermination of the Kurdish people after a major defeat to the Kurdish Women's Defense Units (YPJ), whose renowned female fighters make up over 30% of the Kurdish military. In October of 2015, the Kurdish military entered an

alliance with certain branches of the FSA and regional Assyrian militias to form the Syrian Democratic Forces, a group dedicated to expelling ISIS from the country and establishing a civil democracy in Syria.

Assad's forces have surged in recent months, pushing the FSA out of coastal Syria, and utilizing air support from Russia to push further east. A stalemate has remained between government forces and rebel groups further inland, where rebel strongholds remain intact. The Kurdish YPG continues to fight ISIS in the north, and they have recently consolidated major gains with help from the Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga militia.

The Syrian Civil War has lasted almost five years, taken more than 200,000 lives, and displaced millions of refugees, yet still no end appears to be in sight for the people of the region.



THE WAR ON TWO FRONTS: Assad loyalists gain ground against the FSA in the west with Russian air support, while Kurdish forces and their allies push ISIS south.

Mini Tour de France: teachers, students race for a good cause

By **LAKSHMI SHYAMAKRISHNAN**
News Editor

The annual Mini Tour de France has come and passed, and the French National Honors Society went to great lengths to prepare for the strenuous tricycle race.

The race, which took place in the gymnasium of the school, was held on Friday, November 13. The hype for the exciting event grew more and more each day leading up to the race, due to the success from last year. Seniors were given the top priority for competing, and some teachers expressed interest in redeeming themselves from the severe loss experienced in the 2014 race.

Rebecca Yu, the sponsor of the French Honors Society and the implementer of the Mini Tour de France, was determined to make this year's tricycle race even better than last year's. "We were able to raise over \$200, so we're really happy with the support of the school," Yu said. "We gave a good chunk of the proceeds to Doctors Without Borders, which started as a French humanitarian organization, but of course it was translated into English and was spread across the world."

She originally got the idea when the

French Honors Society's previous method of earning funds—selling Nutella and croissants—was restricted, given that the Montgomery County health regulations deemed it unhealthy. So, instead of profiting from food, the French Honors Society came up with the Mini Tour de France. "It's just something fun and out of the ordinary," Yu

added. The idea was brought to her attention by a friend, who posted a picture on Facebook of a middle school class trekking through the hallways on tricycles. "I thought we could take that idea, make it a fundraiser somehow, and vote for different teachers and staff members to be on the bikes," Yu said. "The kids could be really interested in see-

ing them make a fool out of themselves!"

The president of the French National Honors Society, senior Michael Baniak, entered for the first time as a contestant in the race this year. "[In previous years], I've helped lead one, and helped carry out the finish line and set up," Baniak stated. "It's amazing to see just how willing the students are to donate to help see certain teachers in the race."

Seeing the teachers and staff participate is one of the main reasons that students look forward to this event, mainly due to the entertainment. "We have had several incidents during the race; quite a lot of teachers 'cheat,'" Yu admitted jokingly. The humor that accompanies these antics encouraged quite a lot of the staff to join, most of whom were those who were "willing to put themselves out there," according to Yu.

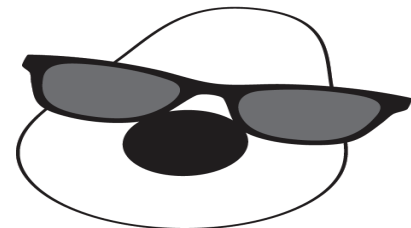
Junior Kasonde Chisaka, Secretary of Service for the French Honors Society, was in charge of setting up dates for the members to raise money for the teachers. "I asked Ms. Straus and Ms. Soule, and I really want to see Ms. Soule on the tricycle," Chisaka said. Both teachers are from different departments; as Yu stressed, "Each year we try to get a mix of staff contestants. We'll just see who the staff member with the most donations is."



PHOTO BY DYLAN KEARNEY

BLUE TEAM FOR THE WIN: Students and teachers find creative ways to ride tricycles, such as riding backwards or even using it as a scooter.

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A half-day in the life of an Edison student

By **WILL HUSTED** and **BRITTANY MILLS**
Double-Truck Managing Editors

Recently, we have noticed students becoming more frustrated with their classes because they don't feel the material is necessary for their future career. Their frustration leads to a lack of dedication to memorizing information, because they believe the knowledge of the material is only necessary to understand for that class.

At Thomas Edison High School of Technology, a Montgomery County school right next to Wheaton High School, students are encouraged to learn because their classes are formatted to their future career plans, so they gain knowledge to kickstart their future. Thomas Edison High School is home to a learning environment so unique, an everyday MCPS student walking into an Edison classroom may not even recognize it for what it is.

Founded in 1981, Edison provides an alternative education program for students that have a heightened interest in one of their 17 career and technology programs. Programs range from hospitality to auto body, with many other fields that students find to their liking. Being enrolled in these programs provides a fast track to technical colleges and jobs after graduating high school.

Five students with varied interests from Quince Orchard attend Edison. Junior Carlos Montes is in the Architecture program. "I like learning what I like, which is drawing and designing buildings," he said. Junior Gisel Elias is enrolled in the Restaurant

Management Program and discovered she has a passion for nails, which places her properly in the cosmetology program. Senior Blanca Arriaga enjoys cooking and "learning skills you learn in college" and is a friendly face behind the register in the Edison Cafe. These outstanding Cougars know what they are good at and prepare themselves for their future by attending Edison.

they miss school-specific events, such as pep rallies, but the commute is well worth their time. "You get to meet great people that do the same things you do," says Flores, which provides for an overall great learning experience at Edison. Although these half-day QO students may miss some QO activities, the bus from Edison takes them back to

tour from college readiness counselor Carlos Nalda.

