

The Prowler

Quince Orchard High School

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European Union prepares for wave of refugees *Hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees hope for asylum in Europe*

By **ANDY GOLDSTEIN**
Editor-in-Chief

As the conflicts in Syria and Iraq continue to escalate, the European Union has begun to see an almost unprecedented influx of refugees seeking asylum. This massive wave of migrants has created divisive dialogue in Europe pertaining to what, if any, responsibility the continent has to aid in this humanitarian crisis.

Since the outbreak of civil war in Syria, approximately four million people have fled the region, seeking asylum elsewhere. As these migrants search for a new home, countries in the Mediterranean have argued over how to divide up the responsibility of humanitarian aid. Some countries have offered more aid than others, as Germany's people prepare to offer asylum to over 500,000 refugees this year alone. German Chancellor Angela Merkel's policy has remained welcoming, while urging other nations to share in the responsibility. "Germany is willing to help. But this is not just a German challenge,



PHOTO COURTESY OF AL JAZEERA

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS: Millions have been displaced by the civil war raging in Syria, and many of these refugees now hope to find sanctuary in stable nations nearby.

but one for all of Europe," stated Merkel. On the other hand, Hungary's gov-

ernment has issued press releases indicating that Hungary will not allow any refugees

across their border. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban stated, "We must ask simply this: do not come. Is it not worrying that we are struggling to keep Europe rooted in Christianity? There is no other option, we must defend our borders." Orban's administration has gone as far as to begin erecting a border wall as to keep refugees from entering. The Human Rights Watch, an organization dedicated to observing and reporting on human rights conditions worldwide, condemned Hungary for "the denial of basic medical services, and the mistreatment and abuse of refugees by border police."

In response to Prime Minister Orban's appeal to European Christianity, Pope Francis asked that every parish, monastery, and church in Europe take in one Syrian family. The Pope himself now houses two families of refugees in the Vatican. "Facing the tragedy of tens of thousands of refugees, fleeing death by war and famine, and journeying towards the hope of life, the Gospel calls on us to be closest to the

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MCPS may cut final exams

By **SOPHIE LANE**
News Editor

Over the summer, the idea to reduce testing and increase instructional learning by removing semester exams was presented to the Board of Education. If the Board votes for the cancellations of these county tests, then MCPS will install new ways of assessing the students' progress.

So far, the Board of Education has found that students in neighboring counties don't take semester exams, but have mandatory marking period assessments which could include projects or tests that would be scored consistently throughout the whole county. The board won't make a final decision until the end of October; however, they are asking staff members, parents, and teacher to submit their ideas about the proposal before October 19.

Sophomore Jason McFadden attends Quince Orchard where this decision could have a major impact on his future academics.

McFadden believes

"Many colleges and universities are changing the way they do assessments and some have even gotten rid of final exams"

—Rebecca Smondrowski

students are "just memorizing everything" instead of actually "learning the material so they can perform well on the exam." He goes on by adding, "I think exams are a joke to begin with because you can get a C and still have an A in the class"; however, that only applies if the student earns an A both quarters. When asked about the possible positive outcomes to approving the proposition, McFadden said, "It would be a huge sigh of relief and would put an end to all the chaos that comes with studying and preparing for [semester exams]."

Rebecca Smondrowski, the chair of the Board's Special Populations committee and a member of the Policy Management committee, believes semester exam elimination "will give our teachers more time to provide instruction and support. The marking period assess-

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New security system in place

By **LAKSHMI SHYAMAKRISHNAN**
News Editor

The 2015-2016 school year is now underway, and the students are beginning to get accustomed to the new security system, which has been automatically locking the entrances to the school immediately after 7:45 a.m., the new scheduled start time for the county's high schools. The system was set in place by the school board of MCPS to ensure the safety of the students and staff during the school day. It consists of not only the door-locking initiative, but also the tardy log and, of course, the colorful bathroom passes roaming through the hallways.

So far, though it is still early to say, the line of students waiting outside the school for it to open has decreased significantly from previous years. Students are getting used to the new bell

schedule – which has pushed back start times by twenty minutes – and now manage to show up on time for class.

Students and staff are reacting to the new system in different ways. Assistant Principal Joshua Neuman-Sunshine, in charge of the student attendance/tardy initiatives within the school, believes the new system to be effective, though he admitted it was going to take time for the stats to be definitive. "Quince Orchard High School, MCPS, is all about analyzing data," Neuman-Sunshine said. "So in due time we'll have our data and see if it truly does work."

Although students seem to be adapting to the new policies, some of them aren't really up-to-date on why the system was installed in the first place. "The main purpose of having the doors locked is not to lock students out; it's to lock outsid-

ers out," Neuman-Sunshine said. "It's to prevent people from coming into the building that we would not otherwise want in the building."

Senior Anna Webster happens to agree with the MCPS policy, stating, "It's good because it'll motivate people to get here on time and keep dangerous people away." Junior Alexander Chase, while agreeing with the safety standards, is doubtful due to the after-school activities issue, with the doors locking sooner than expected after the last bell of the day. "It's kind of a pain when you're trying to re-enter the school later in the afternoon during an extracurricular and the doors lock on you," he says.

Security is a big issue concerning the schools nationwide, but within Quince Orchard, attendance is still important. The innovative

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News

Recent financial crises in Greece and China have impacted the world economy.

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PHOTO FROM AL JAZEERA

Features

Quince Orchard students reflect on the many "firsts" they have experienced this school year.

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PHOTO BY PATRICK PAOLINI

Sports

The varsity football team overcame an early loss to consolidate several key wins.

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PHOTO BY WILL HUSTED



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Quince Orchard High School

15800 Quince Orchard Road

Gaithersburg, MD

(301)840-4686

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EU struggles to keep border policy consistent

By **ANDY GOLDSTEIN**
Editor-in-Chief

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the forsaken; to give them concrete hope,” said the pontiff. He also condemned the actions of Slovakia, who said it would only open its borders to Christian refugees. Despite some unwilling members, several EU nations are offering aid, including Sweden, Norway, Britain, and France.

Two main factors, which are closely linked, have caused the majority of this displacement. In 2011, after weeks of public unrest, civil war broke out in Syria, as rebels attempted to topple Bashar Al-Assad’s forty-year regime. Unlike many other counterparts of the Arab Spring of revolution,

the Syrian Civil War did not end so soon. Going towards the fifth year of violence, the war has claimed more than 220,000 lives and displaced 11 million

“The Gospel calls on us to be closest to the smallest and the forsaken; to give them concrete hope.”

—Pope Francis

people. The Mercy Corps stated that the conflict is “the worst humanitarian crisis of our time.” Assad loyalist forces were recalled to other regions of the country to combat the many cleavages of rebel forces, creating a power vacuum in a region already destabilized by the previous decade’s U.S invasion of Iraq. This

power vacuum was quickly filled, as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) began to consolidate power in the region through quick military campaigns. As ISIS has pledged to exterminate the Shi’a denomination of Islam, and both Assad and ISIS have pledged to destroy the Kurds (an ethnic minority in the region),

many Syrians’ lives are put at risk simply for existing. Risking their lives to flee a war-torn homeland, millions of refugees plead for asylum from a Europe that is utterly unprepared and completely overwhelmed by the humanitarian crisis they must now face, as the E.U remains divided on how to handle the large influx of refugees.



PHOTO COURTESY OF INDIAN EXPRESS

ON THE BORDER: Hungarian border police turn fire hoses on Syrian refugees attempting to cross the border as spectators from world press organizations capture pictures and video.

