

THE PROWLER

Quince Orchard High School

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Friday, May 4, 2012

QOHS leads the way with new engineering program

By **ANDY FLEISCHER**
News Managing Editor

"Igniting imagination and innovation through learning." This is the motto of Project Lead The Way (PLTW), a new program that will debut at Quince Orchard in the fall of 2012.

Launched in 1997 in 12 New York high schools, PLTW is a hands-on, project-based engineering curriculum and biomedical science course for high schools and middle schools. QOHS will offer a sequence of five classes that includes Introduction to Engineering Design (IED), Principles of Engineering (POE), Digital Electronics (DE), and two new courses being added next year -- Biotechnology and Engineering Design and Development (EDD).

"These courses add a whole new element to our school. We have never had such an in-depth program, and we are all very excited for PLTW to begin at QOHS," said student teacher Julie Newcomer.

To date, 4,000 middle and high schools in 50 states and the District of Columbia offer PLTW programs. PLTW, a non-profit organization, "is the nation's leading provider of rigorous and innovative Science, Technology, Engineering, and

Mathematics (STEM) curriculum for schools," according to program literature.

Many prominent United States officials have taken notice of the rise of PLTW including U.S. Secretary of State

Hillary Clinton. She described PLTW as a "promising program that is both changing the lives of middle and high school students nationwide and helping to build a workforce that meets the needs of the 21st century."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARTY NELSON
BUILD THE FUTURE: Seniors Lucas Bogart (left), Kelly Baik (center), and Brian Heligman (right) work together to race a vehicle they built for their Principles of Engineering (POE) course.

Congressman Paul D. Tonko (NY) also took note, saying, "Project Lead The Way is truly living up to its name... offering untold opportunities to so many students to enter into the exploration of science and technology careers."

Three years ago, a Program Advisory Committee (PAC) was created to embark on the mission of making QOHS a fully certified PLTW school. The PAC was made up of QOHS staff and parents. The staff included principal Carole Working, counselor David Mullaney, counselor Austin Freeman, resource teacher Julie Newcomer, IED teacher Steve Mikulski, POE and future EDD teacher Marty Nelson, DE teacher Colleen Kelly, and science teacher Lisa Suit. Sixteen parents served on the PAC as well. The team developed an "Engineering Club" and outlined a schedule of speakers to support instruction and create more opportunities for enrichment.

Students who enroll in the PLTW courses begin their journey in ninth grade. "Right away it gives students a very rigorous course in their freshman year," said Mikulski. "The course is very neat, and students will have a lot of fun because it gives them a chance to learn the basics of engineering."
See PLTW, PAGE 2

Art show is picture perfect

By **KELLY WHITEIS** and **WILL CAUDLE**
News Editor and Journalism Student

On April 25 and 26, the art show presented photographs, pots, stained glass, drawings, and other artwork created by QOHS pupils. Parents, students, and staff were invited to enjoy the artwork presented in the main gym.

Students in a variety of art classes prepared their work for the art show over a period of seven or more months. Some courses that exhibited art were: Photography, Digital Art, Ceramics, Foundations of Art, and Studio Art.

Junior Shota Ono, a ceramics student, had been preparing for the art show since last year. "This art show was the climax of my year art-wise, so essentially everything I did in class was

in preparation for it," said Ono.

This was Ono's third year entering his work in the show. He submitted several ceramic pots which were made with a potter's wheel. Ono said, "As of now, my favorite is the huge pot with the big flower carved in it."

Students contributed a huge effort to perfect their designs. "I believe [students] benefit from working hard towards something, preparing, and taking responsibility for getting their best work ready to present," said photography teacher Amy Messenger. "There is something about walking around the show...and seeing your work in a 'gallery-like' setting that makes all the work worth it."

Junior Catherine Panasenkov, a photography student, See Art Show, PAGE 2



PHOTO BY TEDDY MEYERS
ARTIFACTS: Students' pots are put on display at the annual art show.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PENNY KEUNE
CENTER STAGE: Sophomore Sanjana Taskar was one of many to Jam Against Genocide.

Students jam for a cause

By **SEWIT HAILE** and **CHRIS HOZEMPA**
Viewpoints Managing Editor and Journalism Student

On April 12, Quince Orchard High School students showcased their musical talent in Jam Against Genocide, a music event organized by Students Helping Other People (SHOP).

When preparing for Jam Against Genocide, SHOP had to put the night together and get the word out to everyone. SHOP president Nicky Pitts organized the event by making signs, recruiting people to contribute, and creating a Facebook group to spread the word. After all the planning and
See Jam, PAGE 2

News

MCPS high school and eighth grade students recently voted for their 2012-2013 Student Member of the Board.

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Features

A group of four QO students placed fifth in the Maryland Prostart Invitational cooking competition.