We were most amazed by the auto body class. As you walk into the classroom, you see desks to your right and then about 20 cars throughout a massive shop that allows students a hands-on experience. Sherwood senior Kennen Harman was working on the parking brake to a minivan

fascinating to be exposed to the process of how the class prepared the food in a real restaurant-mimicked kitchen. As Elias explained, the other classes can be served at the cafe and order homemade dishes by her class that the Restaurant Management class can practice skills they learn in the classroom.

The choice to attend Edison is one of great maturity and self-realization. Many students have no idea what they want to do past high school, but these select individuals have taken the time to understand what they are interested in and apply their interests every day at Edison.

There comes a time in every person's life when they realize what they are truly passionate about. If you are reading this and the environment of Edison seems interesting, check out the Thomas Edison High School website and consider attending one of their many events during the year. You will be met with caring people who will not hesitate to help you in any way possible.

We were lucky enough to be invited to spend a day in the shoes of a student at Edison. The experience was one that we both will never forget. Seeing students engaged in hands-on work with educators that cared about their success had a profound impact on us both.



PHOTO BY WILL HUSTED

COOKING UP SUCCESS: *Gisel Elias smiles as she learns about and practices Restaurant Management, something she would love to make into a career.*

Management Program and gets a "full hand experience of how a restaurant runs." Senior Dessire Flores enjoys keeping her "hands busy and her mind busy," which perfectly suits her in her Auto Tech class. Junior Cristina Majano has

Students that attend Edison split their days between their home school and Edison. These students take three morning classes at QO and then take a bus to Edison to continue their learning. Students admit that leaving QO is hard because

QO at 2:30 p.m., so they are still able to participate in after-school activities.

To see what the average day was like for these five students, we shadowed them to live their typical school day. We were welcomed with smiling faces and a full

with his peers while others experienced the many thrills of automobiles.

After our tour, the Restaurant Management class made us a chocolate milkshake, cheesecake and some French fries. The food was delicious and it was

REVIEW

BYOPS: Bring your own pizza slicer

By **PAIGE MIRKIN**
Editor-in-Chief

When I found out Inferno, a new pizza place, was arriving across from QO, I almost peed my pants out of excitement. Okay, not really, but you can imagine how excited I was. Pizza is my favorite food; I could eat it for every meal without getting sick of it. So, I took a trip across the street with my best friend Mackenzie to test out the newest addition to the QO community.

I had attempted to go to the restaurant before I went with Mackenzie. However, there was a line out the door. Waiting was not the move—so I went home. Inferno was in such high demand during its opening few weeks that my article was late because I could never get a table! The

venue is very small, so small that when I was there I could hear the old couple's conversation across the room—and I'm pretty sure they heard my 20-minute rant about how tired I was. That being said, if you go there, make sure to have conversations you wouldn't mind strangers hearing. Despite it being somewhat cramped, it was a cute set-up.

Next: the service. Luckily, I was seated right away when I got there, which I greatly appreciated because I'm not a very patient person. (I have a couple undesirable traits that are shown when critiquing something, so be prepared.) We were immediately served water and given menus.

Inferno is authentic Italian food. I'm not very cultured, so when I was given the menu, I needed some assistance

understanding what each item was. When my waitress came to take my order, I asked to bring me whatever pizza would just be plain. It worked though, because it seemed like a cheese pizza when it was delivered to my table.

But... my pizza wasn't sliced when it got to me? I was genuinely confused. In the hundreds of pizza restaurants I've been to, this has never happened to me—unless it was an accident. Because everyone can hear what people are saying, a nearby waiter approached our table in response to our confusion. "See that fork and knife you have right there?" he said. "Use it." Wooahhhh OK. Kinda rude. How was I supposed to know it's not supposed to be sliced?! Maybe I'm just ignorant.

Anyways, I struggled to cut the pizza and, if my mom were there, I'd definitely have her do it for me. Thankfully, Mackenzie was there to save me and cut the pizza for us. That's why she'll be my college roommate!

Once my pizza was sliced and ready to eat, it was better than I expected. I was ready for some fancy pizza and, even though that's not my style, it was good! We shared a pizza that was supposed to be a personal pizza, so when we left I was still hungry. Not gonna lie, I stopped by Chick-Fil-A on my way home.

Inferno is a locally owned restaurant and I have high hopes for it! Other than my pizza not being sliced, I had a pretty satisfactory experience.

7.5 / 10



PHOTOS BY WILL HUSTED

DOING WHAT THEY LOVE: *From learning to fix cars (top) to practicing for a career in style (middle) to training to be an engineer (bottom), Edison offers an abundance of specialized classes.*

TOP 20 WAYS TO FALL INTO FALL

By **BELLA ROBERTS**
Features Editor-in-Chief

- 1) Eat as many pumpkin spice flavored food products as you can. Gain enough weight to hibernate for the winter.
- 2) Organize a formal debate among your friends on fall or autumn.
- 3) Become a Starbucks barista to make your own pumpkin spice lattes. Change the recipe for everyone else to make it more appealing for yourself.
- 4) Place banana peels everywhere you go and hide in corners waiting for someone to have a cartoon trip moment. When they do jump out and yell "HA FALL."
- 5) Make your house a haunted house: take the spiders from outside and place them around delicately. Then, cut the power in your house. Finally, invite the monster under your bed to come out and greet guests.
- 6) Say nothing but thank you for 24 hours straight. That's a lot of "thanks giving!"
- 7) Admire the beautiful shades of brown around you. Wear only brown.
- 8) Post many photos of you playfully laying in a pile of leaves to remind people that it is fall and you have a playful festive spirit inside of you.
- 9) Invite your friend Jack over for the photo-shoot too. Take lots of photos of him. Place the photos on lightbulbs and hang them around your house. Homemade "Jack"-o-lanterns!!
- 10) Go trick- or- treating every single night. Fall is Halloween.
- 11) Throw a baby shower for your food baby on Thanksgiving.
- 12) Snuggle with that special someone- your carved pumpkin, Bill.
- 13) Knit a scarf. Knit a sweater. Knit a house and move into it. Cozy.
- 14) Make soup with REAL and FRESH candy corn!!!!
- 15) Have a pool party. go apple bobbing in the pool
- 16) Make holidays gifts for your friends out of fall objects. Pile of sticks? Trendy! Bag of leaves? Practical! Pine cone crown? Stylish!!!
- 17) Spray musk around. Everywhere.
- 18) Build scarecrows that look just like all of your friends! Fall version of American Girl Dolls!
- 19) Bring bandages with you everywhere you are, put them on every pumpkin you see. Say, "It's their pumpkin patch."
- 20) Bask in the chilly air and wait for summer to come.