Locked doors, tardy logs

By **LAKSHMI SHYAMAKRISHNAN**
News Editor

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‘tardy log’, implemented at the beginning of this 2015-2016 year, has teachers clamoring for more ways of ensuring their students’ punctuality. If students come late to class, their job is to sign the book with their name, date and time entering said class, and reason for tardiness, and afterwards would have to go to the main office to get a proper pass. Students, for obvious reasons, aren’t too thrilled about it. Junior Madison Wakefield believes it to be inefficient. “It just takes time away from learning if you have to go all the way to the office and back,” she says. Not only has the tardy log affected the students in class, but also the “10-minute” bathroom rule has students on the edge of their seats, counting down the minutes. Senior McKenzie McMahon states, “I don’t understand why they make us wait 10 minutes after class starts to go [to the bathroom]. If you have to go, you have to go.” The new rule is to ensure that the security system is functioning perfectly before allowing students to leave the safety of the classrooms. The administration of QO, as well as the school board members of MCPS, are more concerned with the safety of the schools after recent incidents, and consider that a priority to anything else. Safety, according to Neuman-Sunshine, “trumps education in the building,” so even though there have been a few complaints from students and parents alike, the administration is not willing to compromise anyone’s safety.

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Board considers new ideas

By **SOPHIE LANE**
News Editor

assessments will become real-time tools for assessing mastery and teachers will have a better chance to understand each child on an individual level”. Additionally, Smondrowski states that some believe students won’t be prepared for college however; she doesn’t think that will be a problem. “Many colleges and universities are changing the way they do assessments and some have even gotten rid of final exams”. Also, MCPS ensures student take many

tests which include: AP, IB, ACCUPLACER, PARCC assessments, SAT and ACT. Finally, Smondrowski expresses her final message; “I would ask the QO community to learn more about it on the MCPS website and share any thought they may have using the online forms” to the Quince Orchard family. She is proud to be a part of the QOHS community and wishes for every Cougar’s success.

A member of our MCPS staff, Debbie Freedman; a Wootton para-educator states the possible effects of this decision on her life, “I help proctor these ex-

ams and it is a large use of my time during finals week. If finals were eliminated, it’d allow me to have that time to help children in other ways.” Furthermore, Freedman explains how this will affect the school year as an educator, “it may increase the amount of material teachers cover”. Lastly, Freedman believes that by taking away semester exams “it will not help prepare students for test taking in college”.

Overall, the Board plans to invest their time to find a reasonable system to demonstrate student’s learning throughout their MCPS school journey.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARA O’CONNOR

COMPETITION: The Quince Orchard marching band has secured first place in several key competitions, giving hope the team hope of another state championship.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERNESTIEN SITANIAPESY

RECOGNITION: Senior Emmanuel Sitaniapessy was awarded the Harvard Book Prize for scholastic achievements.



MCPS student loses life in tragic train accident

Clarksburg HS honors memory of beloved student

By **DYLAN KEARNEY**
News Managing Editor

Many Montgomery County students have been mourning the loss at Clarksburg High School. John DeReggi, who was struck and killed by an Amtrak Train on September 14 was walking along the train tracks, taking photos with his girlfriend and her sister, when an Amtrak train came going 70 miles per hour down the track.

Clarksburg students and many other students around the county wore blue, the Clarksburg school color, to honor DeReggi. The school community was devastated by DeReggi's death. QO Student Cassidy Nottingham said her and some other people from their church went to a tribute at another church where they lit candles. "Losing a loved one is really hard, so it's important to help others going through something like this. It's like karma: you help others, and they will help you back."

What started as a regular day with friends turned into an awful event of a student losing his life. If you have planned on taking photos on a train track or have done so before, here are some precautionary warnings. A train track can be private property, and you could be fined for trespassing. It also takes a mile to stop a train when it is going full speed, and most likely, if a train has to stop, it will have trouble doing so. After you see a train leave, it is noted that you shouldn't go on the tracks right away. Trains come from many directions and a second train could eas-

"Kids aren't supposed to leave us at 16 years old."

- Stephen Whiting

ily be blocked by the one before it. Trains can also make less sound than people believe, but one signal to watch out for are red flashing lights, which mean a train is coming.

The Washington Post reported that students were able to see psychologists and counselors during the school week after they heard about the news. An event like this is very impactful on everyone in the community, with schools involved as well as friends and family. In an article by WUSA, Clarksburg High School Principle Stephen Whiting explained that, "It was a somber day...kids aren't supposed to leave us at 16 years old." With the impact of this horrific event, many people have been showing support for his friends, family and the community and have also been sharing stories of why he was such a "smart, hardworking person." (WUSA).

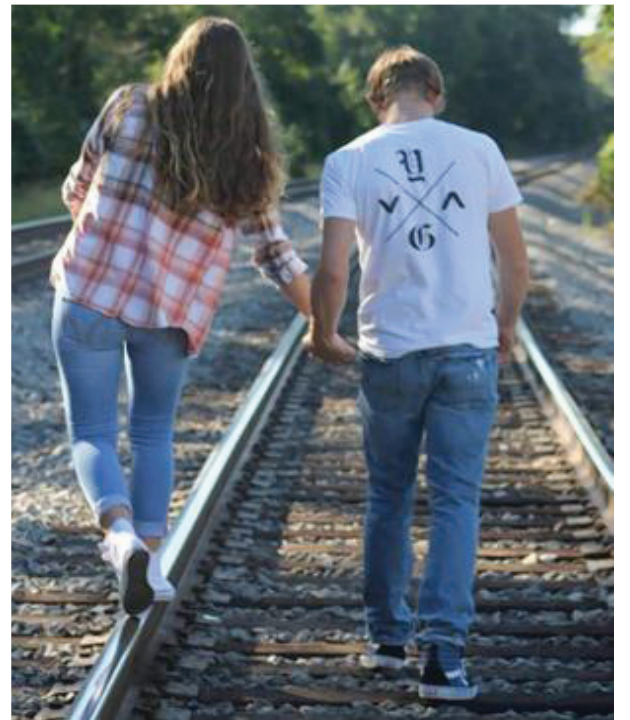


PHOTO COURTESY OF NYDAILYNEWS.COM
JOHN DEREGGI ON TRAIN TRACKS: DeReggi was photographing for a school project with his girlfriend.

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New start time causes stir throughout QOHS

By **ANNA GOOREVICH**
News Managing Editor

This school year, QO students, along with the rest of MCPS high schoolers, have been granted an extra 20 minutes of sleep. While most students cherish the extra snooze time, this delay has resulted in unexpected consequences, causing students to question whether the new start times were worth all the controversy.

Lack of sleep for high schoolers is a noted problem throughout the country. With students these days being occupied by homework, studying, extracurricular activities, and jobs, it is almost impossible to get the CDC-recommended nine to ten hours of sleep every night. Consequently, many students are exhausted in their classes, resulting in lower test scores and academic performance. MCPS set out to improve this problem with the new start times, hoping to extend student sleep time and increase academic achievement.

At first, not all students expected the start times to have negative effects. Junior Ben Tittle was originally eager to sleep in. "Initially, I thought that I would like being able to wake up 20 minutes later," said Tittle. As the year progresses, Tittle now realizes that the new start times may not be effective at all. "Now I just feel like I go to sleep 20 minutes later, so it makes no difference."

Freshman Madison Mills was also eager to have the later start time this year. "I was overall excited because, since I have a sister

who has gone to QO for two years, I know how early you're supposed to wake up," said Mills. "I was happy to hear about the time difference even if it was just 20 minutes." Similar to Tittle, Mills also feels that the new start times weren't anything to get excited about. "I still get the same amount of sleep

that I got before," added Mills, "and students that I've witnessed have still been tired."