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Sports

Outdoor Track & Field athletes fight to the finish.

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SMOB elections enter QO

By DANIEL FISHBACK and JACOB ADLER

News Associate and Journalism Student

On April 25, Lissette Escobar, a junior at Richard Montgomery High School, and John Mannes, a junior representing Northwest High School, ran against each other to become the 34th Student Member of the Board.

Alan Xie, the current SMOB and a senior at Richard Montgomery HS, was elected in 2010 to serve on the Montgomery County Board of Education to voice students' opinions. SGA President Jordan Finkelstein said Xie's policies "would make the student's lives easier." Finkelstein added, "He's done a great job...most of his policies are what the students have asked for."

Although Xie has taken action for the students, some feel that they aren't involved as much as they would like. Junior Shota Ono said the SMOB should "walk down the hallways and [ask students for their opinions]. I think that's more effective than posting something on the MCPS web page." He added that he wanted to see Xie at QOHS more often, to better understand his goals.

Finkelstein agreed, saying, the "SMOB

should get surveys out to students, so they get a better understanding of what the students care about."

Xie is only the second SMOB to serve multiple terms, after Sagar Sanghvi of Magruder HS accomplished the feat in 2003-2004 and 2004-2005. Xie has yet to accomplish one of his premier goals, to get the SMOB the right to vote on the budget. The budget "impacts everything," according to Finkelstein, adding "it's hard to add new things to the school system." The bills that have died in Maryland legislatures were in favor of a SMOB budget vote, and as a result, Xie has spent considerable time attempting to attain the budget voting right.

Mannes was declared the winner after elections were held on April 25; he collected 63% of the vote, while Escobar earned 37% of the vote. Mannes supports improved in-school activities and more freedom for student events.

A brand new voting system was put into effect for this year's election. Last year, students voted much like they would if they were voting for president, by inputting an I.D. card into a voting machine. This year, students were given passwords to login to a website and place their vote online.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCPSMD.ORG

SMOBFINALISTS: Lissette Escobar, left, and John Mannes were chosen at Poolesville High School as the two SMOB candidates for 2012. John Mannes was elected after carrying 63% of the vote.

Students' masterpieces illuminate

continued from PAGE 1

contributed film, digital pictures, camera transfers, and a 3D book to the show. Throughout the year, she experimented with various methods and techniques to create new ideas for photos. "My favorite piece is probably the 3D storybook because it is more than just a photograph; it is a fun, hands-on book that you can flip through," said Panasenkov.

Many students chose to focus on a specific element of art or principle of design that was portrayed through their art pieces. "My main focus is always on lines, an element of art," said Ono. "The lining of the surface of the vase creates the line. One of the most arduous tasks was making that surface of the vase perfectly smooth," he added.

Depending on the type of artwork, the pieces were judged in several different categories. The judges were professional artists or other people involved in art within

the community. Many awards were given out, so many students were able to receive recognition for their work. This can be extremely important to students looking to attend art schools in the future.

Parents, teachers, and students flocked to QOHS to view the interesting art pieces that took so much time to create. Ultimately, the art show proved to be a big success for all those involved.

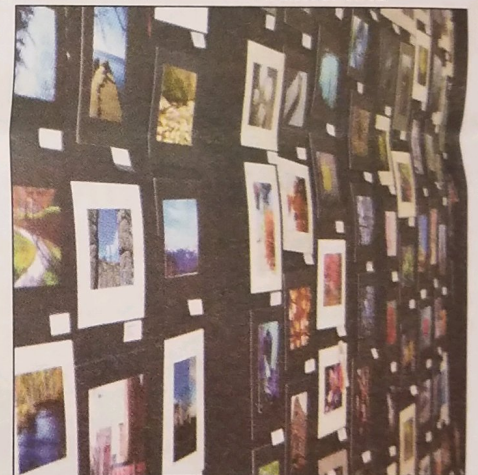


PHOTO BY TEDDY MEYERS

ON DISPLAY: The 2012 Art Show was full of impressive pieces of artwork, including pottery, posters, and photographs.

SHOP raises money with music

continued from PAGE 1

preparations for the big night, Pitts eventually got to enjoy "her favorite student singers."

Though many of QO's school events take place in the auditorium, Jam Against Genocide was held in the courtyard. Psychology teacher and SHOP sponsor Penny Keune commented that she "really likes the venue, and even if it was a bit cold, the sound is awesome in the courtyard so it makes up for it."

All proceeds from the eventful night went to Doctors Without Borders. Keune described the non-political organization as a way of "helping children in unstable and war torn countries in Africa and all throughout the world."

