

THE PROWLER

Quince Orchard High School
15800 Quince Orchard Road • (301) 840-4686 • AP Signature School • Volume 27, Issue 6
Friday, May 1, 2015

SMOB Election Holds Potential to Influence Board *QO students voted in election for the Student Member of the Board*

By **BELLA ROBERTS**
News Managing Editor

The SMOB (Student Member of the Board of Education) is a student in Montgomery County Public Schools elected to represent students in the upcoming academic year. This year, elections were held on April 29. Results were not yet known at the time of publication, but there was much conversation in the Quince Orchard community leading up to the event.

The SMOB has an influential role in decision-making as the only student-elected member of the board, providing an opportunity for the students' wants to be represented. "The SMOB provides a student voice on the Board of Education, and is a link between the Board and the students," says Bethesda-Chevy Chase sophomore and SMOB candidate Eric Guerci. While the Board is comprised of adult members, it is the students who experience the decisions that they make.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIC GUERCI
SMOB POSE TOGETHER: Both SMOB candidates discussed their plans for the next year at a county-wide televised event, where they answered questions and stated goals.

"The SMOB's role goes beyond simply voting, and [he or she] must be proactive in creating tangible change for the student body," states Guerci. More specifically, the SMOB votes directly on initiatives that deal directly with students' education. "The SMOB...gives input on all board priorities and initiatives, and votes on all but budgetary issues," states senior Henry Peck.

The SMOB electing process has many steps and begins early. Any interested sophomores and juniors can be nominated around January and start campaigning. "For me, the election process began in late summer," said Guerci. "I started to position myself to run for office, began to brand my campaign, and recruited a team to work beside me. From there, I visited local SGAs to formulate my platform, and listen to their ideas."

The February nominating convention, Richard Montgomery junior and SMOB candidate Rachit Agarwal states, is where "all the candidates

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Plans Fall in Place for Prom

By **ANDY GOLDSTEIN & JUSTIN MENSCH**
News Associate Editor & Journalism Student

Although many things occur in the month of May, most plans seem to include one thing: prom. Throughout the years, the option of attending prom has always been an honor held by the upperclassmen: the Junior Class SGA plans the event thrown for seniors and juniors to enjoy.

The SGA has been working to finalize the plans for prom for many months, and even began early discussions and saving funds more than a year ago. The date is set for May 15, 2015 at The Fillmore in Silver Spring, Maryland, which is used most often as a performance venue for musicians.

Junior SGA President Noah Chiet commented on early difficulties, stating, "The main problem we faced was planning a super fun and exciting prom, while still keeping the ticket prices down." Costs of the event are partially covered or reimbursed by the profits made by the sale of prom tickets. With hard work and months of planning, the SGA finalized their ideas. "We've made great progress in planning," said Chiet. "We have an awesome theme and the location is going to create a new feel for prom that I think everyone will love." The plans are set, and excitement

is building as the date draws closer.

The hours the SGA spent working will pay off, as upperclassmen plan and prepare their own evening for a fun night at prom. Senior Holly McKnight is among those who will follow the traditional formula for a fun prom: a nice dinner with friends followed by a party bus ride to The Fillmore. McKnight stated, "I love prom because it's a great way for the upperclassmen to all come together and have a good time as the year comes to a close. It adds excitement to the end-of-the-school-year vibe." The popularity of prom is undeniable at schools across the country, yet not all are drawn to it. "I think prom is so popular because there is not many other events where students can show off their class, and do things they don't get to very often like go to a fancy restaurant and dance with friends, but I can see some people being dissuaded from coming by all the costs involved," said McKnight. Indeed, with the potential costs of tickets, dresses/suits, a party bus, and dinner, the bill at the end of the night can seem daunting. Even so, the event will draw hundreds of attendees and will likely be a smashing success.

For those who have never before been allowed admittance to prom, this is an exciting time as well. Junior Nick

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Graduation: Capping the Year

By **ANDREW POULSON**
News Editor

As the school year winds down, many seniors are starting their preparation for graduation, which is scheduled for May 27 in Washington, D.C.

One of the seniors getting ready for graduation is Brian Levitt. "I'm really excited to graduate soon and to be done with high school," he says. Levitt has been preparing for graduation by taking care of his senior fees and obligations, and "just generally making sure that everything is in order." Levitt is also most excited about having family come in from out of town to see him graduate. "It will be nice to see them" he said. "I have not been to a graduation before, so I'm not really sure what to expect, but it will probably be a pretty nice event." Levitt is very excited to be attending Virginia Tech

this fall for college. "Being done with high school and getting ready for graduating is really great and I can't wait for college," he said.

Another senior getting ready to graduate is Zoey Cain. "It seems really weird that I'm already almost done with high school," she

said. "I feel like time really flew by." Cain is also "really excited to graduate," but is also "sad that high school is going to be finished."

Cain is preparing for the end of the year by making sure that all of her "grades and classes are in order" so that she is ready



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCPSMD.ORG

THE END DRAWS CLOSER: Graduation is fast approaching for Quince Orchard seniors as they move on to bigger and better things all across the country.

News

Spirit Week foreshadows the end of the 2014-2015 school year.

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Summertime is fast approaching as the weather begins to warm up.

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Sports

Teams say farewell to their senior athletes as seasons draw to a close.

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The End of the School Year brings Spirit Week Back

By **DYLAN KEARNEY**
News Editor

SPIRIT WEEK

Monday was the first day of Spirit Week here at QO. The activities continued with a new theme every day of the week. During the SGA general assembly meetings, all the members of the class SGA and all the advisory reps voted on the themes. Every year there are different themes, such as Throwback Thursday as well as games like Tug-of-War that happen in the courtyard during lunch.

Before Spirit Week, students were excited for what the themes were going to be, and during Spirit Week, anyone can participate and show enthusiasm around school. "Spirit Week is important because it gives students a chance to show their school spirit and show how much they love their school," said SGA member Maya Jacobson.

The courtyard games are during lunch and many participants get involved, but they still need more people to join in on the fun. "The only factor that probably needs to be improved is the participation in the courtyard games," said Jacobson. "Everyone likes to dress up but they should also come out and represent their grade!" Jacobson also mentions that she loves dressing up, the games are a lot of fun to participate in, and that everyone is really pumped.

Spirit Week is promoted on social media and around school, but Jacobson said

4/27 - **America Monday**

4/28 - **Twin Tuesday**

4/29 - **Wacky Wednesday**

4/30 - **Pajama Thursday**

5/1 - **Class Color Friday**

that QO is such a spirited school on its own that they don't have to advertise much anyway. Junior Olivia Pritchard was excited for Wacky Wednesday. "I can dress [crazy] and no one can judge me," she said. Other students were excited for the creative clothing choices they could choose. "I'm ex-



PHOTO BY BILLY SEWELL

RED ARMY PRIDE: Seniors showcase their school and class pride during the fall pep rally. Another pep rally will take place later this spring during Spirit Week.

cited to wear a thousand pairs of socks," said junior Emma Levrio. Overall, students were looking forward to spreading spirit around school and dressing up differently.

Jacobson also mentions that it's so much more enjoyable to come to school during Spirit Week because of all the games and

the fact that everyone gets to dress up. "Coming to school during Spirit Week is fun because it makes school more interesting," said Levrio. Students have enjoyed planning and dressing up, but have also seen the whole school involvement and the student body's animated outfits.

Goodbye to Seniors

By **ANDREW POULSON**
News Editor

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to be done with high school. Cain has been to other graduations before this one, so she knows that the ceremony, at the famed DAR Constitution Hall, is going to be very nice. Cain said, finally, "I hope that everyone will have a great day, because graduating high school is once in a lifetime event."

A final senior who will be graduating this month is Garrett Adams. Adams said that he has had a great time in high school and he is expecting to have

a great time at graduation too. Adams also added, "For me, I feel like graduation is a really special thing, so I'm hoping that it will be awesome." Adams has been working very hard in school, "so that my grades will be top notch at the end of the year."