For most students, the main area where they have seen changes are in after-school activities. Athlete and junior Abby Potter feels that the new start times have only made things worse. "The twenty-minute delay has really

made sports practices more difficult for me and my teammates," said Potter. "Due to the change, my teammates and I have less time to get ready and cannot always start practice on time." Potter has also observed that the 20 minute delay leaves less time for homework and studying. "Since the new times push sports back, it means there is less time for homework and even less time for sleep."

Surprisingly, even teachers have been affected by the delay. English teacher Jamie Andrews has many complaints about the new schedule. "Leaving 20 minutes later in the morning means that I hit more traffic," said Andrews. "Since we get out 20 minutes later, I lose twenty minutes in the afternoon for work." Andrews also asserts that she doesn't feel more energetic or lively in the mornings due to the change, but actually feels more tired.

Now that students have experienced the new start times for themselves, many feel that the results may not be what MCPS promised they would be. Few report getting more sleep, and most students believe that their academic performances haven't improved from a mere 20 minutes. "I just hope and hope and hope that MCPS will go back to the old times next year," adds Andrews, "My question is, why are students not sleeping? Why are they tired? Homework? Social media/phones?...Sports?"

Overall, students and staff have commented that the lack of sleep may not be an issue of hours spent in bed, but that making sure those hours correlate with the amount of activity students participate in throughout the day.



PHOTO BY PATRICK PAOLINI

DELAYED OPENING: Students now enter school 20 minutes later, with hopes of gaining a few more hours of shut-eye, but what are the real effects of this change?

Chinese economy faces stagnation, Greece crippled by debt

By **MATTHEW LOWINGER**
News Editor

This summer was an active period for the stock markets and economic activity. The European bailout of Greece and China's stagnating economy both have and will impact us in the United States.

The big topic of discussion this summer was Greece. The country in Southern Europe became a part of the Eurozone in 2001. This means that Greece became the last country to adopt the Euro. In order to join the Eurozone, Greece "had to demonstrate it had achieved 'economic convergence' with the other Eurozone members – a requirement meant to ensure that different countries would not jeopardize the common currency," according to CNN.

In 2004, a new prime minister came into power. Prime Minister Konstantinos Karamanlis discovered that the budget deficit was, in fact, 5.5 percent higher than he expected. Karamanlis had to then decide how to combat rising inflation and unemployment. In 2010, the Greek government and the Eurozone made a bailout agreement of 110 million euros

(about \$125 million U.S. dollars) in order to relieve Greece from the extra stress. The European economy hoped the bailout would be enough country afloat. Although Greece was given a sizable amount of money, debt and unemployment remain rampant.

As time progressed, rioting increased and unemployment reached an all-time high of 30%, while youth unemployment peaked at 50%. In June, according to CNN, "Greece defaulted on a repayment to the International Monetary Fund. The banks started to run out of money. Capital controls were introduced, limiting the amount of money people could withdraw each day. Sizable debt continues to cripple Greece's economy as the country struggles to recover.

Over the past couple of years, China has witnessed rapid inflation. This is a result of the 2014 slash in interest rates. Because of the slash in interest rates, more money is put into the economy because it costs less to borrow money. The Chinese bank commented on the rapid inflation, stating, "the reduction was intended to correct a situation in which lower prices were in effect raising financing costs for businesses," according to the Wall Street Journal.

Asia's largest economy is officially stalling. Johanna Chua, the head of Asian economies and market analysis at CitiGroup said, "We haven't really seen any stabilization for growth in China yet." Every aspect of the economy is on a downward spiral: imports, exports, consumer price index, and more.

If an economy is struggling (in this case Greece and/or China), it can affect the rest of the world. China will need to fix their inflation rates soon, or risk a major economic recession. In Greece, the government must start to pay back its debt, or else recovery will remain out of reach.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AFP

TROUBLED TIMES: Riots have been a commonality in Greece, young people take to the streets and the unemployment rate continues to remain at an abysmal level.

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Which should be the center of attention?

By DANIELLE PASEKOFF
Features Managing Editor

Food, shopping, and friends! Oh my! The Quince Orchard area is full of shopping centers, each of which has its unique atmosphere and audience. From old developments to newer ones, these areas always seem to be filled with familiar Cougar faces. Students have their own strong opinions on which shopping center is best, but it's time to settle this debate. Between Kentlands, Rio, and Crown, which one will end up on top?

The Kentlands has been a longtime favorite of students for a multitude of reasons. The Kentlands was built in the early 1990s and soon became the place we know and love today. Junior Camille Booth prefers the Kentlands because "it is more convenient with [her] location." The shopping complex has many shops and restaurants close to one another, which adds to the appeal of the area. "I like how you can walk everywhere," Booth added. In the Kentlands, there is something for everyone. From their popular restaurants to the movie theater and live music, there's never a dull moment. "I like the Thai restaurant, and Yoyogi's [sushi]," Booth said. "Chipotle's always great as well." Even though Kentlands is a crowd-pleaser for most, there are a

few individuals who appreciate a different, newer scene.

The Downtown Crown development recently opened in the fall of 2014, and has gained lots of attention for its upscale restaurants and modern environment. One

scale than other nearby shopping centers, but there are still a few fan favorites that are hidden in the mix. "My favorite place is Smashburger," Hagan says. Although the Crown area is a hit among students and adults alike, there are still a

Crown has gained much-earned recognition and is a huge asset to the community.

Crown may be great, but just across the street is a classic shopping center everyone already knows—the Rio Washingtonian

family. "I usually go to a restaurant with family or friends to celebrate a special occasion," she says. The Rio has a large amount of shops, but is not limited to just clothing stores and restaurants. There is also a Target, Kohl's, and Barnes and Noble conveniently located for everyone's enjoyment. "At Target I can find many necessities that aren't available [at other stores]," Lu says, but "I would like Rio to have more popular clothing stores that are found at the mall," she adds.

A common theme among these shopping centers is the fact that they are very popular hangout spots among Cougars and their friends. In Kentlands, "I just kinda hangout with friends... and we go to a friends house... or see a movie," Booth says.

Lu adds, "My friends and I always have nights where we dress up fancy and walk around [Rio] after dinner."

No matter where you and your friends like to go, you can almost always bet there will be more Cougars around as well. Lu "almost always see[s] someone from QO" when she goes to the Rio, and Booth spots fellow students and friends in the Kentlands "pretty much all the time." Whether you prefer the Kentlands, Downtown Crown, or the Rio, you are bound to have a great time, and you can decide for yourself which shopping center is the best.



PHOTO BY ALEXIS KIM

No matter how many times you go, the Kentlands manages to keep their comforting atmosphere ripe with new stores and restaurants.

of Crown's enthusiasts is freshman Noah Hagan, who visits the plaza frequently. "I go about two to three times a week," he says. From Ted's Bulletin to Ruth's Chris Steak House, the restaurant options in Crown are more up-

few things in the development that will take some getting used to. The layout of the shops and restaurants is "not easy to [walk] through and makes traffic confusing," Hagan adds. As a new addition to the QO community,

Center, or "Rio" for short. With its movie theater, lake, waterfront restaurants, and a plethora of shops, the Rio is a force to be reckoned with. For senior Daya Lu, the Rio is a great place to spend time with friends and

Netflix: A Horror Story

By JACOB CORNBLATT
Features Managing Editor

Ah, the movie theater. A home to some, a sanctuary to others, and a place to go on an awkward first date for most.

For about a century now, movie theaters—or as those who want to sound intellectual call it, cinemas—have held some of the most important moments in pop culture: when the planets aligned in *2001: A Space Odyssey*, when Alvy Singer panicked over the lobster in *Annie Hall*, or even when Miley faced a sense of panic in *Hannah Montana: The Movie*. But recently, a new threat has been troubling our beloved theaters... the stone-cold grasp of Netflix.