Many talents were evident as performers took the spotlight. SHOP vice president Sydni Adams loved see-



PHOTO COURTESY OF PENNY KEUNE

ACOUSTIC: Senior Camille Horan performs in the courtyard.

ing what QO students were capable of. "It's odd when I see these students around in the halls, but am completely unaware of their talents," said Adams. The guitar playing of senior Mark Andrews and junior Adam Seres was thought to be the highlight of the night.

Adams also thought that Jam Against Genocide was an important cause for high

school students. Adams believes "it's important that we become more globally aware and learn about the hard truth, atrocious events taking place while we carry on without knowing." By asking the QO community to support the night with just an entrance fee of \$5 students helped, "a great cause that takes care of victims of genocide and other situations," Adams noted.

New focus on STEM education

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design products, stress that engineers must go through."

By the time they graduate, PLTW students will have successfully completed five classes and earned the PLTW certificate. These students will also have learned if engineering is right for them. Because of this forced realization, 100% of PLTW students who go into an engineering major in college successfully complete that major according to the University of Maryland Baltimore County. Students receive college credit for these courses as well.

"PLTW will show students if engineering is right for them," said Nel-

son. "Students will then go into college already knowing what to expect from a major in that field."

As a means to earn college credits, learn about engineering, or just do a lot of

hands-on activities, PLTW has an abundance of opportunities for students nationwide, and now at QOHS.

*Journalism Student Lawrence Simon contributed to this report.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARTY NELSON

HANDS ON LEARNING: A group of students work together to solve mathematical engineering problems in POE.

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Advisor: Ellen Stahly



Making prom a memorable night Senior beach week

By **KELLY BAICK**
Editor-in-Chief

Unlike the worry-free prom nights portrayed on hundreds of teen movies and television shows, real prom brings with it a load of unseen drama. This is a behind-the-scenes look at the reality of high school prom.

The majority of the drama involved with prom is through the establishment of prom groups. And within such groups there are even smaller conflicts. Some people want only a few of their closest friends joining together for the special night, while others don't want to be too "exclusive" and instead include everyone. But as the guys make last minute prom date decisions (which, on its own, is a whole other story), the sizes of prom groups fluctuate to a point where groups are far from the size they started out to be. Once groups are eventually set in stone, people must then determine all the extra "fluff" needed to make prom "a night to remember". The ideal prom dress with the best color, style, and right amount of sparkle. The perfect limo, spacious enough to fit the whole clan. The most delicious restaurant, with a broad enough menu to cater to all taste buds. The biggest basement for the after party, large enough to hold dozens of sleeping bags. All are things necessary for making

the night super special, as well as super expensive. Although, from a girl's point of view, I wouldn't mind having my date throw down some cash for the extra "fluff", it's hard to grasp the idea of someone spending that much money on me just for one night.

Although as a little girl I always fantasized about the perfect prom night, I've realized now

that it's simply impossible for something as intricate as prom to be flawless. While disputes and mishaps are inevitably around the corner for every prom group, it's fair to say that adding even more drama to the issue will only worsen it. So take a deep breath—in, out—and enjoy the reason for all this drama: to be with friends on "a night to remember".

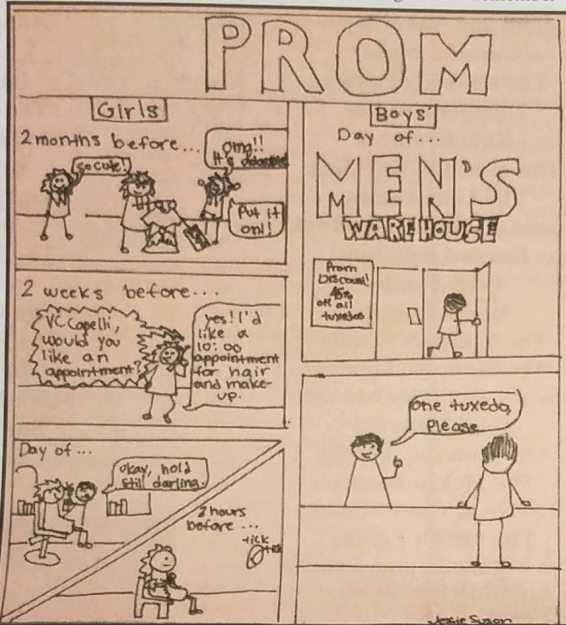


PHOTO COURTESY OF WAUWATOSAWEST.COM

PROM: The night make girls anxious and boys waiting to the last minute.

By **TIM SCOTT**
News Editor

Beach week. The pinnacle of senior year fun. Possibly one of the wildest, craziest, most fun weeks of a student's life. Students have done some senseless things during this week in June, many with harsh repercussions, but that doesn't seem to be resonating so much for many OO seniors.

What beach week ends up meaning to some people is a lot of drinking, smoking, and partying. It's the first week of real freedom, and being independent, without parents standing in the way and being the check and balancing factor.