Adams is looking forward to attending the University of Alabama Birmingham next year. "You need to graduate to go to college which makes [graduation] a very important event," he added.

The last thing that Adams said says it all: "I'm really excited that all of my friends [and I] are graduating and that I will be going to college next year."

Students and SGA Prepare for Prom

By **ANDY GOLDSTEIN**
News Associate Editor

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D'Antona commented on this new privilege: "I'm extremely excited for prom. This is my first year attending, and I know our SGA has worked hard to make it special for everyone, so I can't wait to experience it." Finally being permitted attendance feels to many of the junior class as official recognition as an upperclassmen, and the reminder that in a short time they themselves will be seniors. With all the work and planning put in, it seems Prom 2015 will raise the bar for other events to come.

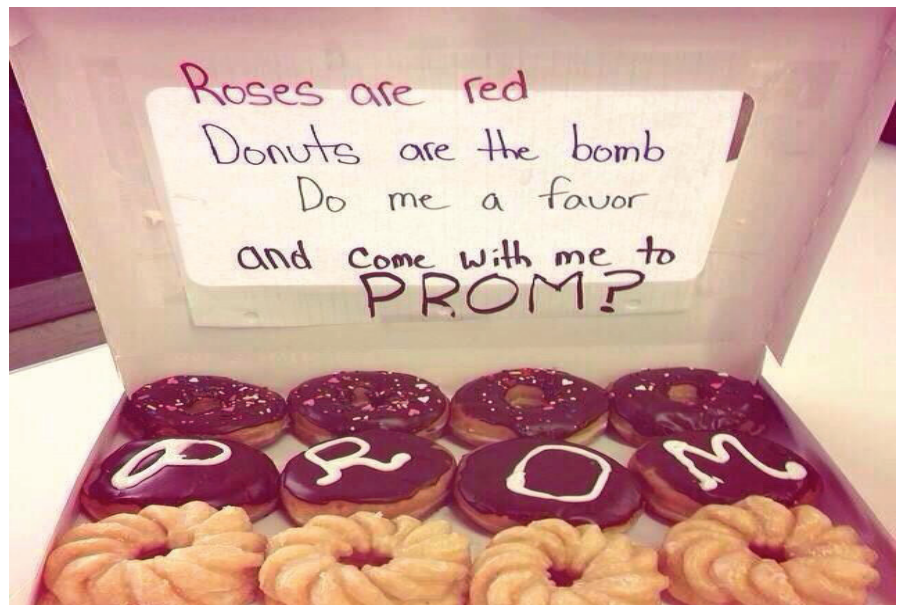


PHOTO COURTESY OF STYLECASTER

PROMPOSALS: Students scramble to solidify last minute plans with friends for prom 2015, while the SGA has been working on the event for several months in advance.

THE PROWLER

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Quince Orchard Recognition

By **ANDY GOLDSTEIN**

News Associate Editor

Maryland schools, especially those in the Montgomery County area, are known for their accredited school systems and competitive programs. Quince Orchard received two honors recently, by two separate publications. Both the Washington Post and Baltimore Sun have ranked Quince Orchard on a list

of top schools. Principal Carole Working discussed the recognition of our school, stating, "This week the school has received two very special recognitions. This year's *Washington Post Challenge Index* has come out and Quince Orchard High School has been ranked by the *Washington Post* as the 22nd most challenging high school in the greater Washington, D.C. area. The *Baltimore Business Journal* has also named us a Top Ten Public High School in the State of Maryland."





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Vandalism Discovered On Local Synagogue

By **LAWRENCE SIMON** and
LOGAN FEINGOLD

Editor-In-Chief and Journalism Student

On the morning of April 7, an act of vandalism was committed at the Shaare Torah Synagogue in the Kentlands. Video recordings of the alleged crime appear to show suspects arriving at around 2 AM to spray paint swastikas and derogatory references towards Jewish people on the synagogue building. Currently the Montgomery County Police Department is looking to arrest suspects in connection with the alleged hate crime. Since the beginning of the investigation, a Quince Orchard student has been arrested in relation to the vandalism against Shaare Torah.

Several Quince Orchard students have been deeply affected by this, such as junior Ben Cubert, who works at Shaare Torah as a teacher. "I have heard about all this stuff, but I didn't actually think it things like this could happen here in such a culturally diverse area," said Cubert. On the topic of his own personal experience with anti-semitism, Cubert said that "I have always felt like Jews have a place here, especially in Maryland." As for the school's reaction to the alleged vandalism itself, Cubert stated that "QO should just specifically educate people that this stuff...it happens and people who do

this...should get educated." As for Cubert's opinions on the alleged vandals themselves, he guessed that "60% of it. I think, was the sense that they thought it was a joke" and that the remaining "40% was legitimate hatred."

Another Quince Orchard student, junior Ethan Adler, a Jewish member of the community, said that "I have definitely seen a lot of anti-semitic views and heard anti-semitic comments at QO, which alarms me

quite a bit" but he does not think the vandalism "represents Montgomery County as a whole." Adler could not think of any such attacks against his own synagogue Har Shalom in Potomac, adding that "This attack does not demonstrate that Montgomery County, or Maryland in general, is anti-semitic, but it shows that there are students that do not understand what is and what is not appropriate to do when stating your beliefs." To the suspects, Adler had to say, "I hope you realize that what you have done is wrong. While I do not want you to suffer, you should remember the crime you have committed."

On the subject of the recent alleged hate crime, Principal Carole Working issued a statement on April 16 "I am very aware that our Jewish children may need extra support to deal with these upsetting events." Working wants all students and teachers at Quince Orchard to know that, "as deeply disturbing as these events are, they present an opportunity to speak with our students about how we can combat bullying, harassment, hatred, and [obtain] acceptance." The police are currently inspecting several other area teens after receiving a surveillance video from a local 7-11 that allegedly shows a student and others gathering shortly before the alleged vandalism, which has cost an estimated \$1,300 in damage to Shaare Torah.



PHOTO BY ANNA GOOREVICH

VANDALISM IN KENTLANDS: Shaare Torah Synagogue after being vandalized with numerous swastikas and racial slurs, the latter of which is not in this picture.

SMOB Election Holds Potential to Influence Board

By **BELLA ROBERTS**

News Managing Editor

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are narrowed down to the final two candidates and consists of delegates from middle and high schools around the county." Both Agarwal and Guerci are the final two candidates. Guerci states: "After being voted one of the finalists, I have been campaigning tirelessly throughout the county. This experience has opened my eyes to a variety of

people, and has allowed me to see the county through different perspectives." Finally, the general election occurs in the spring.

The SMOB serves as an important figure in the Montgomery County education system. "The SMOB is the students' chief legislative representative, and our most direct link to the legislative process in Montgomery County," explains Peck. Indeed, both of the SMOB candidates have big plans for the upcoming year if elected. "I want to continue to empower the student body through a strong voice on the Board, and to bring the perspective of an everyday student to

the Board table," states Guerci. Specifically, he wants to institute a five-point plan that "pinpoints expanding our technology implementation, expedites school renovations and additions, advocates for state-of-the-art athletic facilities in every school, closes the achievement gap with solutions such as expanding project-based learning, changes grading policies to redefine homework and assessments, and decreases class sizes to individualize education for every student."

Agarwal had a different approach, emphasizing technology. "My main goal would be to basically be the SMOB that does

more outside of the Board room—open communication through MocoLounge, an app I'm working on, open technology through free apps in classrooms, and open internships and scholarships," he explains Overall, simply running for the Student Member of the Board position brings up important issues to our county's students and heightens concern for our education system. "It's the experience of a lifetime, and win or lose, I know that I have started conversations [that] will continue with whomever is SMOB, and I will remember so many of the thousands of voters I met," said Guerci.