In March of this year, Netflix purchased the rights for \$12 million to a new feature-length film titled *Beasts of No Nation* starring Idris Elba (the guy who is "too street" to play James Bond). The film follows a child forced to be soldier in an unnamed part of Africa—therefore, in essence, *Beasts* is the epitome of an Academy Awards movie. Netflix, of course, will be releasing this movie in theaters on the same day it is released on their streaming service; so obviously, very few will actually see it in theaters.

With *Beasts of No Nation*, cinemas are expected to lose boatloads of serious cash, as they won't make back what they spent obtaining the rights to show the film. This wouldn't be a big issue if it was just one movie, but it's not. Netflix has at least three more films to be released in the next year (and, if this succeeds, other streaming

services will follow as well).

Netflix is a villain straight out of a Hitchcock movie: a well-disguised murderer. Cinemas, as if they weren't having enough trouble already, are going to start dropping like flies as more streaming services such as Netflix expand their grasp, yet very few have been acknowledging this simple fact. One prime example of this was Toronto International Film Festival, who premiered this film in early September, causing many theater-owners to be majorly insulted. The only way this could possibly be worse would be if the Empire from *Star Wars* reformed to bring theaters down.

Toronto International Film Fest is proof that while Netflix is slowly destroying the movie theater industry, Hollywood—who should be supporting the theaters—is helping them! And unfortunately, we can boycott *Beasts of No Nation* all we want, but Netflix will inevitably win when, time after time again, they buy more rights and release more films.

Enjoy every movie you see in cinemas from here to eternity, because chances are, your descendants won't be able to explore the same luxury. In fact, don't just enjoy it...savor it, because as Netflix and its streaming service followers begin to take over, you won't realize how much you'll miss sitting in a big, uncomfortable chair eating overpriced popcorn while watching the beauty of the movies fly over your head.

VIEWPOINT

Enemy lines crossed *Northwest apparel sold in Safeway*

By WILL HUSTED
Double Truck Managing Editor

There are many different ways that businesses try to assist the community, such as supporting local schools. The Gaithersburg Safeway right across from Quince Orchard High School wittingly made a decision that may cost them some business. The grocery store has put out a display selling Northwest High School apparel.

As many know, there is a strong rivalry between Quince Orchard and Northwest that has been intensified over the last few years. While the schools are only separated by 4.5 miles, the close proximity adds to the hostility.

Junior Dana Freedman tweeted a picture of the apparel, bringing attention to the problem. She highlighted the fact that "It [the North West display] could cause longtime shoppers to switch to other stores for their groceries." This perception of the local eye is very big for this chain and they may want to work on rebuilding that trust with the community.

Now, one might ask, who is responsible for this distribution of product onto enemy lines? You may be surprised to hear that it was not the Northwest Booster Club but an outside private company called My Town Originals that uses school's logos,

distorts them slightly, and sells them in local businesses for a profit.

Some believe this business technique ought to be outlawed or regulated due to the loss of revenue to school booster clubs, which gets a lot of their funding from selling school apparel. This importance is highlighted by QO Booster Club President Cindy Cresser, "Spirit wear generates much needed funds that allow us [the Booster Club] to support QO" adding "Last year the Booster Club raised \$72,000" to "support sports teams...and a number of clubs." Much of these needed funds would not be available without the sale of original spirit wear.

My Town Originals has no affiliation with any of the schools it represents. Not too "original" if you ask me. More examples of the fake merchandise can be seen in the Germantown Modell's, where Seneca Valley and even our own Quince Orchard merchandise is sold without Booster Club permission.

While these businesses may not be aware they are hurting schools and creating a stir in the community, it is their responsibility to take action and stop companies like My Town Original from selling fake merchandise in their stores.

HOW THE COUGAR DOME BECAME OUR HOME

By **WILL HUSTED**

Double-Truck Managing Editor

It's been described as bedlam, mayhem, and borderline insanity. The enthusiasm of an entire student body backing a shared passion, bringing people together and exciting a community, is a spectacle not seen in most schools. This experience is, of course, The Red Army.

While most students at QO experience the thrill of their student body for four years, the first time being in The Red Army as a freshman is said to be one of the best days a student will have. As a freshman, you've seen the pictures and heard the stories, but you may still have misconceptions and doubts, that is, until you are in the stands minutes before game

time, with your close friends packed together due to the size of the fanbase, and you realize what everyone has been talking about.

It soon becomes clear that it is your duty to scream as loud as you can. As Red Army General senior Cameron Wilcox states "The cheers need to be as loud as possible and on time." This immense support from people who collectively believe in what they're doing and who they're supporting makes for a unique experience that is unrivaled in high school sports.

The best thing about is that it is comprised of people that have different interests, looks, personalities, race and ethnic backgrounds but that none of that matters once you are in the stands a part of a greater whole.

The Red Army is more than just a fan base, it's a tradition. Former leader of the Red Army and current student at Virginia Tech Sam Farragher comments, "It's more than just a group of people being there, it's a community coming together" and that he will remember the "energy and intensity" for the rest of his life. Bringing that "energy and intensity" falls on the shoulders of the underclassmen. This fierce support has been catching on in other local schools such as Damascus High School where they have their student section "The Swarm." Damascus Senior Brody Brown states "We definitely try to make our student section as loud as possible to support the [team]." Learning traditions, making them

your own, and creating a better environment of support and spirit than when you came on that first day of school is crucial to the future of The Red Army.

Having so many people in one space requires a certain etiquette that must be followed. ALWAYS know what color to wear. Sure, it might be the Red Army, but there are exceptions and, unless you feel like taking off your shirt and getting painted, I suggest you ask a friend what to wear to the game. And do not be the person in the back of the picture wearing neon. That is just tragic.

Next, know when to cheer and when not to cheer, and always remember to listen to the people in front of you for what cheer we are about to do.

Generally, do most of the cheers three times. Sit with your class. Period. Also, try not to fall on too many people when you sit down and stand up after the team scores a touchdown, no one wants to be sat on, trust me.

Lastly you have to be "Red." Of course, come out with your face painted ready to cheer on the best team in the state, but also have the mindset of being "Red." This means giving up your voice for the night, jumping up and down as "Enter Sandman" pulses through the stadium and walking up to the Cougar Dome with nothing but exhilaration in your blood. Being in The Red Army is about being a part of something that is bigger than you and supporting your community and classmates in their chosen paths.

DOs AND DON'Ts OF FRESHMAN YEAR

By **BRITTANY MILLS**

Double-Truck Managing Editor

DOs

- "Listen to seniors" - Kyle Jameson (Red Army general)
- Come to ALL football games.
- Scream as loud as you can in the Red Army – you're not supposed to have your voice on Saturday mornings.
- "Learn the fight song" - Mrs. Working
- "Participate in Spirit week" - Cameron Wilcox (Red Army general)
- "Get to know all your teachers" - Mrs. Haase (science teacher)
- "Work hard and keep your GPA high – freshman year counts" – all seniors
- Join *The Prowler*.
- Know that the back of the Red Army is your permanent spot during freshman year.
- Use the 4th floor pool.
- Enjoy high school – it goes by quickly.

DON'Ts

- "Listen to sophomores" - Kyle Jameson
- Be on your phone during the football games
- "Mess with your principal" - Mrs. Working
- "Be 'that person' who doesn't wear red to the football games" - Kyle Jameson
- Block the hallways because you stop to hug every friend you have.
- "Start your own Red Army chants" - Patrick Paolini
- Complain about homework – it only gets harder.
- Go into the senior hallway.
- "Date seniors...That's nasty" - Sam Kirsch
- Text and walk – it can wait.
- Be friends with Northwest.