A Turkey's Thanksgiving

By **BEN PALMER**
Viewpoints Editor

Ah, Thanksgiving. I've never had one before, but I've heard it's supposed to be a great holiday, especially for turkeys like me. For some reason, the humans celebrate us on this day because we helped them not die hundreds of years ago.

In the months leading up to the big day, the farmer started spoiling us early with extra rations. They do make us a bit plump, but "chicks love a plump gobbler," my dad always said. (For some reason, we haven't seen him since Christmas.) About two months before the big day, the farmer came in to

look at us. I was told this was the "selection," where the farmer selected the plumpest turkeys to receive the Thanksgiving treatment. Luckily for me, I was selected! Someone told me that the President, who rules over all the farmers, selects one turkey to be imprisoned in a cold room every year. What a horrible treatment! But maybe the President only picks the bad turkeys, so I don't say anything bad about him.

The farmer then took us to a room that smelled awfully like that cow Bessie who disappeared two weeks ago. He laid me belly first on the table, and it looked like a massage was about to happen. Sure enough, he took out a gleaming silver massage instrument and struck me on the head. This somehow took away my vision, but I didn't mind because the presidential debate was on TV. After the somewhat brief massage, the farmer

lathered us in this heavenly liquid before plucking out my feathers, which was a sensation beyond belief. When he was done, I was bare as a baby's bottom and felt like a new turkey.

We were all piled into a truck and, though the ride was anything but fun, the other turkeys told me it was taking us somewhere great. And, sure enough, we were sent to a "massage factory" where the machines pressed and relieved any pain and stress on our old turkey bones, before we were covered in a cool breeding substance and put in another truck. We were taken to a "supermarket," where apparently humans choose us, bring us home, and take care of us during Thanksgiving. About a week later, some humans chose me! I had never felt

so honored before, and I was kind of relieved to be out of the cold.

Finally, the big day came. I was brought out of the freezer and set to warm, which felt so good. As I awaited my visit to the sauna, I got to watch the football game. I didn't know how any of it worked, but I rooted for those guys with the turkey feather logo who ran like headless chickens. Finally, I entered the sauna, and I wished I could be there forever, but fortunately more was to come. I was pulled apart and given the tooth massage before going down and relaxing in a wonderfully hot liquid. This really was a great Thanksgiving. I can't

The Perfect Thanksgiving Recipe

By **DANIELLE PASEKOFF**
Double-Truck Managing Editor

When most people think of Thanksgiving, they think of Thanksgiving, they think of family, football, and, of course, food. Thanksgiving is *the* holiday for anyone who loves a good meal, and many families' recipes and traditions have lasted for generations. Most people have a few favorite dishes from their family's Thanksgiving meal that they eat year after year. Whether you like sweet or savory, Thanksgiving has a dish to please all people's palettes. The recipe for a favorite dish of mine- guaranteed to please everyone- is listed below:

Directions:

- 1) Mix mashed potatoes and carrots in red plastic bowl. (This part is VERY important.)
- 2) Boil cranberry sauce, alternating between high heat and low heat, at least three times.
- 3) Chop green beans into star shapes, and add each green bean, one by one, into cranberry sauce.
- 4) Pour gravy (canned) into mashed potato mixture, and bake at 500 degrees for 2 minutes.
- 5) Sprinkle uncooked stovetop stuffing into cranberry sauce (to give the dish that extra crunch).
- 6) Take a quick break to eat some turkey and watch some football with the fam.
- 7) Now that you're in a food coma from all that "turkey," you are probably too lazy to finish this recipe.
- 8) So, just pour everything in the same bowl and serve to whomever you choose! (To add a little bit of pizzazz: Serve with warm vanilla ice cream soup and frozen apple pie.)

Enjoy! Have a happy Thanksgiving!

(Note: This recipe is good until April 1st)

What Your Favorite Thanksgiving Food Says About You

By **BRITTANY MILLS**
Double-Truck Managing Editor

They say you are what you eat...

Turkey: The Attention Seeker

Because Thanksgiving is centered on the all mighty Turkey, you crave being noticed. The turkey is iconic for making people fall asleep after their Thanksgiving dinner. So despite your bold efforts to stand out, you end up just making everyone tired. You wish you were a turkey so a whole holiday would revolve around you.



Cranberry Sauce: Go with the Flow

The cranberry sauce has a jelly texture and the flexibility to be a side to many Thanksgiving dishes. The flexibility that the jelly embodies is similar to your spontaneous and agreeable personality.



Pumpkin Pie: Sweet with a Twist

Pumpkin pie is a common holiday favorite. Not only is the pumpkin pie extremely festive in the fall, it rocks a sweet taste with a surprising kick of cinnamon. You have a sweet smiling personality, but, if someone crosses you, you'll hit them with a surprising kick of sass.

Stuffing: The Modest One

Although stuffing isn't one of the main dishes of Thanksgiving it combines many food favorites into one dish. Stuffing is constantly in the shadows of Turkey, but never stands up for itself. Your average appearance may be overlooked, but you have many appealing qualities to bring to the table. Don't ever let the turkeys in your life bring you down!