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Neal's Bagels Serves Community | I Pledge Allegiance

By **EVE POETZSCHKE AND JAMIE FINK**
Editor-in-Chief and Journalism Student

A place to not only get bagels, but also to meet up, sit and chat, or run into old friends, Neal's Bagels is certainly not your everyday bagel shop. Nestled between a dry cleaners and a Chinese restaurant in The Shops at Potomac Valley, the shopping center across from Quince Orchard, Neal's is a one-of-a-kind local business. Customers range from hungry high schoolers after the 2:10 bell to families getting their dozen bagels to last them the week. Groups of kids wearing Quince

Orchard uniforms parading into Neal's is a common sight during sports season. "I go before every lacrosse game with friends and sometimes on the weekends," said sophomore Peter Vaka. Over the years, there have been both familiar faces and new ones working behind the counter. There is usually at least one Quince Orchard student on staff, such as juniors Brendan Nolan and Oliver Clowes. "I started working at Neal's at the end of February," said Nolan. "I applied because I liked the food and

it's close to where I live." Employees aren't the only fresh faces in Neal's Bagels. Recently, Neil Bressler took over the community business. "I've noticed the new owner engages with the customers a lot," said Vaka. Some frequent customers were nervous about the change, but were pleasantly surprised. "I haven't noticed a big difference between the two managers because they still have the same quality bagels," said sophomore Wyatt McCabe. Bagels are made fresh each day, but you can still buy day-old bagels if you please. "The bagels in

the baskets are the freshly-made bagels and the ones in the bag [behind the basket] are from the previous day." There are several menu options. Some of the most popular include toasted bagel with butter, bagel sandwich (egg and cheese with bacon or sausage), and bagels with cream cheese and lox. **A s i d e** from the delicious bagels, Neal's is a shop with a strong sense of community. "It's nice [to work there] because you see a lot of familiar faces and get to see your friends when they come in," said Nolan. It's difficult to stop in Neal's and not see someone you know.

By **GREG BURNHAM**
Sports Managing Editor

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." I'm not sure where each of you grew up, the school systems you came up through, or countries your families originate from, but I do know that since you go to Quince Orchard High School, you live in the United States of America, the land of opportunity, freedom and a melting pot for all demographics. But those characteristics of this country haven't come without a cost. In my four years of high school, the one thing that has never failed to amaze and anger me is the amount of people that feel it is unnecessary to stand for the pledge each morning. First of all, getting out of your seat and standing up for 15 seconds

at most should not be an issue. More importantly, the pledge is not recited every morning just for the sake of saying it. The pledge represents every American that has ever come before you. I could care less if you're "tired" or "too lazy to stand up," because how do you think the soldiers in Iraq feel halfway through a battle? Have you forgotten 9/11? Have you forgotten the 2,717,993 people who have been killed or severely wounded fighting in the US military? Have you forgotten what respect is? All I ask is for each person to take just 15 seconds out of their day to pay homage to the land they live on and the people that made a free life possible for them. I'm not asking you to belt out the words, I'm just asking you to at least have the decency and respect to stand.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEALSBAGELS.COM

DON'T WORRY, EAT BAGELS: Neal's Bagels' website states, "We are a family owned and operated Bagel Bakery. We're your typical neighborhood business, serving our community one happy customer at a time. We try to take things one day at a time. . . . After all, life is just too short. So you might as well enjoy it."

What's Happening at QO?

<p>On Tuesday, April 21, The Quince Orchard Project hosted Are YOU Smarter Than a High School Student? "The teachers answered with a resounding YES! The teachers won 9,700 to 7,650 Tuesday afternoon on the final buzzer question, during which order of operations briefly appeared to be an optional sequence. Math teachers, you can exhale. Your colleagues did not let you down!" – Carole Working</p>	<p>"This week the school has received two very special recognitions. This year's Washington Post Challenge Index has come out and Quince Orchard High School has been ranked by the Washington Post as the 22nd Most Challenging High School in the greater Washington, D.C. area. The Baltimore Business Journal has named us a Top Ten Public High School in the State of Maryland." – Carole Working</p>	<p>On Wednesday, April 29, all ASL (American Sign Language) students participated in the annual Deaf for a Day Project. This project consisted of the students wearing foam ear plugs and not talking for the entire day! They had to use whatever methods necessary (notes, a white board, text, gestures, sign, etc.) to figure out how to communicate with their teachers and friends, just as any Deaf or Hard of Hearing person would.</p>
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SUMMER

School's Out, Scream and Shout!

By **SUZANNE ADJANI-ALDRIN**

Features Editor

As another school year comes to a close, students and teachers breathe a huge sigh of relief and they prepare for summer fun.

Numerous seniors have already planned their beach week vacation and families are booking their flights for the hot season. While many families venture to spend time at places like Hawaii or the Bahamas, summer vacation doesn't have to be expensive to be entertaining and relaxing. Exploring beautiful sceneries nearby such as Deep Creek Lake and Sugar Loaf Mountain are soothing and interactive vacations for friends and family alike.

Senior Katie Schuster plans to have a beach week with a few friends at her family's own beach house. Schuster states, "It's definitely more cost-efficient to have it at my family's beach house, and everyone will pitch in for meals so we don't have much to worry about." Carnivals and fairs are also fun and inexpensive ways to spend a day in the summer. Everyone knows that summer vacation can be expensive, but with the proper plan, you can save a lot.

However, the summer is not all about vacations. Many students take this time to seek out internships or jobs that will help them gain experience for the future and earn money to support themselves. Junior Denai White said, "People have told me that senior year is super expensive, so I'm probably going to look for a job over the summer." Having a job and earning money for future school expenses is wise and, with the right amount of saving, one could even afford a trip out of state.

No matter what you do, the most essential part of having a successful summer and making sure you have a blast is surrounding yourself with the right kind of people. It's important to have fun and friendly companionship while traveling, exploring, and even working. Truly, that is what makes for a fantastic summer.

VIEWPOINTS

SUMMER JOBS PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES

By **MICAH LEVEY**

Features Editor

With an expensive four years ahead of them, seniors are rushing to try to find the most fun and highest paying jobs for summer 2k15.

A common occupation is to be a summer lifeguard. As a swimmer since the age of three years old, this job is perfect for Luteran. "I've been swimming my entire life so when the opportunity to work at Lakewood country club presented itself, I didn't hesitate," said Luteran. Luteran is extremely excited for the job because of the good hours and the fun work that this employment entails. "I set up my hours so that I can work during the middle of the day and still be able to hang out with my friends all afternoon and all night. Even when I am working I am having fun. It's the ideal summer job," said Luteran.