Most parents accept this challenge of letting go, and realize that with their child going off to college in the fall, they will need to begin trusting their kid to be responsible enough on their own. Unfortunately, not all seniors live up to their parents' expectations.

Sure, a lot of this stuff happens with seniors, and certainly college students, but the difference is that the beach is a completely uncontrolled environment. Its place left open to habitation for many kids that are still growing up, that need much more time to learn responsibility, and at least to be smart about what they're doing.

Last year, Dewey police made more than 120 arrests for underage drinking, more than the University of Delaware. This

year, they say they have a lot more money allotted in the budget to pay police officers overtime.

"The binge drinking is horrible. Marijuana is in every house we go to. The pills? An absolute nightmare," said Sgt. Clifford Dempsey of the Dewey Police Dept.

According to Teen-anon.com, 87.3% of seniors in high school have tried alcohol, and athealth.com states that 42.3% of 12th graders have tried marijuana. Senior beach week is a catalyst for even higher statistics. My guess is that because such a large number of teens are involved, the idea of safety in numbers makes kids feel okay with it. The risk however, is all too real.

Last year at Dewey Beach, too many of the 2000 students who went down for beach week were arrested. The consequences all depend on age. "Adults"- or freshly turned 18 year olds- can face pricey fines, or even worse, a permanent criminal record. This can follow a person for the rest of his life, on any job application ever filled out, on any background check ever run. For juveniles, a late night phone call to mom or dad and a three hour drive to the beach at one in the morning probably isn't the kind of wake up call they might be hoping for.

So to all those seniors heading off to the beach in June, my hope and purpose is to remind everyone, to be safe, careful, and smart.

Technology's daily distraction

By **JACK GEORGE**
Features Editor

Dogs have been described as a man's best friend for centuries, but recently, I'm beginning to think that our cellular devices have replaced that, for good. Cell phones, started off as two pound, brick-sized gadgets that could barely fit into a pocket. Now, new phones such as the iPhone 4S are 4.9 ounces and are skinnier than a twin-package of Starburst. Not only have phone designs upgraded dimensionally, but their reputation in the human race has sky-rocketed. Yes, they are great for internet access, keeping in touch with friends, and the occasional checking yourself out in the black reflective screen. Though they help us with all those "first world problems," they have crippled us in one of the worst ways possible. I'm talking about our social interactions 24/7. Phones have literally turned so many of us into zombies, because we have become so dependent on them.

"If I lose my phone for more than three minutes, I start to freak out," says junior Madison Loucks. She is just one of the millions of teenagers that have fallen under this

curse. Now, when teens hang out together, they rarely talk much because they are too busy looking at their phones. It is the worst when one is with a few of his/her best friends, someone finally finishes a ten minute story they think is the funniest thing ever, and then realizes that no one was even listening because the others were all on their phones texting other friends. Then one thinks, if you guys would rather be with them, why don't just hang out with them instead of me?

After one realizes that, yes, they were just totally ignored; they stop talking, and decide to check their phone thinking they have a text or something. But, of course they don't. And now that they checked their phone, they can't put their phone down because they will look even more stupid than they would have if they just didn't check their phone at all. So they decide to play a game, but if they're like me, they're stuck with a "dumb phone," and have no games.

At this point, one sits there and pretends to text which makes them look even MORE stupid, because when their guy/girlfriends ask them who they

are texting they don't have an answer. Then, the friends find out it was no one and the pretender was just playing around with the settings. Be prepared to hear about it for the next four months.

Teens have become so attached to their phone and all its abilities. That they have become more comfortable confronting someone over the phone instead of face to face. The worst is twitter fights. When you hang out with a friend when they're in an intense twitter fight, one literally just sits there not talking and listening to their friends talk to them about the opposition for five seconds while the person they are talking about is tweeting back..

So I digress. Cell phones shouldn't be used all the time around friends. Yes, they are for communication and to keep in touch with friends and family, but if you're already with your friends, you don't need your cell phone because not all your friends get as many texts as you, and trust me, it gets annoying when someone is texting so much that you can't even hold a conversation with them. So put down your phones and enjoy the time with the friends that are actually with you.

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QO student chefs cook up a win

By GRACE TOOHEY
and ALISON
ZOCCOLA

Editor-in-Chief and
Journalism Student

This spring on March 13, four QO students traveled to the Baltimore Convention Center to participate in the Maryland Prostart Invitational cooking competition. This team had to abide by intricate criteria which included creating one appetizer, one entrée, and one dessert in a highly monitored environment. The Cougars placed fifth in the state out of seventeen schools, and were just seven points behind the first place team.