Sweet Potatoes: The Romantic

All potatoes come from a humble beginning in the ground, but the sweet potato separates itself from the average potato with its mushy and loving personality. After a couple chick flicks and Valentine's days over the years you have realized you're a hopeless romantic. At every Thanksgiving when asked what you are thankful for you tear up and list the several loves of your life.



Gravy: The Lazy One

Both you and gravy move very slowly. You are the observer of the group and would rather watch the Thanksgiving day events from your throne on the couch instead of participating. After dinner, you inform your family to wake you up when the pie is cut as you fall asleep on the couch with crumbs on your lap.





Fall production soars onto stage

Show's important message leaves lasting impact on QO community

By **JACOB CORNBLATT**
Features Managing Editor

By now, most of us have seen QO's powerful new play, *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*, but what we didn't see is almost as astounding as the play itself: the rehearsals.

Crews of people, running back and forth, all striving to complete the show that would be hitting center stage in rapidly approaching time is quite the sight to be seen; however, the most astounding part of the organized chaos is the few people that are involved with every single bit of it.

Director Nicholas Saadipour and senior student directors Chloe Malouf and Lakshmi

Shyamakrishnan supported the show every step of the way. "Directing a play requires so many skills," Saadipour said, "from the obvious ones like... [training] students how to put on a production, to teaching students about [the] life experience they need to play a role." The important role of guiding the actors towards properly portraying their characters is key, and he uses his teaching skills from the classroom to help.

Saadipour, who has multiple directing credits at other theaters and high schools, can't do it all himself, but luckily, the student directors are there to lighten his load. "We organize rehearsals

and plan out agendas," Malouf stated. "[We] also have a more student-like perspective." By this, Malouf explained her and Shyamakrishnan's unique ability to tailor the play to a younger perspective so that high school students and younger can not only understand the story, but also relate to it.

While the directors give the commands, however, there are an abundance of crew members who have to make the director's dreams become a reality. From set construction to paint crew to props to costumes to hair and makeup, every specialized group is crucial to the final product of

the play; and while you may think you understand what each crew does by its name, think again.

For example, those who do hair and makeup. Sounds simple, right? Wrong. "[Hair and makeup] have to research what's appropriate for the time period, what's appropriate for your character," Malouf explains.

Though research of the time period may be primarily done online or in the library, the drama club took a trip to the Holocaust Museum to go into more depth about the history behind the play. "The actors themselves," Saadipour said, "looked into their characters' histories and

made a trip to the National Holocaust Museum to gain more background knowledge and speak to a Holocaust survivor."

While the cast and crew of the play worked tirelessly, excitement quickly built in QO as the play approached. Junior Ryan Levy, who was aware of the heavy subject matter of the play, was one of the many Cougars excited. "I think [the play] will be [hard] to watch, but still great," he said.

Well, Levy was right. *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* was everything audiences hoped it would be and more, only taking a copious pack of Cougars to pull it off!



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARTIN MACPHEE

BUTTERFLY FLY AWAY: The play centers around a young girl named Raja and her family, and her experience living in the Terezin concentration camp during the Holocaust.

VIEWPOINT

Holidazed and Confused

By **WILL HUSTED**

Double-Truck Managing Editor

Cookie Monster Day, National Chicken Lady Day, Pumpkin Destruction Day, National Nachos Day, Cliché Day, and Sandwich Day—these are a few of the many holidays celebrated in the month of November. They must make us take a step back and realize that these absurd holidays take away from the purpose of having holidays in the first place.

Holidays such as the ones listed above are not celebrated for their great tradition and place in culture, but rather to create a laugh for the news broadcasters who chuckle daily over the negligible holidays. These "holidays" have become so abundant they take attention away from the awareness of other important days. Take November 21, where there are four national "days" celebrated. They include False Confession Day, National Adoption Day, World Hello Day, and Go for a Ride Day. This day exemplifies the problem at hand. While some people may have strong beliefs about Go for a Ride Day or World Hello Day, National Adoption Day is a topic that truly deserves a day to be recognized by the public. Important holidays are clouded by

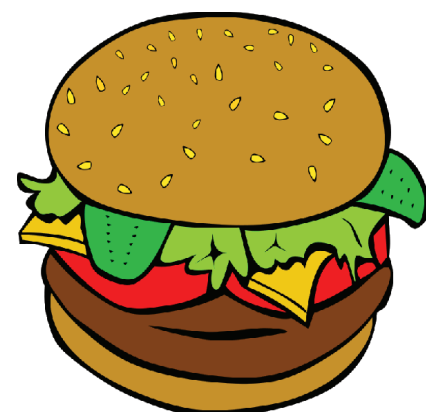
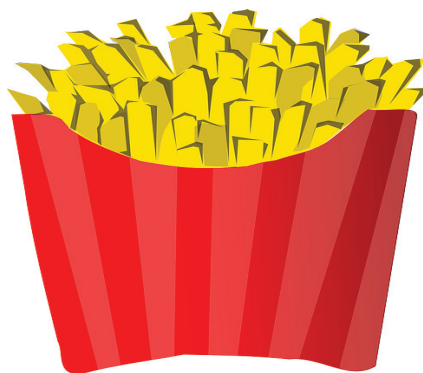
the humorous holidays that become rather insignificant in comparison.

A source of this holiday madness is that the process to make a holiday official is ridiculously easier than it should be. All that is necessary is to go to nationaldaycalendar.com. There you will fill out an online form, answer a few questions on your proposed holiday, get it approved by the website creators, and bam, you have submitted a request for a national day. This website is non-regulated and has no limit to the amount of holidays one can submit.

A holiday is traditionally classified as "any day of exemption from work." As much as we all wish the daily micro holidays would give us an excuse to get off of work and school, these trivial "holidays" don't fit the official definition. These "holidays" should be removed because they serve no purpose other than a good laugh and they remove attention from more significant days of remembrance or celebration. Take a note from "Use Your Common Sense Day" and take away some of these absurd holidays... or put on your best outfit and throw a party for Turtle Day.