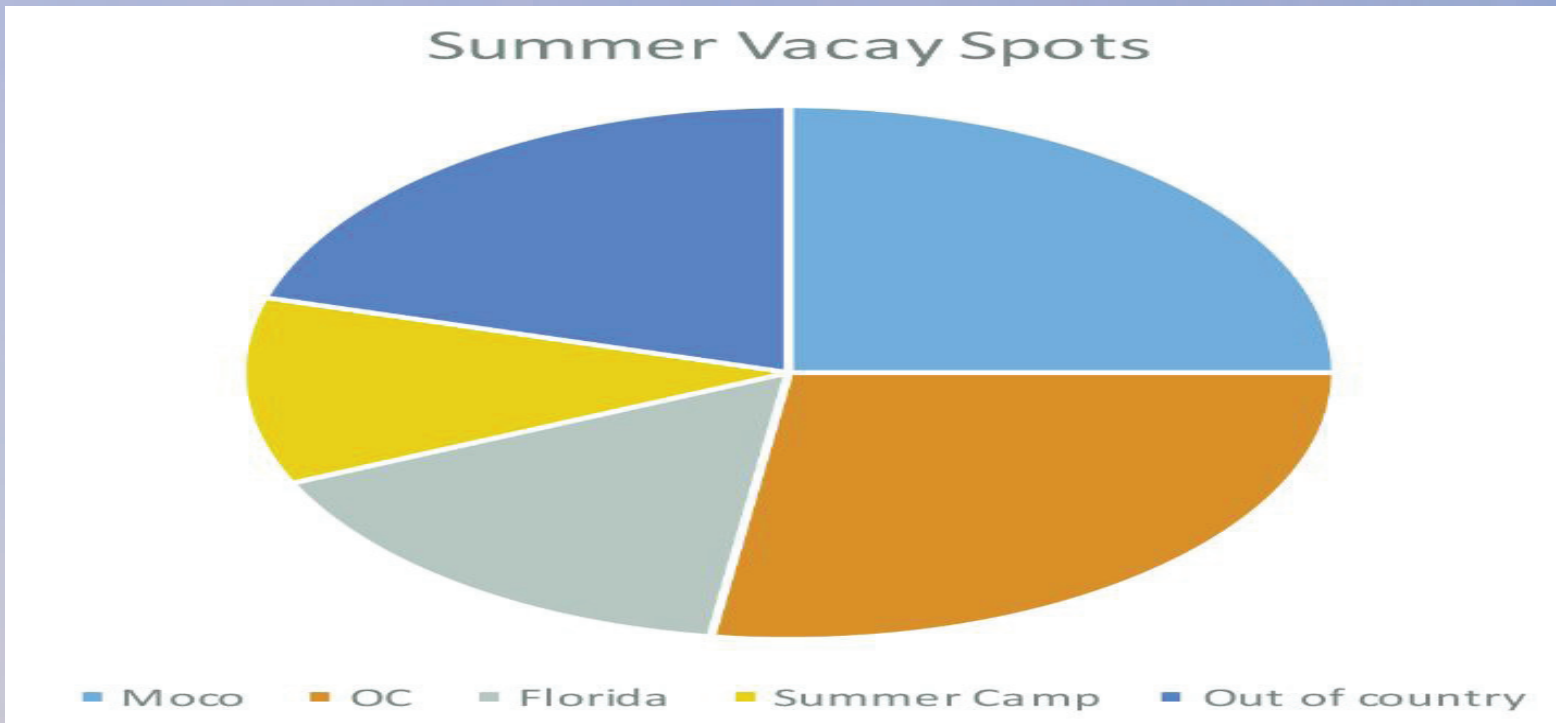
While some people like Luteran try to find jobs that will benefit the community as a whole, other seniors are just in it for the money. Sam Ling (12) is working as a designated scanner and staple remover at a local law firm, Hirschel, Savitz, Parker, and Hollman. When asked about how he earned the job at such a prestigious law firm, Ling replied, "My best friend, Micah Levey, hooked me up since his dad works there. That whole family is really cool." Though Sam won't be enjoying his time being employed this summer, he doesn't seem to care. "All that matters is my stacks. My stacks are fatter than ever, and that's all I care about. Money is the most important thing in the world and I have more than I know what to do with."

While summer is a time to have fun for most students, it is good that some of our seniors are preparing for the real world. Job experience is very valuable for college and job applications.

SUMMER

THE PROWLER ASKED...

Where are you going this summer?



A DAVID RAMSEY AND PAIGE MIRKIN QUESTIONNAIRE

SUMMER

VIEWPOINTS

A little bit of "Witz": *Beach Week Edition*

By **SAM HURWITZ**
Viewpoints Editor

Beach week: we've all heard tales of its glory ever since the first day we walked through QO's front doors. For seniors such as myself, beach week is one of the most anticipated events and the unofficial culminating point of senior year. For parents and concerned adults alike, beach week is an unsupervised and ill-mannered week for their seventeen- and eighteen-year-old sons and daughters to commit debauchery.

Senior week, or beach week, as it's more commonly called, is a week-long excursion to the beach. The timeless tradition takes place each year when thousands of seniors flock to the beach in the days following graduation. With all the independence granted to seniors, it's no shocker to learn that seniors find themselves in their fair share of sticky situations. Each year, numerous seniors find themselves evicted or arrested with their futures in jeopardy. Risks like these are why some parents opt to keep their seniors home for the week.

From a parent's standpoint, I understand these concerns. I get it, it's daunting to think about the potential dangers that lurk in the unforgiving streets of Ocean City. However, some parents do not consider the positive aspects of beach week. If done right, beach week can be a beneficial learning experience for seniors. For most seniors, beach week is their first taste of freedom. After 18 years I, among many others, am ready to experience the "real world." Yes, the "real world" has underage drinking, unprotected sex, and, worst of all, unsaturated fat, but that doesn't mean seniors will necessarily indulge in them. Besides, the town of Ocean City has one of the finest police forces out there. To accommodate for the large influx of seniors, the OCPD heightens security and offers alternatives to keep seniors out of trouble.

Despite the week's horrendous reputation, most houses go the whole week without encountering any hiccups. Sure there's always that one idiot that punches a hole in a wall or throws a couple chairs off the balcony, but that's only the case for a select few drunken idiots. The responsibility of staying out of trouble falls solely on the seniors themselves. If you want to be the one jabroni who gets in trouble for throwing up in public, then go for it. Just know that what you think may be harmless can easily compromise everybody's fun. The general rule of thumb for staying out of trouble during beach week is quite simple: surround yourself with other responsible friends and don't act inappropriately in public.

Parents, if I haven't said enough to ease your worries, allow me to emphasize some last points. In just another two short months, your child will be on his or her own in college, facing similar situations that they would at beach week. Without beach week, how are they to learn how to apply sunblock on their own? While every parent reserves the right to make the best decision for their children, in months, whether you like it or not, they'll be gone. Beach week is no safe haven for seniors, but after 12 years of hard work, it's hard to say seniors doesn't deserve the week of their lives.



Prom Season Fashion

By **LILY MAKORI AND LAKSHMI SHYAMAKRISHNAN**
Features Editor and Journalism Student

With prom season quickly approaching juniors and seniors are getting their dresses, tuxedos and all other prom related things ready for the biggest night of their high school careers.

Prom is notoriously one of the biggest nights in high school and with girls scrambling to get dresses, shoes and everything else and boys wanting to look nothing less of dashing on the most special of nights we tend to get a little stressed out. But thanks to Alyssa Winderlich the stress of making sure that no one else has the same dress is a sure thing with the QO Prom Facebook page she created. When asked her thoughts about Facebook page, Junior Olivia Pritchard said, "I think it is a good idea so that way, not only does no one get the same dress, but it's also good because you get an idea of what other girls are wearing so you get ideas for what you want your dress to look like." But even with the stress of not having to worry about someone else having your dress, picking one out is still stressful. With styles varying for everyone's body and styles for everyone's taste it can be an overwhelming at times. But styles come and go and this year the two piece prom dress is what it's all about, with long trains and fun prints as well. Pritchard said "When I was looking for a prom dress, I tried to find a good balance between the two because I wanted to be able to look back and still like my dress."

With all the excitement of finally finding a dress, sometimes we can get carried away with between what we want and what's practical and some schools are cracking down on what is and isn't appropriate to wear to prom. And it does make sense to some degree and most of it is common sense; aka, no super short dresses, sagging pants, or body parts hanging out of dresses or suits. But what did cougars have to say about the prom 'dress code?' Pritchard spoke her mind saying "I think people should be able to wear whatever makes them happy."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOOGLE

A Night to Remember

By **PAIGE MIRKIN**
Features Managing Editor

The most important event of the school year is this month... Prom! Along with excitement comes stress and tears. Finding a date, assembling a group, and finding a parent to put the party bus on their credit card are all examples of the anxiety that is stuck to prom.

Quince Orchard High School's prom is open to all upperclassmen. The girls wear long dresses that differentiate prom and homecoming. "Finding a dress is definitely the most important part of prom," said junior Camila Darin. Prom dresses are quite expensive so start saving up some birthday money, underclassmen. Some examples of stores to find the perfect prom dress are Synchronicity in Baltimore and Deja Vu in Mount Airy.

Along with the expense of a dress, everything else about prom is just as expensive. Tickets range from \$75 to \$125 depending on how much money the junior class can raise. This year, prom on Friday May 15th is being held at the Fillmore in Silver Spring. Junior SGA Vice President Christine Holm said, "We've known the 2015 prom would be held at the Fillmore since last spring and I couldn't keep my mouth shut about it," said Holm, "I let it slip to my friends way before it was announced." Prom at a concert venue

seems like a dream come true for some students. Darin added, "I doubt any school can top prom at the Fillmore."