VIEWPOINT

Senior Expectations versus Reality

By **PAIGE MIRKIN**

Editor-in-Chief

This year is going to be full of 'first of lasts' for us seniors. Your expectations are probably pretty high for senior year: I know mine are. My friends and I even use the excuse "It's senior season!" to convince one another to do something. Sometimes, though, your expectations don't line up with reality. After about a month under my belt as a senior, I can confidently confirm that I initially had my hopes up too high.

Expectation: Underclassmen listen to you because you're a senior.

I took my turn when I was an underclassmen to listen to the seniors, so I thought we'd get the same treatment back.

Reality: When I told a group of freshmen to move out of the spot where my friends and I stand at the end of the day, they stared at me like I had three heads. And proceeded to stand in my spot!

Expectation: I finally won't be late to school since I'll get a good parking spot!

I spent my entire junior year parking so far back in the parking lot it would've been closer to walk over from Dunkin' Donuts across the street. Especially with that uproar last fall about juniors taking good parking spots, I thought it'd be my turn to snag the good spots.

Reality: The best parking spot I got was on the first day of school. And I wouldn't even described that spot as "good."

Expectation: I'll be getting accepted to college ASAP, so who cares about school?

With all the time spent over the summer slaving over college applications, I expected to be accepted at least one place early in the school year. Nope, the first one comes December 9.

Reality: I have to do all my schoolwork if I want to get accepted anywhere.

Expectation: I'm 17, I have a car, I'm a senior. Parties this year are going to be crazy and my parents will take away my curfew!

My junior year consisted of going to senior parties. When my grade finally became seniors, we'd have parties too, right?

Reality: I've sat at home every Saturday night with my squad eating Cheez-its and Oreos from my pantry.

Expectation: I'm going to become less dependent on my mom. I'm going to be away at college in a year! I need to learn to be an independent person.

This is my mom's 12th school year of making my lunches and doing everything for me. I should probably learn to do it myself...?

Reality: No, I shouldn't. I only have a year left of this, so I should probably take advantage of it.

Expectation: Homework? What's that? Seniors don't get homework?

Seriously. It's my year to relax isn't it?

Reality: AP Human Geography? More like AP HOMEWORK.

I'm sure this year will become easier. I'm expecting school to go from 100-0 real quick once I get that first acceptance letter. Wait, there it is again--the senior year expectations I will shortly learn to replace with reality.

VIEWPOINT

The reality of seniors' first college apps

By **BELLA ROBERTS**

Editor-in-Chief

My first college app, which still isn't done, played through my mind like a TV show. (This day-dreaming is probably the reason that application still isn't done.) My college application process has become a perpetual comparison between TV shows and my life.

Keeping up with the Kardashians: This is me in my essays. I want colleges to think I'm so talented, despite any lack of skills.

The Bachelor: I want colleges to think that I'M choosing THEM instead of resigning myself to a pre-determined fate.

Survivor: I want colleges to think my process is a breeze when I rally feel like I'm stranded on an island.

Real Housewives: I want colleges to think I'm rich and famous. In reality, I need lots of scholarships.

Dancing With The Stars: I want to seem like I've met ALL the coolest people. For example, I want to seem like I have a blessing from the Pope, when in reality the pope just made his way through DC in his Fiat and created traffic, blocking me from the airport.

X-Factor: I want any factors to prevent colleges from giving me an X.

Beyond Scared Straight: I think I can do everything on my own, but I need counselors and teachers to yell at me and scare me straight.

I wish college applications were this entertaining...I should go back to working now.



VIEWPOINT

The Extra 20 Minutes Debate

By **BEN PALMER***Viewpoints Editor*

I know all of you are aware (those who weren't were enlightened when they showed up to school 20 minutes early the first day) that thanks to Obama, er, I mean MCPS, the school day has been moved up by 20 minutes.

I'm sure you've all heard the complaints by students and parents about how the new schedule does not improve their sleep, messes up their schedule, or causes a rift in the fabric of reality. You won't have to plow through all those boring arguments, as I'll be focusing on the positives of the whole thing.

You see, now that we have 20 extra minutes in the morning, we might as well put them to good use and enrich our lives. I used to use these extra minutes for sleeping (and a whole lot of good that's done), but, when coming up with this plan, I too felt the desire to do something good with my life. Let's start with a simple task. As I pointed out earlier, many of you are not too enthused with the new schedule. If the old schedule made your lives so much easier, then why not petition Montgomery County to change it back?

Please refrain from making any threats, though, since if you do I'll be forced to write an article condemning you and we'll both be very sad.

You could also do your homework in the extra time, but I know you're better than putting it off like that. Even though you obviously did your homework last night, the morning is still ripe for academics. Why not use that time to write an earth-shattering novel? The fact that no one has ever done that before doesn't mean it's impossible, it just means that nobody has the same creative drive as you. Look, I did it too:

Once upon a time, there lived a frog who slept on a hundred mattresses, causing him to be put in a 42-year sleep. Afterwards, he was stuffed in a glass slipper and went on a mission to fight the great lord Donald Trump.

It's not perfect, but with a little tweaking this story can become the #1 children's bestseller. Critics will be raving, schools will ban it, and soon I'll become a household name. What's not to like?

My final idea is the most ambitious of all, and you should refrain from

doing it unless you are truly brave in heart. Most complaints about start times revolve around students being too tired to function, and everyone knows the best way to energize yourself is to exercise! However, the only fact more obvious than that is that early-morning jogging is terrible. With 20 extra minutes, though, you can do greater things than a brief run. First, grab an energizing instrument like a bugle, harmonica, or accordion. Then, drag your friends, siblings, and uncle Fred out of bed and start a parade down the street. As your neighbors hear the soulful and melodious tunes of your parade, they'll instantly leap out of bed and join you. Soon, the entire student body will be marching to school, ready for another exciting day of learning which wouldn't have been possible without these extra 20 minutes. Please note that if you try this very effective plan, I am not responsible for any angry mobs or police officers you may run into.

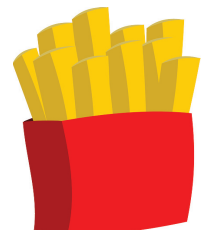
Those are three possible things you could do before the school day, but are by no means the only possibilities. Now imagine what we could do if they push the school day back by an hour!



20 Ways to Ask Your Best Pal to Homecoming

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

- 1) Dress in a suit and buy lily flowers. Say "Be the Lilly to my Marshall and suit up with me at homecoming!"
- 2) Make a fake presidential campaign. "Going to homecoming with you would Trump any other date!" (Bonus points: actually run for president)
- 3) Take your white van to their house. Add a sign that says "PEST CONTROL" visibly to the outside. Have your friends lay around the van and pretend to be dead. Say "I got rid of all the other pests that wanted to ask you to homecoming!"
- 4) Rent an airplane for a night. Sing "Can we pretend that airplanes in the night sky are like shooting stars, I could really use a wish right now-To take you to homecoming!"
- 5) Send a fake college acceptance letter that says they only get in if they go to homecoming with you. Bonus Points: actually getting them accepted into college!
- 6) The Pope was in town this month. Ask him on Twitter to come and give you a blessing for homecoming.
- 7) Give them a fried chicken corsage. Say "Don't be a chicken, go to homecoming with me!"
- 8) Use the new Snapchat filters to make a collage. Write "Sorry I have no filter, homecoming?" BONUS POINTS: Have one of the photos be with the rainbow vomit filter and say "This is what happens when I look at you!"
- 9) Come up with a new idea for Apple that's more ridiculous than the Apple pencil. Market the idea, then become rich and make the idea the new fad. Hand them a prototype and say "Don't worry, trends come and go, but you're like the original iPod: priceless."
- 10) Leave coffee for them in every class. At the end of the day, say "Going to homecoming with you would make me as excited as you are on all this caffeine!"
- 11) Go on a romantic stroll. Have a sumo wrestler come from behind and tackle you. Scream "Not going to homecoming with you would hurt just as much!"
- 12) Throw a fake homecoming exactly like the real one. Make sure it's miserable. Go up to them and say "See, going with me would be a lot better!"
- 13) Throw garbage at your potential date. Then say "I think it's a bunch of garbage to have to do dumb things like this to ask you to homecoming!"
- 14) Build a giant pillow fort. Ask them inside. No pun, because who doesn't love pillow forts?
- 15) Go to a farm. Ask, "Is your dad a farmer? Cause you're a flower!"
- 16) Laugh while making eye contact until they ask what's so funny. Respond with "I just thought about a joke I'm gonna tell you at homecoming. Wanna hear it then?"
- 17) Put Netflix on in a room of fake snow. Ask "Wanna do something other than Netflix and chill and go to homecoming?"
- 18) Send them on a scavenger hunt. Only instead of clues, make it so they are wandering around and confused. After they give up, say "You don't need a hint to know I want to ask you to homecoming!"
- 19) Buy a house model, and then put it on a skateboard and bring it around with you all day. When they ask why you have it, respond "Homecoming?" (Bonus Points: buy them an actual house)
- 20) Buy tons of French fries and cover a couch with them. Say "Don't be a couch potato, go to homecoming with me!" Bonus points: Get the dipping sauces.