SENIOR PHOTOS TAKE McDONALD'S

We've all heard about senior photos—the high-quality, professional photo shoots done every year before graduation. Recently, seniors have taken to Twitter to show off their own senior photos, but with a twist. From Chick-fil-A, to Dunkin' Donuts, to Taco Bell, seniors have opted to take their photos in some unlikely locations, classic poses and all. The McDonald's across the street, a Cougar favorite, has been a popular senior photo location lately.



PHOTOS BY WILL HUSTED



QO soccer misses in playoffs

By **LOGAN FEINGOLD**

Sports Managing Editor

Another fall, another good year for the boys soccer team, as the team won nine games and earned a postseason bye this year.

The team earned the number one seed in its section of the County playoffs through their fantastic play and worked hard in order to advance deeper into the playoffs. Senior midfielder and team captain Barak Amige believed the team was so successful this year due to "everyone [coming] to practice prepared to train in an intense environment," crucial for any team's success.

One of the most important parts of being a good soccer team is having good stamina: soccer halves last 45 minutes, and a regulation soccer field is 120 yards long, so a team lacking stamina can easily get crushed. Coach Kevin Gnatiko had the team run two-mile time trials and hills daily during the preseason in order to improve conditioning, and the team sprinted or ran up hills every day at practice in order to defeat strong teams like the defending state champs Whitman. Amige relayed how every player on the team had to complete the two mile run in "under 12 minutes and 30 seconds," ensuring every player had good stamina.

Over the past two years, the team has won nine games each year under Gnatiko's tutelage. Junior Eli Holmstead noted how Gnatiko "brought a lot of energy to the team when he became coach last year" and "constantly pushes every player to work hard and improve." Holmstead also believed the team's passing and technical ability, one of its biggest strengths, allowed the team to "[tire] out the other teams and [open] up scoring possibilities."

Unfortunately, the team was upset in a 2-1 nailbiter to Kennedy at the Cougar Dome. Despite this playoff loss, with the establishment of a winning culture over the past two years, the team should continue to play at a high level in the years to come.

The girls soccer team took care of business as well. After a grueling season, the team ramped into high gear for the playoffs. Senior captain and starting midfielder Jessa Toone believed the team's strength this year was "passion and competitiveness," and stated, "Every game, players give it all on the field. With the passion everyone brings to the field, I think we can go far." This passion and drive allowed QO to demolish teams such as Seneca Valley (9-0) and gain an intense 3-1 victory over Richard Montgomery. The team was also one of the youngest in Montgomery County, as more than 40 percent of the team consisted of freshmen or sophomores, with underclassmen such as freshman Mary Wari and sophomore Beth Ellinport scoring goals and disrupting the defensive flow of the opposing team. Toone noted that this year the team "consisted of mostly underclassmen" and has a lot of confidence in the team next year. Captains Toone, senior Francesca D'Cruz, and junior Jamie Fink have been supplying the team with key experience in clutch situations.

The girls defeated the Gaithersburg Trojans 2-1 in their first playoff game, but were unable to muster a playoff victory against Northwest and lost 2-1. Despite losing to Northwest in the playoffs for the second straight year, this young team is optimistic for the future and ready to contend next year.

By **HUNTER BOOTHE**

Sports Editor

Fall sports season is winding down, which means it's time to look back and recap the exciting seasons for a few of Quince Orchard's varsity teams.

Girls Volleyball had an extremely young team this year, with only one senior on the roster. The team's composition forced underclassmen and juniors into bigger roles. Junior captain Jesse Van Valkenburgh believed that "[The team's] chemistry can only expand from here, making it easier to play together next season."

Despite its inexperience, the team had plenty of reasons to celebrate. Coach Sarah Watson's squad managed to win seven games, winning against a tough Gaithersburg squad in front of a big crowd, and record a few shutout victories. Van Valkenburgh stated that the team was solid offensively, with "strong, powerful hitters," though they needed to improve on their serve receive.

With somewhat inconsistent results on the court, one thing was constant: the strong bond between the players. "We all trust one another, which helps us out on the court," Van Valkenburgh said. "We all understand [each other's tendencies] and support each other." With a respectable season under their belts, the team will have high expectations next year. If that chemistry continues to strengthen, the team could be in for a special season.

Girls Field Hockey was dominant at times this year, outscoring opponents 11-0 over a two-game stretch and rattling off a four-game winning streak over Sherwood, Gaithersburg, Northwood, and Northwest in

the middle of the season. Coach Alicia Vincenty said the team was "focused and hungry" during that period, since those games were key in determining whether they would win the division title. The team tied with Springbrook, going 6-1 in the division, but, unfortunately for the Cougars, Springbrook was awarded the title of division champion on a tiebreaker.

Senior leadership and team chemistry were key to the team's success. "Our seniors motivated us and did a great job leading the team, and they always had our backs," said junior Danielle Lawhorn.

"Our chemistry contributed to our success because we are all friends and we all want the best for each other," said senior captain Megan Samuels.

The Cougars ended up advancing to the Regional Finals but fell to Springbrook 1-0 in penalty strokes. With some time to reflect, players expressed pride in the team's accomplishments and fond memories.

"We gave every one of those teams a run for their money. I wouldn't want to have spent my senior season with another group of girls. I'll really miss them," concluded senior Bree Quill.

Cross Country had many standout performers this year, including senior Liam Walsh, senior Christian McCann, junior Maya Jacobson, and sophomore Isabelle Sajonia. A team highlight this year was the trip to North Carolina. The team took a day off of school to travel and compete against runners from all over the region in the Glory Days Meet.

"The trip was great," Coach Seann Pelkey said. "There were around 80 schools there from all

over the mid-Atlantic region. Most of the team ran their fastest times of the season there." The Montgomery County championships also proved fruitful for the team. The boys finished sixth and the girls finished tenth in the event. Regardless of the outcomes, the runners learned valuable lessons.