International Cultures and Cuisines teacher, Helen Dana, found out about the competition last July and decided that QO would participate during the upcoming year. With a strong background in cooking and catering, Dana was the perfect sponsor for this undertaking. She asked for volunteers from her ICC classes, and after sign-ups,

drop-outs, and last minute add-ons, the team consisted of senior and team captain Ren Geers and juniors Stephanie Barbaro, Adriana Langa, and Grant Hayes. "I could not have hand-picked a more cohesive, talented or dedicated team," said Dana.

Not only did Dana have to recruit committed competitors, they also needed to find a chef mentor—which did not prove to be a simple task. Hayes said, "Three chefs came in to help us. One was an instructor and founder of a cooking school in Bethesda and the others were executive chefs."

Their final chef mentor was Francois Dionot from L'Academie de Cuisine. "Each of the chefs did different things, and for that we are eternally grateful," Dana explained.

It took months to prepare for the actual competition. "We would come in a lot of weekends and just run through the whole thing," Hayes explained.

Preparation consisted of "learning knife skills, practicing knife cuts, a lot of recipe research, fabricat-

ing over thirty, evaluating recipes for reproducing, tasting final products, and critiquing," Dana explained. They also had to prepare to cook within the guidelines, which meant cooking without electricity, using the main ingredient which was crab meat, and utilizing a butane burner. "At the competition we had to cook on two butane lighters which are illegal in Montgomery County, so that was a challenge," explained Geers.

When it finally came time to make the trek to Baltimore for the actual day, they began with a rocky start. "The drive [to the competition] was stressful. We had to make the menu on someone's phone and then print it out at a FedEx," Hayes shared. But after that, it all came together and the team created a cream of crab soup appetizer, an entrée of crab cakes atop a bed of sautéed asparagus and Yukon Gold potatoes with an avocado sauce. Dessert was a white chocolate cheesecake with morrello cherries and mint garnish. Each of these items the team had to make twice. More than seventy-five judges reviewed the first plate for aesthetics and the other for taste. "We thought [the competition] would be so much stricter, but it was pretty lax," Hayes shared. "I was happy when we finished with extra time."

As it was QO's first time at the venue, and fifth place was really just icing on the cake. "It was amazing seeing the whole thing come together after interesting circumstances, I was really proud of them all," Dana shared.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HELEN DANA
IRON CHEF: (left to right) Stephanie Barbaro, Ren Geers, Adriana Langa, and Grant Hayes compete in Baltimore.

Cougar violinist takes the stage Santini pulls out a win in competition

By JULIANA SEGURA
Features Associate

With many talented musicians taking their abilities to the next level, junior Viviana Santini put her years of violin practice on display March 18 and brought home first place in the Potomac Valley Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition.

Santini is one of many gifted musicians participating in the Quince Orchard High School orchestra. She has shown excessive hard work and accomplishments for the past ten years playing the violin. Aside from the school orchestra, Santini has been playing for PVYO for about seven years. "My violin teacher, Ella Stager, mentioned this competition and I thought it would be a great opportunity to enter," said Santini.

Practicing for months proved to be the key to success in this competition. Santini had been working on her piece "over and over again until it was at perfection," she explained. The composition Santini played was called *Konzert* by Kabalewski. "I played most nights for about two hours to get the melody down," Santini said.

This being her first time ever to participate in a big competition, Santini had her share of nerves. Playing along with three other musicians she felt the pressure on stage. "I took deep breaths and told myself I was going to do just fine," she said. There were two judges that were critiquing their

mistakes and monitoring the group's dynamics. They also looked to make sure the concertants were interpreting the piece correctly.

Winning first place really pleased Santini as well as her teacher and parents. "I felt proud about myself, achieving something that I worked so hard on. It was a great accomplishment." Deciding to audition for this competition was an easy choice for Santini. By auditioning she wanted to offer her music to others. "I believe that playing is very important. The way you play an instrument can really reveal yourself to others," said Santini.

The violin is a good stress reliever for her; it's a way Santini is able to let her emotions be turned into music. She believes that playing an instrument is very important because "once you learn something and become good at it, you should never let it go of that talent." She plans to play in the future as well as minor in music in college.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIVIANA SANTINI
CONCENTRATED: Santini's hard work pays off as she celebrates her big win.

Spring flings with spirit week

By BRITTANY SPERBECK and TAYLOR ALEXANDER
Business and distribution manager and Journalism Student

Although Spirit Week is typically a tradition that accompanies homecoming in the fall, the SGA worked hard this year to create a second spirit week, which was celebrated April 23- April 27. "Spirit week is a tradition that is a great way to get the school excited about upcoming events such as graduation, prom, and final exams," said sophomore class vice president Megan Dougherty.

Senior Jessica Konecke, who won the most spirited senior superlative, enjoyed spirit week because, "it's a chance to actually have fun in school. It takes our mind off school work and the stress that school brings, especially around finals and AP exams."