The expenses stir up conflict for high school boys with minimum wage jobs. "I considered not going to prom this year since I have to use my own money," said junior Leroy Purdie. "Senior prom is more important anyways," he said. "Luckily, I don't have to pay for tickets or dinner," Darin said. "Much thanks to my date!"

"It's the last time we'll all be together before graduation."

- Jordan Christensen

For senior Jordan Christensen, her last school dance at QO has her emotional. "Honestly, I may cry at pictures because it's the last time we'll all be together before graduation," Christensen said. "We've made a big group of about 40 of us to start off the end of our senior year with a bang, all together," she said. "It'll be nice that I get to sit back and enjoy prom next year after working so hard to plan this year's," said Holm.

Prom festivities continue even after the night is over. More Facebook pictures than can be counted will be uploaded the next day, allowing you to relive the night over and over.

Brace Yourself... AP's Are Coming

By **JULIA LANE**
Features Associate Editor

The start of May signals the start of the last full month of school for all underclassmen, but for many it also means the start of the dreaded college-level Advanced Placement (AP) tests.

For many, the goal of taking an AP

test is to attain some college credit, saving time and money once it comes time to register for college classes. Teachers recognize this benefit, and encourage their students to take advantage of the opportunity. Tenth grade AP NSL teacher Josh Schuman comments that "a student who has been in an AP class all year is likely going to be well

prepared for the test," and if they have worked hard to prepare, it is reasonable that they will receive college credit as a reward.

AP students during this time of the year are facing the realization that there is not much time left before their cumulative exam. Schuman also says that students in AP classes are often high-achieving and put a lot of pressure

on themselves to do well.

Junior year is notorious for being the most stressful and important academic year because it is the last full year of grades that colleges see on your transcript. Thus, many juniors take on a heavy workload that tends to include AP classes. As May draws near, many AP students are feeling the pressure of crunch time.

Junior Francesca D'Cruz states that she is "using review books and materials that her teachers give her" to study for her four approaching AP exams. Because AP exams cover so much content, teachers recommend that students invest in AP review books to provide an overarching summary of the curriculum.

Freshman Elena Dietz also comments

that she purchased an AP review guide for her AP United States History exam. Dietz states that in school her teachers give students review guides and packets as material to study.

If you have an AP test approaching, don't stress yourself out. You are in a college-level class for a reason and you have completed the hardest part already.

Grad Parties Galore

By **LILLY PRICE**
Editor-in-Chief

The year is winding down, but for seniors, now is the time to start turning up, and there's no better way to celebrate the end of a high school career than with a graduation party.

Graduation parties are a hallmark of the end of high school and focus on fundamentals: friends, family, and most importantly, food. If you're a senior and have a Facebook, then you're already aware that graduation party season is here. By mid-April, the red notification flag in the corner of the Facebook app is filling up with invitations and, by the time May arrives, there is an event scheduled every weekend, sometimes multiple parties on the same day.

As a guide to surviving this year's grad party season, a few seniors shared their own graduation plans, and what the alternative may be if one wants to opt out of the party scene. Senior Alyssa Winderlich "[has] seen people have graduation parties in the past and [has] been planning

it on Pinterest for a really long time." To make her party a hit Winderlich has invited 400-some people. "I have no idea how many are going to come," she said.

Many students also have combined parties with one or two friends or a sibling. "A lot of people have combined parties. It's nice because it's less pressure, since the attention isn't only on you," said senior Hallie Mircoff. "It's easier having two people when making the invite list. Hallie invites her friends and I invite mine; it pretty much covers everyone," added Hallie's brother, senior Sam Mircoff.

Since there tends to be so many parties in the month of May, it's important not to run into scheduling conflicts. "My party is on May 17th, which was the only available Sunday," said Winderlich. The Mircoffs have chosen a later date. "Ours is May 23rd, [since] it's an available Saturday when family is in town. My grandparents

are coming from Arizona and my sister will be home from college," said Hallie Mircoff.

Graduation parties can tend to be similar, but what tends to make one stand out from another is the food. "Last year a senior had Yoyogi's, Jersey Mikes, Chick-fil-A, and Chipotle," said senior Laney Rubenstein. "It was awesome." Catering is a good way to go, but often a traditional barbecue or summer food is served. "Because I'm going to school in the South, I was thinking of having barbecue and playing cornhole with pretty lights in the backyard and music playing," said Winderlich.

"We're going to have Chipotle cater and I'm pushing for a moonbounce," said Sam Mircoff. "Other than that, people are just going to hang out, talk and have a good time. It will be fun to spend the afternoon with friends from school and everywhere else," he added.

Though a popular event, not everyone has graduation parties. Some people send out graduation announcements, which informs whomever receives the announcement that you're done with high school (and hopefully your relatives will send a few dollars your way). Having a more low-key afternoon with friends is also an option.

"Since graduation is so close to my birthday, my parents are letting me have a little shindig with my girl friends that includes dinner," said Rubenstein. "I'll be attending everyone else's grad party, however; I'll eat their food and have a great time."

Graduation party or not, lots of people in attendance or just close friends, the end of the year is a time to celebrate with loved ones as one chapter of life closes behind us.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DREAMSTIME.COM



Baseball and Softball Swing Towards Playoffs

BY JARED GOLDSTEIN
Sports Editor

After a late inning rally fell just short of tying the game in the first round of the playoffs against rival Northwest last season, the Quince Orchard Baseball team has returned this year in dominant fashion.

With just a few regular season games remaining, the Cougars trail crosstown rival and division leader Gaithersburg by the slimmest of margins. Gaithersburg is undefeated on the year and reached the state semifinals last year, losing to eventual state champion Chesapeake, 6-0.

The Cougars are led by seniors Nathan Kessler and Kevin Childs on the mound and junior Jack Ropelewski at the plate. Kessler and Childs are a combined 5-0 on the year in seven games started, including four complete games and a shutout. While the Cougars

clearly dominate on the mound, they also boast a .311 team batting average.

Ropelewski leads the team with a .452 batting average and 17 runs batted in (RBI). (To provide some context, batting average is much different than an average you might be looking for on a unit test in your history class. Batting .300, which means that the hitter gets a hit 30% of the time, is exceptional. Who ever thought getting a 30% would be anything other than abysmal?) All kidding aside, being able to get it done on the mound and at the plate is a lethal combination that makes for a very good baseball team. Fielding is seemingly the only thing that could hold this year's squad back – and even that's a stretch, as the team is still better than the national average.

Errors, which can be very costly for a team, luckily have not caused much of a problem for the Cougars this year. Of the twelve players who have played nine or more games, six of them own a perfect .1000 fielding percentage, making no errors thus far.

Unfortunately for the girls' softball

team, though, the same cannot be said. They started the year by rattling off three consecutive blowouts over Walter Johnson, Whitman, and Poolesville, in that order. What ensued was an untimely six-game losing streak riddled with errors that cost them some close games. The skid was stopped with a 13-5 win over Wootton on April 18. This victory was important for the young team's morale as they move closer to a potential playoff run. In this game, the girls did not let errors accumulate and gutted out a team win, according to Coach Kelly-Adams.

The Lady Cougars have a young core this year as they are led by junior Sydney Maxwell and sophomore Nicole Beisner, in the pitcher's circle, and at the plate. Beisner is batting a ridiculous .703, while Maxwell totes an also absurd .600 batting average and 18 RBI. Another sophomore, catcher Morgan Kuiper, is batting .556 and has scored 14 runs.

There are different ways to mold a winning team. This year's baseball team has a strong nucleus of return-

ing seniors and juniors. Having a solid group of upperclassmen provides experience, composure, and skill, so the team is ready and able to perform to its highest level, even late in a close game. One can look at the softball team as being a year behind the baseball team in the team development cycle. Their nucleus is in the junior and sophomore classes. Regardless of their playoff outcome, they will learn from their experiences this year and move on to next year with the moxie, swagger, and determination of a team poised to improve and make a playoff run.