Boys and girls soccer teams shoot for postseason success

By **DAVID SUGGS**
Sports Managing Editor

Ahh, autumn has arrived! As the leaves morph into a crimson disposition, the boys and girls soccer teams have begun their trek towards their respective challenges.

The boys team, led by coach Kevin Gnatiko, has gotten off to a rampant start this season, winning each of their first three games, including a riveting overtime victory against defending state champions Whitman. Last year's team, led by former seniors Kevin

fall to Gaithersburg on penalties.

Despite the loss, the experience gained by the team has been vital to their preparation for this upcoming year. Junior Alex Martinez elaborated, saying, "We have learned to always expect the unexpected and to stay humble."

"We learned that we're going to work hard [during] the season and we'll be ready in the playoffs," added junior Abdel Tarek.

Regardless of this experience, it is admittedly difficult to go through such a long season, especially in such a physically and mentally grueling sport

"We are looking to make a long run in playoffs."

-Alex Martinez

Hwang, Micah Levey, Greg Burnham, and Bruno Van der Laan, was able to exceed many expectations during Gnatiko's first full season with the team, getting to the regional finals only to

as soccer. However, the team, in the words of Martinez, is "taking each game as the state championship," trying not to put too much pressure on themselves, as each game is essential to accomplishing their



PHOTO COURTESY OF REBECCA BOYD

ONE, TWO, THREE, COUGARS: *The girls soccer team huddles before they break to face their opponents on the field.*

goals of winning the state title. Another essential component of the team's expected excellence is fan support, which has been relatively light compared to sports such as football and basketball.

"[We are] looking to make a long run into playoffs, and a larger fan base is crucially needed," Martinez said. "With the cheer of the loud fans, we work harder for each other

to achieve our goal. So there is no doubt that we need more people at our games." Nevertheless, the boys soccer team looks to be on its way to yet another outstanding season, as well as a potentially prolonged postseason.

The girls soccer team has gotten off to a difficult start this season, but, following a 3-1 victory against Gaithersburg, the season still looks promising for our

Cougars. The team, coached by Peg Keiller, has shown a certain resilience over the past few seasons and looks to get right back on track over the next few games. Following a disappointing end to last season at the hands of Northwest, the team looks to respond with a successful campaign this year. Led by seniors Jessa Toone, Karley Hampton, and Francesca D'Cruz, the Cougars look to

aim high, especially following the departure of key seniors such as Sam Sullenger, Ricki Shultz, and Stephi Shin. Junior goalkeepers Patty Dirlam and Katie Ericson look to supply stability between the posts, while junior Abby Potter and sophomore Amber Argubie head the fearsome quartet that is the defense. Midfielders Toone, D'Cruz, and junior Brittany Mills look to provide defensive

support for the center-halves and full backs, as well as much needed service for the forwards, composing of junior Jamie Fink, sophomore Jenna Kase and senior Hampton, who will assuredly finish off their chances. With all that being said, the Cougars look prepared to burst out and get some winning results. Simply put, don't be surprised if both the boys and girls teams are duking it out in the postseason.

Field hockey's quest for redemption

By **PATRICK PAOLINI**

Sports Managing Editor

With the heart-wrenching loss in the final seconds to Bethesda Chevy-Chase in the state semifinals last season, the Quince Orchard field hockey team looks to bounce back in an attempt to repeat their run at states.

The start of a new season always brings the necessity of a new team. Newly named senior captains Megan Samuels and Regina Wingate, plus junior captain Skylar Saffer, have a huge hole to fill with the loss of four starting seniors. However big that

hole may be, Wingate believes that "even though we are a different team from last year, we have developed a different game plan that will enable our team to succeed."

This season's state championship is a far-off sight, but Samuels says, "I believe that we can make it to the state championship game if we play together and focus on our basics." Samuels also added that "these games are not handed to us, we need to work for them." The girls have played five games so far and, as of the Prowler's deadline,

the girls have played two more games against Northwood High School and Northwest High School.

With a record of 2-1-0, they seem to be optimistic in their chances to reach the state championship. Saffer said, "We need to play it game by game, so far I feel very positive about how we have been playing as a team, yet there is always room for improvement." Saffer also added that, "Only hard work can prepare us for playoffs and that is what we plan on doing, so that we are one-hundred percent ready for playoffs."

The girls team has three regular season games yet to be played and, with the motivation to finish the season strong, the team will be looking to achieve victory.

How the team finishes the season will influence their playoff position, but with the team's determination to repeat and surpass their run in playoffs last season, their placement will not matter. The team will be looking to the new leadership of Wingate, Samuels, and Saffer to lead them to the finals. If the team continues to work and play together, they will achieve victory.



PHOTO COURTESY OF REGINA WINGATE

Junior captain Skylar Saffer eyes her competition as she races to gain possession of the ball.

Cross country's path to victory

By **SHAYNE CARVER**

Sports Editor

The Quince Orchard boys and girls cross country teams have set their mark in competing as one of the strongest teams in the county for this season.

Both teams are off to a great start, training with each other since the first week of summer. "Our team got together over the summer and trained just about every weekday," said senior Christopher Nyborg. "It was a lot of work, but it got us in great shape for the season." As their season approached, they dedicated all their hard work towards qualifying for states.

The boys finished last year's season with a record of 4-1. With this great record, they're still hungry for more. "There's always room for improvement. We're never satisfied," said Christian McCann.

The girls team fought hard during the 2014 season but ended with a 0-5 record. "We aren't going to let last year's record define our upcoming season," senior Megan McDan-

ald said. "Our team is new and improved and we really have something to compete for." The girls team looks to use last season's results to motivate them throughout the season.

While the cross country team lacks the depth that they've had in recent years, many look up to senior run-

ner Liam Walsh, one of the top runners in the state. Junior Wyatt McCabe said, "Liam is one of the strongest runners I've ever seen. He consistently leads the team in races and in practice." A great leader on and off the track, Walsh is sure to get maximum effort out of his teammates.

A veteran runner, Walsh is very excited for the season. The race he looks forward to the most is the Northwest meet. "There's always a great rivalry between Quince Or-

chard and Northwest," Walsh said. "Both of our teams have some great runners, so it'll be a great competition."

As of press time, the QO boys have run in three division meets, with an overall record of 2-1. After losing to Wootton in the first meet of the season, they bounced back,

"I am super proud of the way the girls performed."