"Cross Country is like life. You need to set goals and you need to hard work and dedication to achieve those goals," said junior Sungmin Joo.

"Our chemistry contributed to our success because we are all friends."

- Megan Samuels

Pelkey echoed that sentiment, saying, "Cross country teaches hard work and discipline. It teaches patience. There is no overnight success and you have to learn how to handle adversity before you can improve. You get out of this sport exactly what you put into it."

With seniors graduating, Joo hopes to apply that hard working mentality into the next season. "People have to step up to leadership positions. How we do next year is all on us and how hard we work," he said.

Although it is technically the offseason for these three Quince Orchard teams, the returning student athletes will be constantly preparing for next season, looking to lengthen their already long strides.

QO football hopes to achieve another state playoff run

By **SAM KIRSCH**

Sports Editor-in-Chief

Fridays at QO mean many things to students: the start of the weekend, a time to relax, but mostly football, definitely football. The QO varsity football team is cruising through the middle part of the season, slowly turning its focus to a strong run at states.

At the time of the last *Prowler* printing, the team had a sturdy 3-1 record, and was preparing to face Gaithersburg at home. The game, though close for QO standards, resulted in a swift 42-12 victory for our beloved team. Following this game, the team had a week to plan for its next game at Winston Churchill on October 9. The team eventually won, handling the Bulldogs like stuffed puppies, with a final score of 49-13.

Consistency is key for this year's team, and replicating these dominant wins results in an abundance of confidence. "We want to be 1-0 each win, make sure we do our

job, and do everything we need to do to be successful and win a championship," said sophomore Kendall "Doc" Bonner, the starting quarterback. Bonner, a transfer from Gonzaga Prep, has brought the solidity and leadership to the quarterback position that is necessary for a team with aims as high as QO's. "When I first got the job, I was pretty nervous," said Bonner. "However, I've grown into the position of a leader and quarterback at QO."

Following the Gaithersburg game, the team prepared to welcome a pack of Jaguars into the Cougar Dome, as Northwest was coming down Great Seneca Highway with their own goals for states. This matchup was expected to be tight, so much so that it was televised locally. Ultimately, the Jaguars were tamed, as the game was underwhelming at best and resulted with a 28-7 victory for the Cougars. Widely thought of as one of the team's biggest competitors, Bonner stated, "While we



PHOTO COURTESY OF LIFETOUCH

DOWN, SET, HIKE: The Cougars, led by sophomore Kendall "Doc" Bonner, set up against Churchill in week six.

will see [Northwest] in the playoffs again, no team should be our competition if we come out and do what we are supposed to do."

With great expectations comes great pressure. That's where the team leaders come in. Starting center Zeph Titus, a senior captain of the team, said, "I've always held my teammates accountable for stuff, like making sure they are out at practice on time or doing their assignments during practice." Strong leadership

from Titus and fellow senior captains Easley Kim and Maxwell Ward have helped to calm down this exciting team and allowed the team to focus on their mantra of going 1-0 every week.

The team then drove up to BCC on October 23, a school not known for their football program, and handed a 66-6 defeat that took the party out of their homecoming weekend. Overwhelming teams on the road is a surefire way to make a statement, and the

team has been rewarded. They are now ranked second in the county, behind the undefeated Damascus team that handed QO its week one loss.

On October 30, the team put the stamp on our own homecoming weekend, sending affirmation of good things to come with the 48-18 whopping of Whitman. This win carried over to next week, when the team sped up the cop-infested ICC and gave Paint Branch a fright, winning 38-14.

With a final regular season record of 9-1, QO earned a premium playoff spot, and the goal of states solidified.

The team will host Blair in the first round of the playoffs, and are projected to meet up with the winner of the RM and Northwest game later on. Make sure to cheer on the team each week, so that they can continue to be 1-0 week in, week out, on their quest for another state championship.



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By **PATRICK PAOLINI**
Sports Managing Editor

The change in season has brought back a few well-known sports to the Washington, D.C. area. The 2015-2016 seasons are underway in the nation's capital, bringing out the Washington sports spirit.

The Washington Redskins have been in action since September 13 but have been questionable in their performance. With last season's record of 4-12, Redskins fans wished for a better start when the 2015 season rolled around. As of the Prowler deadline, the Redskins have a 3-5 record and are third in the NFC Eastern Division.

On Sunday, October 25, the Redskins fans finally got what they wanted when the Redskins defeated the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

This was no ordinary game, however. The Redskins were trailing the Buccaneers by 24 points in the second quarter and achieved a measly 7 points heading into halftime. The Redskins are known this season for having trouble during the second half: they have played five of their six games leading at halftime, but this game was a different story. The Redskins completed their biggest comeback in franchise history, erasing Tampa Bay's 24-7 lead and just narrowly winning by one point with a final score of 31-30.

The Redskins starting quarterback Kirk Cousins sped down

the FedEx stadium tunnel, headed to the locker room, after the historic win. He turned to the camera and, in an aggressive and profound tone, said, "Do you like that," in reference to the team's comeback against the Buccaneers.

The Washington Redskins playoff hopes are still questionable at this time, but the fans in Washington remain optimistic about their chances.

The Washington Capitals sharpen their skates, tape their sticks, and take the ice in the Verizon Center. The Capitals are back in action as of October 10 when they hosted and beat the New Jersey Devils 5-3 in their home opener. The Capitals are off to a fantastic start to their season, with a record of 10-3, with losses to the Pittsburgh Penguins, San Jose Sharks, and the New York Rangers. As of the Prowler deadline, the Capitals are second in the Metropolitan division and are fourth in the offensive strike, with an average goals scored of 3.23 per game.

With the help of veteran Alex Ovechkin, who leads the team with five goals, and twenty-three year old Evgeny Kuznetsov, with a total of eight assists, the Capitals hope to lift the Stanley Cup for the first time in history.