Speaking of playoff runs, the boys have all the prerequisites to find themselves deep in the playoffs as we move closer to May. The Cougars are rock solid at the dish, defensively sound, and can straight up sling it on the mound. If the standings were to stay as they currently exist, the Cougars would earn a first-round bye. Look out for this team, as they might still be playing in mid-May as the playoffs progress.

A Sendoff to our Senior Athletes and Their Accomplishments

By DAVID FINGERET
Editor-in-Chief

As our senior year comes to an end, let's reflect on all of our triumphs during our four years at Quince Orchard. Whether as a team or as an individual, we remember the great times we've had. When playing in front of the esteemed Red Army, we get this push to work harder to get a win.

At QO we pride ourselves on how hard we work on the court or the field. During our games and practices, it seems as if nothing else matters. It's a release from

our problems, where instead of thinking just about ourselves, we think of our teammates and helping them in order to win games. We form a new family with our teammates, which lasts long after the season ends. I'm sure we all remember walking to tryouts on the first day not really knowing what to expect, feeling that nervousness of what would happen if we didn't make it. And then once you found out you made the team, that rush of emotions and happiness that ensued.

We all remember that huge first win we all had, when

the rival team was supposed to demolish us, but somehow we came together and won. Or the first disappointing loss, where we lost a game we should have won. Or day after you lost, all the hard work you put in to never have that feeling of loss again.

We remember how awful it was sitting on the bench after we got hurt and couldn't play for a couple games. All we could do was cheer on our team and hope they came together to get a win. We remember that game where we came back, and that

rush of emotion we felt running back onto the field or court.

"We remember when playoffs were our reality, our first true test to see how good our team was." We remember our first playoff game, our first win in playoffs, and those dreaded losses. They were the moments we lived for, the moments we waited for as a child. These were the big moments. When counting down—3...2...1...—and shooting a ball into the net made us feel invincible. And win or lose, our teammates always had your back.

Then, you realize

some of your best friends are on your team and your friendship has only grown stronger due to being teammates. Although every season there's a new team, you always seem to remember the people who left and still keep in touch with them.

So as playoffs come to a close, or if your playoff has already ended, take a look back at all the good memories you've created with your teammates. Think about the relationships you've created. And one last time Cougars, on three, 1...2...3...

The Prowler's Take on the First Round of the 2015 NFL Draft

1. **Tampa Bay Buccaneers** – Jameis Winston, QB, Florida State

The Bucs haven't had a franchise player since the early 2000s when John Lynch, Warren Sapp, and Simeon Rice gave offensive coordinators nightmares. Jameis Winston is a national superstar who's been in the spotlight for two years already.

2. **Tennessee Titans** – Leonard Williams, DT, Southern California

Williams is arguably the most dominant player in this draft class. His ability to play any position on the defensive line at a high level could make him a perennial All-Pro.

3. **Jacksonville Jaguars** – Dante Fowler Jr., OLB, Florida

Fowler's speed and skill of the edge makes him an immediate plug-and-play pass rusher for any team that drafts him. He will have to polish his play against the run before he can make the jump to a full time starting OLB/DE.

4. **Oakland Raiders** – Kevin White, WR, West Virginia

The Raiders have a history of

picking a flashy, freakish athlete at a skill position way too high in the first round. Who better to fit that mold than one-year college phenom Kevin White?

5. **Washington** – Vic Beasley, DE, Clemson

Beasley carries the most value here at a position of need here for Washington. With the departure of long-time stud Brian Orakpo, Beasley can learn from a veteran pass rushing core for a year before filling Orakpo's shoes.

6. **New York Jets** – Marcus Mariota, QB, Oregon

Much like the Raiders, the Jets don't have the best draft history. That changes this year though as Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Mariota falls into their lap at pick number six. The real question is whether or not he is able to adjust to a pro-style offense, having taken exactly zero snaps under center in college.

7. **Chicago Bears** – Amare Cooper, WR, Alabama

The departure of Brandon Marshall to the Jets leaves a hole in the Bears' passing attack. Cooper fills

the void and creates a three-headed monster with Alshon Jeffery and Martellus Bennett.

8. **Atlanta Falcons** – Shane Ray, DE, Missouri

Atlanta tied for second-to-last in the league last year with just 22 sacks. Justin Houston had 22 sacks by himself. Atlanta takes the highest rated remaining pass rusher, 2014 SEC Defensive Player of the Year Shane Ray.

9. **New York Giants** – Brandon Scherff, OT, Iowa

At 6'5", Scherff is a monster who might be better suited to play guard rather than tackle. In the Giants' quick-hitting West Coast offense, Scherff won't have to worry about pass protecting for too long and can focus on using his mammoth size to push defensive linemen out of the way, creating holes for the Giants' running backs.

10. **St. Louis Rams** – Trae Waynes, CB, Michigan State

Waynes provides great value at a position of need for the Rams, who have an underwhelming cast of cornerbacks going into the draft.

Waynes' speed and leaping ability makes him an athletic corner who should be an immediate starter in St. Louis.

11. **Minnesota Vikings** – La'el Collins, OT, LSU

Collins' ability to be a nasty road-grader in the run game makes him an immediate plug-and-play guy in Minnesota, where a run game is a necessity when the temperature drops in November.

12. **Cleveland Browns** – DeVante Parker, WR, Louisville

With the suspension of Josh Gordon, the Browns need a number one receiver to team up with whoever the Browns decide to play at quarterback. Parker's freakish catch radius and sure hands will make him a reliable target in the NFL.

13. **New Orleans Saints** – Alvin "Bud" Dupree, OLB, Kentucky

Dupree's freakish athleticism and raw pass rushing skills will force his defensive coordinator to only use him in certain situations. Dupree is occasionally lazy and takes play off.

14. **Miami Dolphins** – Randy Gregory, DE, Nebraska

The only reason Gregory drops out of the top 10 is because of his failed drug test at the combine in February, which was not the first test of his that came back positive. His tendency to stand up instead of remaining low will make it hard for him to out-leverage offensive linemen.

15. **San Francisco 49ers** – Cedric Ogbuehi, OL, Texas A&M

With the departure of a couple offensive linemen this winter, the 49ers are thin on their side of the trench. Adding Ogbuehi will provide depth and possibly camp competition for a starting job.

16. **Houston Texans** – Ereck Flowers, OT, Miami

Flowers is a mammoth of a human being. His 6'6", 330-pound frame and quick feet make him a mauler in the run game. His pass protection skills will need polishing in the NFL, as pass rushers are better and faster than they were in college.

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Boys and Coed Volleyball Teams Smash Way into Playoffs

By **SAM KIRSCH**

Sports Associate Editor

The varsity boys and coed volleyball teams are smashing their ways into the playoffs as they attempt to finish their respective seasons on strong notes.

The varsity coed volleyball team has played very well so far, pushing their way to a solid record of six wins and two losses. "Our season is going really well so far," said senior Annelise Cantrell. "We play so well as a team and that's led to lots of victories." Teamwork, from keeping in formation to communicating when scrambling for a ball, is essential for a team of any caliber to defeat their opponents.

The team did not start the season as well as they would have hoped, falling to Wootton in straight sets, but they quickly regained themselves and composed some strong wins, beating Northwest and Poolesville in straight sets.

Team captains seniors Liza Chernova and Micah Levey have been largely responsible for

the strong season. Cantrell stated, "Liza and Micah are both amazing leaders. Micah is really good at keeping up the energy and uniting



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEXA THOMPSON

MEAN MUGGIN': The varsity coed volleyball team poses for a quick pic.

the team, while Liza is a great role model." As a result, the younger players on the team look to the captains for advice and are not afraid to ask questions.

With just three games left until the playoffs, the players are both optimistic and ambitious, with goals to go much further than last year's squad. When asked about her expectations, Cantrell said, "I expect to finish the season off very well. Right now we're looking at a good standing in the playoffs, and I think if we continue to improve as a team we can make it far."

The other volleyball team this spring, the boys' varsity team, has had a wild season full of ups and downs. As of April 23, the team holds an even 5-4 record and has been improving all season. The team lost their first match to Walter Johnson unexpectedly, but after winning a set against the defending champs Wootton and smashing Seneca Valley, they have plenty to be excited about.