To uphold her spirited reputation, Konecke says, "I'm going to try to dress up for every specific day even if that means that I have to go shopping

See SPIRIT WEEK, PAGE 8

Jack and Matt's much anticipated 'Last Day of School' Rules

By JACK GEORGE and
MATT TONELSON

Features Editors

1. DON'T LEAVE WITHOUT STOPPING BY THE POOL PARTY ON THE ROOF
2. A FOOD FIGHT IS A MUST.
3. THE LAST DAY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT SCHOOL DAY OF THE YEAR.
4. THE LAST DAY IS INTERNATIONAL BRING YOUR PET TO SCHOOL DAY, ESPECIALLY THE ONES THAT AREN'T TRAINED.
5. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A PET, IT'S OK TO PICK UP SOMETHING RANDOM FROM OFF THE STREET
6. PACK A LIGHT BAG....
7. IF YOU HAVE AN ATTRACTIVE TEACHER, MAKE SURE TO GET HIS/HER NUMBER.
8. GET ALL YOUR BROS TOGETHER AND PLAY HIDE-AND-GO-SEEK. THE WINNER GETS A SUPER SPECIAL PROWLER SURPRISE.
9. IF YOU DISLIKE A TEACHER, BRING IN REALLY SMELLY FOOD AND EAT IT IN CLASS ON THE LAST DAY.
10. IF YOU'RE A SENIOR, YOU CAN DO ANYTHING AND GET AWAY WITH IT. WHAT ARE THEY GONNA DO? KICK YOU OUT?



Around the World

OO Students from all across the globe share their stories

By LILY MILWIT
Double Track Managing Editor

Most students and teachers would agree that OO is home to an extremely diverse student body. But many people don't consider the transitions that students are faced with: the long journeys that they take, and the lessons that they learn along the way.

Freshman Mohammad Idris took an eleven-hour plane ride to the United States with his parents and five siblings. "I like the way I enjoy going and how I've everything. Like, the idea who creates OO for his transition into the US...OO taught me English and the history of America. I learned most of the language from ESOL," said Idris. Although he often misses his friends back in Cairo, Idris has come to appreciate the differences that exist between his new home in Gantersburg and his hometown, almost 6,000 miles away. "In Egypt, there weren't as many students in school. We didn't have PE, art, or sports," said Idris, whose love of sports has been ignited since his move to the US. He adds, "My favorite thing about

because you're always together. I would totally want to go back one day, but I still miss Egypt," says Idris.

Nearly 5,700 miles away from home, Mohamed grew up in Cairo is the hometown of Sophomore Irene Fletemeyer. With her family in hopes of taking advantage of the endless opportunities in always on. "I like going to OO because people are so friendly and nice," said Fletemeyer, who has learned how to speak English and Spanish since her move four years ago. "The teaching here is better than in Manila. Sometimes I feel like you don't even have to use your brain because the teachers make it so easy," added Fletemeyer. Her experiences at OO have helped Fletemeyer realize her dream of becoming a social worker in the future. And while Idris has become fond of American sports, Fletemeyer's favorite thing about the US is her new, American diet. "My favorite thing about being here is the food. I like eating it, says Fletemeyer. Despite her challenges, Fletemeyer has experienced other experiences about her life in the Philippines. "Every neighborhood there is your friend

American way of life, but admits that the transition wasn't easy. "The most difficult thing was becoming comfortable around a completely different group of people. I was pretty shy until seventh grade," said Idris, adding, "Everything is different. The schedules, school times, and the food." Although she often thinks about her friends and family that she left behind, what Roman misses most is "living next to the beach."

After the 3,000 mile trip, back to the US from Chile, Idris extended his stay around the world has a connection at OO who have many multiple distances and left their homes. "I had to move behind to start new ones here in Gantersburg. Regardless of where they come from and the challenging transitions that they've faced, they are grateful for their acceptance into the community and for all of the important lessons that they have learned along the way. "The most important thing I've learned is that you should never forget where you came from and always stay true to who you are," said Roman. Cocker added, "I have learned so much since coming here. Most importantly, that the world is so much bigger than I once thought it was."

Students venture to Spain for spring break

By DAKOTA BURTON AND JEN WALKER
Double Track Managing Editor and Journalism Student

After a much needed spring break, many OO students return to school, relaxed, and ready for summer. Some use this time off to enjoy, eat, and sleep, and no work or to spend time with friends on their spring break to the excitement of OO students. One day trip to Spain, where they enjoyed their trip to the exciting country. Although the annual spring break trip is not an official school sponsored activity, many OO students and staff take this trip every year to discover the culture of different nations. "I decided to go on the trip because I had never been out of the country before and particularly wanted to go to a Spanish speaking country since I have taken many 1, 2, and 3 classes on this year's trip," said senior student Irene Fletemeyer. "I met with a group of students from our school and we decided to go on the trip. We had some lunch-time meetings for interested students, as well as evening meetings for interested parents."