Last but not least, the Washington Wizards jumped into their season against the Orlando Magic on October 28, narrowly winning 88-87 in the fourth quarter. As of the Prowler deadline, the Wizards are 3-3 and are eighth in the East-



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEITH ALLISON

GAME TIME: Redskins quarterback Kirk Cousins evades the rush.

ern Conference. In their season opener, the Wizards and the Magic went back and forth throughout the game until the last few seconds of the game, when the Wizards went on a 6-0 sprint to catch the Magic and, with twelve seconds left, point guard John Wall floated one

over Magic center Nikola Vucevic to give the Wizards the lead and eventually the win. John Wall finished the game with 22 points, six assists, seven rebounds, three steals, and a career-high of five blocks. With Wall's fantastic performance, the Wizards are on the

right track to the NBA finals.

As Washington sports progress in their seasons, fans will be watching closely to see how their teams will do throughout the season, in hopes that each of the teams can celebrate with their own iconic championship victory.

QO studs shine big at the next level

By **DAVID SUGGS**
Sports Managing Editor

Playoffs are fast approaching for many of our sports teams, allowing us to take a step back and view some of the best players to ever come out of Quince Orchard.

This article coincides with the NBA season debut, so what better place to begin our journey than with basketball? Our basketball program has produced numerous players who have gone on to become college basketball stars, including Greg Rector '08, who attended Holy Cross, and Charles Porter '13, currently plying his trade at Salisbury.

However, despite the tremendous achievements of these players, there is only one player who has represented Quince Orchard in the NBA. Charles Lee '02 arrived at Bucknell with the intention of simply contributing to the best of his abilities. However, it became apparent that the work ethic embodied by him during his years at Quince Orchard translated to his Bucknell career. The 2006 Patriot League Player of the Year led the Bison to the NCAA tournament in consecutive seasons and finished his career as the fifth all-time leading scorer in Bucknell history.

Following his illustrious tenure at Bucknell, Lee carved out a successful career in Europe before returning to the United States, this time as an assistant coach for the sixty-win Atlanta Hawks. He

looks to be on the fast track to a head coaching job. Hopefully, he understands the support he has earned from the Quince Orchard community and uses it as motivation for him to improve as a coach, just as he did as a player.

As our football team roars on towards the postseason, it seems appropriate to look at two of our most memorable players, 2009 grads Zach Kerr and Jason Ankrah. Both have carved out successful, albeit short, NFL careers up to this point and were members of the memorable 2007 team that won states, with Kerr taking his skills to Maryland and Ankrah going to Nebraska.

It wasn't until Kerr's transfer to Delaware that he began to show the skills that made him such an attractive player at QO. He became a perennial threat as an All-American and captained Delaware to numerous wins with his gutsiness and confidence. Following his spectacular performances at Delaware, Kerr bounced around the NFL before finding a home with the Indianapolis Colts. In fact, Kerr got three sacks in his career, and this season he has nine tackles. Ankrah, on the other hand, went to Nebraska and became a defensive captain, leading the Cornhuskers to a shocking victory against

[Kerr] became a perennial threat as an All-American and captained Delaware to numerous wins.

SEC title contenders Georgia. After being released by the Texans, Ankrah signed with the Tennessee Titans and looks to contribute during the season.

Additionally, QO soccer is well-represented in the college ranks, with multiple alums currently enjoying college careers at various universities. However, two players come to mind when thinking about QO soccer. Stephanie Shin '14 has been working hard to improve following an impressive four-year, varsity letter-winning career at Quince Orchard. Currently at Columbia University, Shin has made serious waves in the Ivy League institution, starting nine games as a freshman. Meanwhile, a fellow 2014 grad has been drawing plenty of interest locally. Kevin Hwang earned a scholarship to George Washington University after an exquisite time at Quince Orchard. Hwang, despite his relative inexperience as a freshman, has been able to both play against some of the best young talent in the country and gain physical and mental maturation as a player and a student. As these graduates continue on their athletic trails, it must be stated that the entire QO community will be supporting them.

Golf goes for the green Players stroke way to states

By **DAVID STRICKMAN**
Sports Editor

This year's Quince Orchard golf team was stellar, making states for the fourth straight year under coach Russell Doane. QO was full of young talent and plenty of potential. The team was one of only seven teams from Montgomery County to receive a state tournament bid this year. The team competed in the Yachmetz division, the top division in the county. According to coach Russell Doane, "the divisions are named after past coaches who had an impact on county golf."

This year's golf team consisted of 13 players: one senior, four juniors, five sophomores, and three freshmen. "This year's team was the youngest team I have had in my five years coaching at QO," said Doane. Though the team's head-to-head record was not as great as expected, with 4 wins, 13 losses and 1 tie, the team knew it was strong. In a match, six golfers compete against three other schools' top six golfers. The five best scores are then added up for a team score. Teams were also scored on team stroke average. According to Doane, "In years past, our team stroke average was around a 212. Yes, we won more matches but had a higher team average." To all of those who don't follow golf, a lower score is better than a higher score.

This year, the county was extremely competitive, with the defending state champs Churchill shooting a league low team average of 187.33. The next best teams' averages were 196.00 and 197.00 by Sherwood and Whitman. Next, QO's average was 206.00. As for the players who were playing in states, here were the stroke averages throughout the season: Jordan Swick 40.50, Ryan Balow 40.17, Brandon King 40.17, Jack Faraone 41.050, Cameron Levine 44.00, and Nick Politis 45.25. QO competed against every school in the state of Maryland that had four golfers shoot a team score of better than 328 for 18 holes.

States took place on Monday, October 26 for all 3A/4A schools at the University of Maryland golf course. If the team or players scored low enough on that Monday, they were invited back on Wednesday for the final day of play.

Seventeen teams from the 4A/3A played on Monday, with only six advancing to the final day. QO finished tenth with a team total score of 340. Jordan Swick finished in the top 20 golfers with a score average of 75 (4 over par). "I think we did well but we could have done a lot better. We have some really great players," said junior golf member Tyler Schwartz. The golf team hopes to come out strong next season and reach states yet again.