-Katie Coulson

defeating Poolesville and Paint Branch with nearly perfect scores. The girls team has a record of 1-2, but they are improving from last year's record. They also placed second out of 11 girls teams at Track'n Trail. "I'm super proud of the way the girls performed," senior Katie Coulson said.

With two great cross country teams filled with talent and high expectations, they should have no problem competing as one of the better teams in the county.



QO's pride and joy cruises through early season

By **SAM KIRSCH**
Editor-in-Chief

Often considered the pride and joy of Quince Orchard, the varsity football team is dominating their opponents early this season, clearing up any doubts about their ability to strive for another state championship.

The team is coming off an exciting 2014 season, where they fell to Northwest in the playoffs with a final record of 10 wins and two losses. Though much of the team is returning, the drastic changes are obvious to the Red Army, the most prominent of which is the new starting quarterback, sophomore Kendall "Doc" Bonner.

Now in his second season at the helm, head coach John Kelley is leading a team set on winning another state championship. With such lofty expectations in mind, the team did not start off the season as expected, falling to Damascus 39-17 in a week one defeat, where they allowed four touchdowns to opposing running back senior Jake Funk. However, one loss does not define a season, and, in the case of our football team, it has only added more fuel to the fire. "It was a disappointing start and not what we were looking to do," said senior starting right guard Jack Hanson. "We were playing

flat, but this has definitely put a fire in our stomachs."

As expected, the sixth-ranked Cougars have exuded their dominance over the past three weeks

week by week. We have to win every other game that we have in order to achieve our goal... to win states."

While some may call this season, like any other

of our abilities and show the people who were doubting us what we are capable of."

In week three, the football team marched up Wootton Parkway and cruised back

offseason workouts, which included plenty of weight lifting and seven on seven games, progressively brought our team together," stated Kim. As team

but were playing with extra motivation following the loss of one of their own students. However, the game was anticlimactic at best, as QO easily won with a final score of 55-14. Though the team is riding a three-game win streak, the players remain modest. "Everyone just has to do their J-O-B," said Hanson.

Ward sympathized with Hanson on remaining hungry and not letting their team's flawless expectations get to their heads, saying, "We do have flaws, and we have things to work on if we want to be a great team."

It is common knowledge that every great team has an even better fan base. The Seattle Seahawks have the Twelfth Man, the Green Bay Packers have the cheese heads, and the Quince Orchard Cougars have a Red Army. "It's insane hearing the Red Army cheer on Friday nights," Kim stated. "It gets you so hyped."

The team expects stiff competition every week for the rest of the season, playing away against Gaithersburg on October 2 and trekking up to Churchill today, the latter of which should be an exciting game for spectators. With quality players and high hopes, Red Army members should make an effort to come out and support their football team as the regular season turns into the playoffs.



PHOTO BY WILL HUSTED

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

of the season. In the week two home opener, the team smacked Walter Johnson in a 61-11 victory, officially christening the brand new Red Army bleachers. Senior captain and starting fullback Easley Kim believed that "we are heading in the right direction and getting better

season, state championship or bust, other players have turned down these expectations to more moderate levels. "We just can't fall into the trap of complacency," said senior captain Maxwell Ward, the team's starting left guard. "We have to play to the best

home with a 41-0 shutout, raising their record to 2-1 on their quest to a state championship.

Experience has been another theme for this fall's team, with 14 of 22 starters returning. Though team chemistry was already in existence, "[our] everyday

chemistry, both on and off the field, is important in a taxing sport like football, camaraderie is always welcome.

The team faced Clarksburg at home in the fourth week of the season. The Coyotes are always viewed as solid competition,

Red Army gets upgraded with addition of new bleachers

By **JAMIE FINK**
Sports Managing Editor

Earlier this summer, the QO Athletic Department received enough money from Montgomery County Public Schools to build new bleachers in the Cougar Dome. The new features include handicap-accessible ramps, enclosed stairs, and more space for the Red

Awkard explained the need for the new stands. According to the Town Courier, Awkard stated that the fixes for the new bleachers "were very necessary and that the school had to wait a long time" as "the old bleachers were out of date." Safety became an issue because people continually dropped items, which fell through the cracks. The old bleachers also had no hand railings to get up and down,

whole game. Junior Drew Levine explained that "[he] like[d] the fact that [the bleachers are now] easily accessible for everyone."

Senior Red Army Generals Cameron Wilcox and Kyle Jameson have mixed emotions about the new addition. "Having all the space in the front is nice because it is easier to move around and get into the stands," said Wilcox. However, he also does not like

stands] allows the Red Army to make a whole lot of noise." There is no longer an area to stand next to the fence, which places the students further away from the field. Wilcox and Jameson dislike that the ramp is in front of the student section, which can make it difficult to see over people walking through during the game. Despite the mixed reviews, Jameson said that "[The Red Army] was really

because of the two sections," but he felt that the division created a lack of unity and cohesiveness for the Red Army because the seniors have a harder time leading the rest of the students.

Even with the new adjustment, the Red Army found a way to be successful in cheering on the QO football team in their first home game. The QO community is coming together and excited



PHOTO BY WILL HUSTED

JUMP AROUND: The Red Army breaks open the brand new bleachers by jumping around during the home game against CHS.

Army to stand. The construction took place in the second half of summer and was ready by the first home football game.

QO Athletic Director George

which became a challenge for some. However, these issues have been fixed and the new bleachers will be monitored by security and administrators throughout the

how the new bleachers separate the Red Army into two sections.

The capacity of the stands has not changed, but the layout has. Awkard reported that the "[new

loud" at the first home game versus Walter Johnson and the presence seemed larger. Agreeing with Jameson, Levine said, "the Red Army does feel bigger

about all the times they will spend in the stands. The Cougar Dome is officially underway for the fall sports and the Red Army is ready to rock the stands redder than ever!



Fall sports roundup: golf, tennis and girls volleyball teams strive for victory

By **LOGAN FEINGOLD**

Sports Managing Editor

After a long summer at the links, the varsity golf team is back in action. While last year's team depended on many seniors, this year's team is much more reliant upon its underclassmen. The team has had to work hard in order to compete against elite schools such as Churchill and Sherwood. The Cougars have been flexible in employing many different starting lineups. Team captain and junior Jordan Swick stated, "[The starting lineup] varied a little bit" between himself, juniors Austin King and Tyler Schwartz, sophomores Brandon King, Jack Faraone, Ryan Balow, Cameron Levine, and freshman Nick Politis. Swick also added, "We're very young. We still have a lot of improvement left to go. I think next year will be a big year for us."

Balow echoed Swick's sentiment, saying, "Our team is a very young squad with a lot of talent. We are getting closer and closer to a state championship."

The Cougars are gearing up for the district championships, where they will try to qualify for the State Championship at the University of Maryland, College Park, which take place October 26 through October 28. Be sure to come out and support the team as they make their way toward states!

The girls Varsity Tennis team has been working hard in practice to stay competitive on the court. So far this fall, the team has competed well against some of the top teams in Montgomery County and hopes to finish in the middle or top of Division II. One of the reasons for the team's improvement this year has been an increase in commitment. The doubles players have worked hard to become good singles players. Junior Laura Wagner noted a huge difference in "ability and dedication" compared to



PHOTO BY DAVID STRICKMAN

PERFECT FORM: Junior Daniela Gil, about to swing, practices in preparation for an upcoming match.

last year, which has helped them beat teams such as Damascus, a division rival.

Although senior Caroline O'Keefe was proud of the team for beating Damascus, she acknowledges that "some of [their] closest matches like Northwest and Einstein are yet to come." During practices, after dividing into groups of singles and doubles players, the team plays practice matches against each other and completes drills.