On April 14, the team defeated Clarksburg in a tight match, which junior Andrew Yuan

called "our best game yet." The team ended up winning in the fifth set by a score of 15-12.

Now on a roll, the team has high hopes for the rest of the season. Junior Kyle Jameson said, "We hope to be in the playoffs going for the county championship." Though lofty, this goal is not out of reach. The team played well against a very tough Wheaton team and believes that they can take down almost any team in the county.

The confidence is not concentrated in Jameson alone, though, as Yuan said, "We expect to win out the rest of our games and at least make it past the first round of the playoffs."

With two great volleyball teams filled with great talents and lofty expectations, the Red Army should do what they can to support both squads. Jameson stated that the Red Army can definitely help the boys' team "by coming to our final home games" and even traveling to the county playoffs, which will host the top 16 teams in the county.

Wizards, Pierce Pushing Raps

By **DAVID FINGERET**

Editor-in-Chief

As of April 23, the Washington Wizards are off to a strong start in their playoff series against the Toronto Raptors with a lead in the series of 2-0. After coming into the playoffs as the fifth seed, the Wizards have surprised many after having a mid-season crisis, dropping from the number two seed all the way down to fifth. Now the "new season" has started; as every game is important, there are no more second chances. Speculations and rumors have started that, if the Wizards don't make it to the second round, head coach Randy Whitman may be fired.

Even so, John Wall and company look red hot on the court after game 1 of the playoffs. Season veteran Paul Pierce put the team on his back, scoring 20 points: as the saying goes, the Raptors "can't handle The Truth." In Game 2, Wall and Bradley Beal showed why they should be considered the best backcourt duo, scoring 26 and 28 points respectively. That's not all Wall did: he handed out 17 assists to go along with his 26 points. Over the past year, Wall has proved not only to his peers but to the entire NBA that he is an all-star point guard.

Possibly the biggest surprise out of the series has been the number three pick in

the 2013 draft, Otto Porter, Jr. After having a couple of bad seasons, Porter has turned it on, going off in game 2 for 15 points and 9 rebounds coming off the bench. With Porter coming off the bench, this gives starter Paul Pierce a chance to rest his legs for the fourth quarter.

As the series heads to Washington, the Wizards look to sweep the Raptors and get some rest before the second round of the playoffs begins. The team has a tough road ahead, as most likely they will have to take on LeBron James and the Cavaliers if the keep get through to the second round. During the regular season, the Cavs took the series 3-1, but this was before the emergence of Porter. As winning the series against the Cavs is looking more and more likely, the defense will really need to step it up, especially to stop James, Kyrie Irving, Kevin Love, and J.R. Smith. Each of these players has the ability to go off at any moment, making the Cavs very difficult to defend.

But let's not get too far ahead of ourselves: the Wizards still have to win two games before moving on. The Wizards don't need any more motivation after losing to the Pacers last year in six games. The Wiz look to rebound and go farther than they've been in 37 years, coming home with the golden trophy.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE

GIVE ME A FIVE: Starting point guard John Wall (left) and forward Paul Pierce (right) celebrate after a big win against the Toronto Raptors.

SPRING SPORTS RECORD UPDATE

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Varsity Softball 6-7



Here's what some Quince Orchard athletes think...

<i>The Prowler asked...</i>							
	Brooke Saffer	Keegan Van Wert	Sophia Mallus	Jack Webster	Andy Loftus	Kevin Childs	Taline Doudaklian
This summer, I'm going to...	Do the rumba while eating dog corns	Not share Justin with Noah	Learn how to swim	Drop the worst mixtape ever made	Get stranded on an island with Jim	FSU with the boys	James Neveleff
Any summer jobs?	Whatever Riley is doing	Butler Camp	Urban Outfitters	Jmike's baby!	Jersey Mike's	Crushing cans... it's soda pressing ;)	Jetlife_nev
Who's your summer love this year?	Riley	JSorra	Spicoli #whip-gamestrong	Tove Lo	Helen	Bridget	Pickup Nev
What would be your ideal date?	With Riley	Drinking Starbucks and watching <i>Grey's Anatomy</i>	A day at the beach	With Andrew Poulson at Applebee's	Space camp	Panda and Entourage	Being with James
Favorite place to spend time in the sun is...	Stranded in the jungle	The beach	In a dark room	Slammed Honda!	The photosphere	127th St. OC, MD	James' deck
10 bands, 50 bands, 100 bands, how many bands does Drake have?	I'm not sure. Ask Sprecher, he'll do the calculations.	I'm not sure how to answer this...	Why is there always a question about Drake?	Just know he has shmoney	I thought he was a solo artist.	Spicoli	James Nev
If I was stranded on an island, I would want to be with...	Riley	Majkrzak	Anyone but James	Jason Heyn... What can't he do?	Jim	Brooke Saffer	Obviously James
Favorite memory this year?	Meeting Riley	Walking to 8th period with my true love Callyn	Lebron James	Football season with the squad	January 5th	SPICOLI!!!	FratGod Nev

Lacrosse Pushes to Playoffs

By GREG BURNHAM
Sports Managing Editor

Both the boys and girls lacrosse teams are off to tremendous starts this year with the boys winning the division and the girls coming within one game of doing so.

To date the boys are undefeated, except for a loss to Bel-Air High School over spring break in an out of county game. However, the boys will face their two biggest contests in the next week to finish out the season when they face Wootton away on April 25th and Churchill at home on the 30th. The girls unfortunately fell to Gaithersburg 9-8 in a very good game that decided the champion of the 4A west division. Nonetheless, this season has been extremely successful for the girls and they are in prime position to make a deep playoff run. Both teams are anchored this year by key veteran leadership that has proved vital to each teams success. On the boys side, the majority of starters this year are returning starters from last year and the experience is definitely paying off.

"The experience has been huge for us. We are all very comfortable

with each other on the field and gel well together. The offseason was also big because there has been visible improvement across the whole team which has created more depth on the roster," said senior defenseman Jason Heyn. The depth has proved to be a big thing for the team as they have been able to dominate teams from beginning to end. Another thing that has contributed to this is the amount of fitness the team has been put through in practice to ensure they can maintain their high level throughout course of the game.

"This is probably the best all around team I have been a part of...and I am extremely excited to see what we can do in the playoffs," said senior Jake Christensen.

The playoff bracket draw will come out within the next week and we expect both teams to receive very high seedings. From everyone here at the prowler we wish both teams good luck and also good luck to all the seniors in all their future endeavors whether it involves lacrosse or not.

NFL Mock Draft

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- 17. San Diego Chargers – Danny Shelton, DT, Washington. The Chargers are thin at defensive tackle and Shelton is the most dominant pure defensive tackle in the draft. This is a classic "most bang for your buck" pick.
- 18. Kansas City Chiefs – Jalen Strong, WR, Arizona State. The Chiefs didn't throw a single touchdown to a wide receiver last season. Strong's basketball background, strength, and size will make up for what he lacks in speed and make him a very good possession receiver.
- 19. Cleveland Browns (from Buffalo) – Arik Armstead, DL, Oregon. The Browns already filled a need at WR with the twelfth pick, so now it's time to address the other side of the ball. Arik Armstead is the most intriguing defensive lineman left at this point.
- 20. Philadelphia Eagles – Marcus Peters, CB, Washington. The Eagles are in the process of rebuilding their secondary, with offseason acquisitions Byron Maxwell and Walter Thurmond. Peters is the third piece to

the puzzle and can compete for a starting job right away.

- 21. Cincinnati Bengals – Landon Collins, SS, Alabama.

Collins is a no-nonsense, hard-hitting, decisive run defender who can energize his team. The Bengals secondary is thin and Collins can step in right away and play strong safety.

- 22. Pittsburgh Steelers – Kevin Johnson, CB, Wake Forest.

The Steelers need a cornerback, period. They'll take the best available cornerback at their pick. Johnson is a superb athlete and is already well-versed in man coverage.