While in Spain, the group traveled to Madrid, Granada, Toledo, Seville, Morocco, and Costa del Sol. "In Madrid, we visited places where they used to hold bull fights, the royal palace, and even an ancient Egyptian monument donated to Spain by the Egyptian government," said junior Shann McGovern about her experiences. "I absolutely loved seeing

everyday life in Morocco, but my favorite experience in Spain was visiting the Alhambra. The architecture is so beautiful." Traveling to these new places exposed students to Spanish culture and customs. "The meals are served first in the US, and there are a lot more people that ride bikes and mopeds, or walk instead of driving like they do here," said junior Andrew Thorpe. "When we were there, we ate paella, salmon, fried shrimp, paella brava (paella with a spicy sauce), and lots of bread and ham."

"I'm pretty big food-lover, and I thought it was great. Some of the meals provided to us for free weren't the best, but the meals we found on our own, in my opinion, were all really good," said Schuman of this dining experience. "Trying new and different food is my favorite part of traveling, so I like to make sure I get the best option I can for lunch every day, and I encourage the students to do the same."

Not only did the group learn more about Spain, but they also learned about each other. "I went only knowing my sister but quickly developed a close bond with the other students from OO and the Canadian group we traveled with," said Slack. "Out of this trip I got friendship, cultural contribution, and a once-in-a-lifetime travel experience."

Any students interested in going on next year's trip should see Ms. Yeck or Mr. Schumann for more information. Schuman concludes, "I hope the students that go on these trips come back with the idea that there is so much more to the world than just Gantersburg, the DC area, or even the USA. There are literally billions of people out there whose day to day lives are so much different from ours, yet so similar at the same time."

Junior Madeline Korol	Freshman Claudia Edell	Junior Mari Chio	Senior Ken Green	Sophomore Umar Kasra	Senior Irene Rodriguez
ITALY	HUNGARY	KOREA	GERMANY	AFRICA	COSTA RICA
GREECE	ITALY	AMERICA	CHINA	AUSTRALIA	THE DEAD SEA
What's the coolest place you've ever been to?	If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?				

Cinco de Mayo is a Reason to celebrate

By ALLISON STRICKMAN, MARILYN NELSON, JARRED SCHWARTZ and RACHEL FIEDLMEAN
Features Editors and Journalism Students

With a history full of constant struggles and battles, Mexico deserves some celebration. Every year on May 5, millions of Americans celebrate Cinco de Mayo, but do they really know what they are celebrating? Though many believe, Cinco de Mayo represents Mexico's independence, in actuality, September 16 is the day to celebrate El Grito de la Independencia (Cry of Independence). The French Christian Mission said, "Cinco de Mayo reminds us of the bloodshed that the Puebla's faced against the French."

Around 200 years ago, the French army was strong, powerful, and most importantly undefeated. On May 5, 1862 French General Charles Larroche de Lorencez led 8,000 troops into Mexico to attack. Unfortunately, Texaco General Ignacio Zaragoza forced the victory. Over the course of the war, the French lost around 300 troops while the Mexicans only suffered a loss of about 100. After six years of hardship and fighting, the French cleared out of Mexico. This "underdog" declaration of the French forces led to the celebration of Cinco de Mayo today. Cinco de Mayo is celebrated throughout not only Mexico, but many other countries as well including the United States. "When I lived in Mexico, my favorite Cinco de Mayo memory was celebrating and dancing with the whole town," explained Megan Unike. Megan, a student of the sophomore Douglas Unike, is celebrating Cinco de Mayo for the first time this year. "I started celebrating this year, because where my family came from in Mexico, not many people celebrate." Allan shared. Megan added, "we all eat lots of traditional Mexican foods, like enchiladas." As a child, Megan spent her holidays with her family, and unlike many others families with the "bad set off fireworks in the street."

Though Cinco de Mayo may not be a well-known holiday, the significance of 150 years ago on this day has cemented this commemoration

PHOTOS BY LILY MILWIT

Sophomore
Irene Fletemeyer
~Philippines



Sophomore
Beth Cocker
~United Kingdom



Sophomore
Macá Román
~Chile



Freshman
Mohammad Idris
~Egypt







CHEERINGS FROM SPAIN : A group of OO students pose for a picture in Toledo during their day tour of Spain. PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK.COM



ASK THE CAPTAIN

advice from the Prowler staff to you...

Q: I am thinking about asking this girl to prom but I'm not sure how to do it. I really like her and I want it to be special, but I don't want to get nervous when I ask her. Any tips?