Wagner said "shot selection and the second serve" have been two main focuses of these drills. Despite some seniors graduating this year, O'Keefe was optimistic about the team gaining "a few valuable freshmen

players." These freshmen will keep the program strong and keep the team successful in the years to come.

The QO Girls Volleyball team is smashing and spiking their way to victory. In the team's game on September 16th, the girls beat Northwood 2-1. Despite having no seniors, team captain and junior Desiree Dietz "expects [the team] to have a winning season this year" and thinks the team "[has] lots of potential." The team participated in several scrimmages, workouts, practices, and tournaments during the offseason in order to stay competitive. One important part of volleyball is team chemistry, as all

six starters have to work together to score points. The team has increased its chemistry by having light meals together at a team member's house before practices & games.

Junior Camille Booth noted how the team also does things like "[working] on communication drills during practice" and participates in activities like the "Dig Pink Fundraiser" in order to work better as a team during games. Bonding activities such as these have allowed the team to be more successful. Coach Sarah Watson has had the young team focus on technical drills and basic skills, and Dietz also said the team is working on "bettering [their] defensive skills." This young team is poised to make a run this year.

FALL SPORTS RECORDS AS OF 10/1/2015

Boys Soccer: 5-0

Girls Soccer: 2-3

Field Hockey: 3-1-1

Football: 3-1

Volleyball: 2-4

Cougar alum injured in game

By **DAVID STRICKMAN**

Sports Editor

Horror news comes from Georgetown University, as junior linebacker and Quince Orchard class of 2013 alumnus Ty Williams was seriously injured during Georgetown's season opener against St. Francis in Pennsylvania. Williams went down with a critical neck injury in the first quarter. According to Georgetown's Assistant Sports Information Director of Football, Ryan Sakamoto, "Williams underwent a nine hour surgery at the Altoona UPMC Hospital on Saturday, September 6.

Williams shattered one vertebra in his neck and fractured another while making a tackle, causing Williams to not be able to

move or feel his legs. Doctors implanted a prosthetic and inserted two metal rods into his neck. According to sports website Hoya Paranoia, Williams left the intensive care unit at UPMC Altoona Hospital and was transported to the Shepherd Center in Atlanta for spinal injury rehabilitation.

"I was definitely very concerned for Ty and his family," said Quince Orchard coach John Kelley, who was very sad to hear about an injury like his. "He was one of the best to play here. He was a great leader, hard worker, and overall great person."

According to Sakamoto, "the Georgetown football coaching staff and his teammates are praying for a speedy recovery and will be in Ty's corner through every phase of the recovery process."



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

ROAD TO RECOVERY: Georgetown and QO communities rally around Tyrell Williams.



ATHLETE OF THE MONTH QUESTIONNAIRE

FOOTBALL

Eisley Kim '16



A captain and starting fullback, Eisley's determination and leadership make him the obvious choice for Athlete of the Month.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Jesse Van Valkenburg '17



Jesse's experienced play makes up for the lack of seniors on a team with unlimited potential.

GOLF

Jason Kinman '16



Now in his fourth year on the golf team, Jason's laser sharp focus on the green intimidates opponents.

BOYS SOCCER

Ryan Kirk '17



Ryan expresses his love for the game both on and off the field, as he is a constant for the future of QO soccer.

As the number one singles and team captain, Caroline leads her team in their attempt to win DIII.

GIRLS TENNIS

Caroline O'Keefe '16



A spirited competitor that motivates those around her, Morgan makes up part of the fearsome Field Hockey midfield.

FIELD HOCKEY

Morgan Avissar '17



THE PROWLER ASKED THESE ATHLETES THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS...

| | Eisley Kim | Ryan Kirk | Caroline O'Keefe | Jason Kinman | Morgan Avissar | Jesse Van Valkenburg |
|---|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| What is your biggest pet peeve? | When teachers don't erase the board all the way. | When people are loud when they eat. | When people with cold hands touch me. | When people "humbly" brag about themselves. | When people gulp their water. | When people burp or chew with their mouths open. |
| How do you flush the toilet of a public restroom? | With my tongue. | Just like anyone else...normally. | With my foot. | Grab a freshman's hand and make him flush it. | Definitely with my foot. | I don't believe in using public restrooms. |
| What is the coolest name for your future child? | Cadillac. | Zlatan. | Cornellius. | LeBron. | Shayne. | Nikhil. |
| If you had endless money, what would you buy first? | A house for me and Carley. | A Ferrari. | A car with A/C. | A newer car. | A smoking hot red car. | I'd buy Sea World. |
| If you had one wish, what would you wish for? | To marry Carley Porter. | Have a photographic memory. | Jack to shave his facial hair. | More wishes. | Extinction of lizards. | Wish for more wishes. |
| If this was your last day on Earth, how would you spend it? | A day with Carley Porter. | Soccer one last time and hang-out with friends and family as long as I could. | Match. | Spend it with Ekansh's dog. | I'd spend it with THE Shayne Carver. | Five Guys and Panda Express. |
| What do you dip your chicken nugget in? | Buffalo ranch. | Ketchup. | Ketchup? | Elmer's Glue. | Honey Mustard. | Lots of ketchup. |

Fall brings fantasy football fever, hits high schoolers brutally

By HUNTER BOOTHE
Sports Editor

On February 1, 2015, the New England Patriots defeated the Seattle Seahawks in Super Bowl XLIX. On September 10, the Patriots defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers in the NFL regular season opener. Every moment in between those dates, coaches had been scouting, drafting players, and preparing for the 2015-2016 season. Oh, you thought I meant *real* coaches?

Nope, I'm talking about the tons of fantasy football coaches in America — there's approximately 33 million of them, according to a 2014 study, all of whom swear their team is the second coming of

the '72 Dolphins, yet completely panic after their first loss.

Don't think you need to be a mathematician to be successful in this sport.

The concept may seem silly to those who haven't played, but don't tell that to the coaches. Fantasy football is real to them, and, in a way, it's empowering. Fantasy owners have complete control over their teams. That third string running back from your uncle's

alma mater? You're free to draft him over Adrian Peterson. You still see something in Tim Tebow? He's only a few clicks away from being *your* starting quarterback (OK, seriously don't do this; he's not even on an NFL roster). Everything from your logo to your team name is customizable. You can run your team into the ground like Redskins owner Dan Snyder or build a dynasty like the Patriots.

For those who haven't played, here are some basics. Fantasy football scoring is based off the performances of NFL players in the regular season. Week by week, owners play each other head-to-head, hoping to earn enough weekly victories to reach their league's

playoffs and beyond. A standard fantasy football team starts one Quarterback, two Running Backs, one FLEX player (Running Back, Wide Receiver, or Tight End) two Wide Receivers, one Tight End, one Defense/Special Teams, and everyone's favorite, one Kicker. Standard scoring for skill positions awards 4 points for a passing touchdown, and 6 points for a rushing or receiving touchdown, with 1 point bonuses for 10 yards rushing or receiving, and 1 point per 25 yards passing. However, this is far from the only scoring system. Some leagues incorporate a point per reception rule, some give points for punt return yards, etc.

Still, don't think you need

to be a mathematician to be successful in this sport. It's pretty simple. The best offensive players score the most in fantasy, so play them! Odds are, they'll produce. You don't want to be that team that I mentioned above, starting the 3rd string sleeper over your all-pro stud.

So, for the football fans who haven't hopped on board yet, consider this: how could you not want to be a part of something that makes Sundays even more stressful, usually costs you money, and is extremely time-consuming? Not interested? Whatever, I guess you'll never have the exciting experience of awaiting the MRI results for an irrelevant team's Tight End. That's your loss.