Varsity Cheer lets spirit shine for competition

By **JAMIE FINK**
Sports Managing Editor

A-C-T, -I-O-N, ACTION, ACTION, WE WANT MORE ACTION! The outstanding cheerleading squad has had an eventful fall season, cheering on all the fall teams and hosting the JOY cheerleaders, a group of girls with special needs.

Last week was the team's time to shine as they competed last Saturday, November 14 at Blair High School. The competition was against seven other local high school cheer teams including Wootton, Churchill, Northwest and Damascus.

The competition was an important time to show

off all their hard work they had put in over the past few months. The squad worked diligently and held practices six days a week to prepare for their competition. The team was judged on how well they executed their stunts, tumbling, and how much emotion they put into the routine.

The QO cheer team's goal was to make the top three at the competition. The results were not available at the time of print, but they put a lot of effort and time into their routine to make sure it was perfect. Junior captains Carley Welch and Carly Porter claimed that the team "was very united and worked well together." They often had bonding activities to

make sure everyone was on the same page and got along.

Welch said, "We all had a passion to win." This made them more coherent and able to learn from their mistakes in practice so they

"My favorite part about being a cheer coach is watching the girls learn and improve throughout the season."

- Laura Nichols

favorite part about being a cheer coach is watching the girls learn and improve throughout the season." She explained that they dedicate themselves to the team and are always improving on some aspect.

would not happen live at the competition.

Cheer coach Laura Nichols said that her "fa-

While preparing for their competition, they encountered a special night under the lights. A few

weeks ago, the QO cheer team hosted the JOY cheerleaders. JOY Cheerleading is a nationwide organization that allows young girls with special needs to share the interest of cheer, traveling to different events to cheer people on. The QO community was fortunate enough to host the local JOY cheerleaders and have them cheer on the Quince Orchard Cougars for one Friday night football game this season. All the cheer captains had felt that the JOY cheerleaders brightened their day. They always look forward to the date they get to cheer with them again.

"They always put a smile on our face," said Porter. The JOY cheerlead-

ers are always so happy to be at the football games and ready to cheer on the team.

"[The JOY cheerleaders] make me very grateful to be a cheerleader," said Welch. She loved all the time she got to spend with her friends as they made lasting memories. The QO team always has a great experience and learns a lot about the JOY cheerleaders.

With winter sports underway, you know you can count on the QO cheer squad to root on our student athletes. Be sure to be on the lookout to see when the cheer team will compete again this year. Let's show the squad our thanks by coming out to support and cheer them on!

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH QUESTIONNAIRE

FOOTBALL

Doc Bonner '18



As the sophomore starting quarterback, Doc has led the team to nine straight victories in the regular season.

GIRLS SOCCER

Mary Wari '19



Mary is one of the leading scorers for the team this season. Her tireless work and intense passion sets an example for her teammates.

FIELD HOCKEY

Regina Wingate '16



Regina is a senior captain and four-year member of the varsity field hockey team. She is a defensive anchor, leading the team to victory.

BOYS SOCCER

Eli Holmstead '17



Eli's stats speak for himself. He has scored multiple game-winning goals as his talent comes in the clutch.

CROSS COUNTRY

Liam Walsh '16



Liam leads the team in nearly every exercise. His passion for running motivates those around him.

CHEER

Carley Welch '17



Carley is a junior captain for the cheer team and has worked extremely hard day in and day out. She is always on time and ready to work.

THE PROWLER ASKED THESE ATHLETES THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS...

	Doc Bonner	Eli Holmstead	Mary Wari	Liam Walsh	Regina Wingate	Carley Welch
What are you thankful for?	MY FAMILY.	CHIPOTLE, FAMILY, AND THE RIDGEVIEW HILL.	GREAT FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO TO QO.	B. HO.	SARAH HALLAM.	MY SUNSHINE LUKE CHOI AND MY AMAZING CHEER TEAM AND COACHES.
What is your favorite Thanksgiving meal?	GLAZED HAM.	MASHED POTATOES WITH GRAVY AND TURKEY. GLUTEN IS OVERRATED.	TURKEY, MASHED POTATOES, AND PUMPKIN PIE.	HONEY BAKED HAM AND MASHED POTATOES.	MASHED POTATOES.	ANYTHING BUT STUFFING, I HATE STUFFING.
What is your favorite Thanksgiving activity?	THANKSGIVING FOOTBALL.	THE TURKEY BOWL CAUSE I GET TO COOK UP MORMONS IN SOME EARLY MORNING FOOTBALL.	ROASTING THE TURKEY AND EVERYONE ELSE IN MY FAM.	SLEEPING IN.	EATING. A LOT.	PLAYING HIDE AND SEEK WITH LUKE CHOI.
If your grandma asked you to eat five plates of green beans before having dessert, would you?	YEA, BECAUSE HER DESSERT IS BOMB.	YES, THERE'S NO ARGUING WITH GRANDMA.	NO, I HATE GREEN BEANS, BUT I'D STILL EAT THE DESSERT.	I PHYSICALLY COULD NOT.	HAPPILY.	OF COURSE, WHATEVER NANCY SAYS GOES.
Who would win in a fight? Super Turkey or Super Chicken?	SUPER TURKEY.	SUPER TURKEY, NO DOUBT.	DEFINITELY SUPER TURKEY.	SEANN PELKEY.	SUPER TURKEY FOR SURE.	SUPER CHICKEN.
Do forks go on the left or right side of your plate?	RIGHT?	I MEAN, I ALWAYS CHOOSE THE RIGHT, SO FORKS ON THE RIGHT.	WHATEVER SIDE YOUR DOMINANT HAND IS ON.	HANDS ARE NATURE'S UTENSILS.	LEFT.	U H H H H THE RIGHT.