- 23. Detroit Lions – Malcolm Brown, DT, Texas.

With the departure of Ndamukong Suh, the Lions need a replacement for his big body. Brown carries the most value at that position.

- 24. Arizona Cardinals – Jalen Collins, CB, LSU.

Pairing Jalen Collins with Patrick Peterson forms a shutdown pair of cornerbacks. Seeing as they are already thin at the position, with only three cornerbacks on the current roster, this pick adds an immediate starter.

- 25. Carolina Panthers – Andrus Peat, OT, Stanford. Peat falling to 25 would be an absolute steal. He is tall

and has a thick lower body, the prototype for a pro tackle. Unfortunately for Peat, his inability to deal with speedy edge rushers could prove to be his undoing in the NFL.

- 26. Baltimore Ravens – Todd Gurley, RB, Georgia.

With the suspension and waiving of Ray Rice, the Ravens were left scrambling last year to find a serviceable running back. They may have found that in Justin Forsett, but a smart team like the Ravens won't leave that up to chance.

- 27. Dallas Cowboys – Melvin Gordon, RB, Wisconsin.

This pick is contingent upon the 'Boys not landing Adrian Peterson prior to the draft. Melvin Gordon is an all-around back who will form a formidable one-two punch in Dallas' backfield.

- 28. Denver Broncos – Owamagbe Odighizuwa, DE, UCLA.

The Broncos need a defensive lineman to team up with Von Miller for the years to come. In steps UCLA product Owamagbe Odighizuwa (who has the most fun name in the draft) to fill the pass rushing void.

- 29. Indianapolis Colts – D.J. Humphries, OT, Florida

Strictly a need pick here. The Colts were in the bottom half of the league and gave up 29 sacks. The Colts select the highest-

rated offensive lineman remaining.

- 30. Green Bay Packers – Eddie Goldman, DT, Florida State.

The days of B.J. Raji are gone. The Packers need a new defensive tackle to step in and plug up the middle of the defensive line. Eddie Goldman is the best remaining DT in the draft.

- 31. New Orleans Saints (from Seattle) – Maxx Williams, TE, Minnesota.

Another strictly need pick. The Saints already got their pass rusher with the 13th pick in Bud Dupree. They can now afford to gamble on Jimmy Graham's potential replacement. The Saints select Maxx Williams and avoid Ben Watson being their starting tight end.

- 32. New England Patriots – Byron Jones, CB, Connecticut

With the departure of starting CBs Darrell Revis and Brandon Browner, the Patriots look to fill a spot with UConn cornerback Byron Jones. Jones' stock has been rising exponentially since he set an NFL Combine and World Record broad jump of 12 feet, 2¾ inches. He's an instinctive player who can sniff out rub routes, something that led Malcolm Butler to making the Super Bowl-winning interception.



ATHLETES TO WATCH

Girls Lacrosse



Brooke Saffer

Senior Brooke Saffer continues to show leadership by staying after practice and assisting younger athletes. Her teammates praise Saffer for her hard work.

Boys Lacrosse



Dylan Purcell

Senior Dylan Purcell is a great leader on and off the field. Purcell excels in school as well as in lacrosse. He loves helping younger teammates reach their full potential.

GO COUGARS



Baseball



Sam Sprecher

Senior Sam Sprecher has been a valuable asset to the baseball community at Quince Orchard. He has scored nine runs in only six games. In addition, Sprecher has a .478 on-base percentage.

Softball



Katie Schuster

Senior Katie Schuster does not miss practices and gives it her all. She gave 100% at all of the off-season workouts and has continued that mindset throughout the season.

Boys Volleyball



David Fingeret

Senior David Fingeret looks out for every single team member. He wants to make sure everybody doesn't work alone. He is a true member. Also, he continues to dominate on the court.

Coed Volleyball



Micah Levey

Senior Micah Levey has been a great addition to the team. In his second year playing the sport, he works hard on being an effective hitter. The coaches praise him for playing smart and hard all the time.

Boys Outdoor Track



Justin Sorra

Senior Justin Sorra sets a great example for younger athletes on track through his work ethic and overall speed. The coaches look for Sorra to continue to do big things the rest of the season.

Girls Outdoor Track



Cierra Wells

Senior Cierra Wells has been all in since her freshman year. She tries her hardest and shows that effort during races. She is a force not to be reckoned with. In addition, she is a great leader.

Track Sprints Towards States

By **MATT LOWINGER**
Sports Editor

The track and field team has been dominating opponents on their road to the Maryland 4A State Championships. With hard work and dedication, the team hopes to win it all.

Coach Seann Pelkey is very proud of all of the accomplishments last season: the boys finished third in counties while the girls finished 16th. Pelkey boasts that the team is filled with hard-working student athletes that only strive for perfection. He picks the team through the individuals' "speed, strength, and endurance."

Pelkey's team is filled with a "strong core of seniors, but some underclassmen [are] filling in the depth." Thus far, the team is undefeated and Pelkey would like to "keep that [streak] going." Pelkey believes the girls have been working really hard: "The girls team has been steadily improving," says Pelkey. He looks for both teams to finish out the year strong and keep on improving into next year.

Senior Ben Thoms is admired by his fellow teammates because of his drive to succeed. Over the years, Thoms has improved his two-mile time up to 9:56, the best on the team. He mainly focuses on the two-mile because of other strong teammates

and has a great chance to win states with the help of other non-track and field runners: "We hardly get any support, so it would mean a lot if a few Cougars came out to a meet or two." Just like Thoms, Wells believes that Northwest will be the team's biggest competition, but with the help of other Cougars, the track team will be able to defeat our rivals.

Most Montgomery County runners revere junior Liam Walsh. His mile time of 4:28, 800 meters 2:00.17, and two miles 10:01 is an accomplished feat that Walsh is proud to have. He hopes to attend the state meet and win a couple of races. Last year was Walsh's breakout season. He posted record after record with his mile and 800-meter times. Walsh would love to see the Cougars come and support himself and the rest of the team on their way to states.

**"We have a strong core of seniors."
-Coach Pelkey**

Thoms explains that rival Northwest is comparable to a fire-breathing dragon: "They're extremely talented and they ran away with the indoor country, region, and championship titles." Still, he remains confident and proud of how far the team has become.

Thoms has high hopes for the team before he departs down south to either the University of Richmond or the University of South Carolina. He hopes to continue their undefeated season all throughout the season.

Senior Cierra Wells has been a leader since her first year on the team through her speed and great qualities, such as perseverance. She has been working hard to get her mile down to a fantastic time of 5:24 and her two-mile time to 11:40. She believes that the team is strong

Tennis Sets Standards

By **BRENNA LOFGREN**
Sports Editor

As the tennis season comes to a close, the senior boys start looking back at their final season while the underclassmen reflect on everything they have learned and what they expect for next year.

The boys played their first season in Division I this year after beating Northwest and winning Division II last year. Although they have experienced higher level play in their new division, the boys have kept their heads high and have learned to play more dynamically. Captain junior Joe Cooke said, "The lineup of players has changed a lot from what was expected at the beginning of the season. We've had some boys that have had to step up and take on high positions, and also some really strong doubles teams have emerged." With these new challenges, the

team has made an appearance in Division I, with a record of 3-6. A record of 3-6 does not sound too impressive, but, in a pool of six Division I "W" schools, the boys have come out with competitive wins and very close losses.

The underclassmen, who have finally got into the swing of things, have an even bigger task to fill in for the people leaving. A generally young team, the boys have played against very high-skilled players and their coach, Chris Barber, has really pushed them to better themselves as players and teammates. Sophomore Alex Kirsch said, "Our coach has helped the team grow by promoting and supporting everyone and telling us jokes. He tells us what we need to work on as a whole and repeats these things often."

The work ethic between the coach and the underclassmen has benefitted the team nicely and there is a very bright future ahead for our tennis program.



SMOOTH SWINGING: Junior Joe Cooke prepares himself to dominate his opponent with his forehand volley. PHOTO COURTESY OF LIFETOUGH