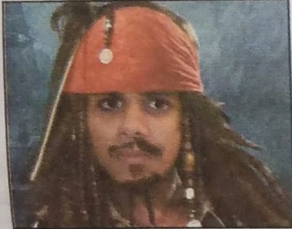
A: WELL, MAKE SURE EVERYTHING AND ANYTHING YOU DO IS EXTRA SPECIAL AND PERSONAL. YOU MUST IGNITE A SPARK BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU OR ELSE SHE WILL SAY NO. ALWAYS BE ORIGINAL. ASK HER IN FRONT OF A LARGE CROWD OF PEOPLE SO SHE CAN'T SAY NO. GO BIG OR GO HOME. BASICALLY, BE THE ICE BENEATH HER SKATES AND THE WIND BENEATH HER WINGS.

Q: I'm scared my boyfriend isn't going to ask me to prom. Since I'm a sophomore and he's a senior, I feel like he is embarrassed to be with me. Should I hint to him about it or should I wait for him to ask me?

A: SINCE YOU ARE A SOPHOMORE YOU SHOULD BE NERVOUS BECAUSE THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT HE WILL ASK YOU TO PROM. BUT HE SHOULD NEVER BE EMBARRASSED TO BE WITH YOU BECAUSE HE IS YOUR BOYFRIEND. IF HE DOESN'T ASK YOU TO PROM, YOU SHOULD ASK HIM TO PROM BUT THEN IMMEDIATELY DUMP HIM AFTER HE SAYS YES.

Q: I'm a bad dancer and have two left feet. How can I impress my date on the dance floor? I'm scared she's going to think I'm a klutz and will leave me stranded alone. What should I do?

A: MAKE SURE YOU DON'T STRESS OUT AND HAVE PLENTY OF RHYTHM. LEARN HOW TO CRUMP, WOP, JERK, AND DOUGIE. IF YOU MASTER THESE MOVES THEN YOU WILL RULE THE DANCE FLOOR AND BE NAMED PROM KING. YOUR DATE WILL WANT TO SHOW YOU OFF TO ALL OF HER FRIENDS AND YOU WILL HAVE A GREAT NIGHT.



CAPTAIN HERE, JUST WANTED TO SAY YOU'RE WELCOME FOR ALL THE GREAT ADVICE THAT I HAVE SPREAD TO ALL YOU YOUNGSTERS. IF YOU STILL HAVE PROBLEMS DURING THE SUMMER, EMAIL ME AT QOHSPROWLER@YAHOO.COM

Cougars travel off to college

By **BROOKE BEISNER** and **SARA HYAT**

Features Editor and Journalism Student

Many have dreamed of the day they can fly off to a faraway state or even a country which will be a new home for the best four years of their lives. By making this a reality, senior Cougars are taking off to many destinations to accept the challenge of college.

Senior Alexa Gittleson, who plans to attend Indiana University this fall, calls her school "home away from home," and looks forward to meeting many new friends. To make her big adjustment less stressful, she has already met her roommate and cannot be happier. Besides being a typical college student, Gittleson plans to study in the field of sports medicine.

While Gittleson heads to the midwest, senior Rachel Solomon travels south as she opts for a warmer climate and plans to attend the University of South Carolina. Fortunately, with her sister there, Alexandra Solomon will be by her side to guide her through

the 44,557 students filling the campus. Though she believes it'll be hard away from her parents she says, "with Alexandra there it'll be a lot easier." Solomon knew she wanted to be part of a school with a great football team and school spirit saying, "after QO I don't think I could ever go to a school that didn't have the spirit like us."

Instead of staying somewhat near the east coast, senior Jordan Tallistich decided to enjoy a very relaxed climate with "365 days of sunshine" at Boulder University in Col-

marketing, while trying to stay warm in the mountains.

Adventuring across the Atlantic, senior Sarah Semple will be attending the American University of Paris. She could not pass up this opportunity because since freshman year, she wanted to go abroad for college. Semple will be studying international and comparative politics and looks forward to, "having a blend of different cultures in Paris including, food and clothes."

Although taking off to a new place can be scary for many, these seniors are

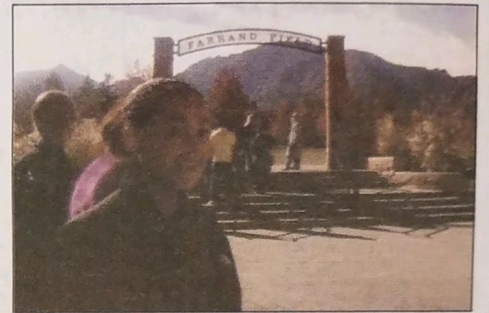


PHOTO COURTESY OF JORDAN TALLISTICH
NEW HOME AWAY FROM HOME: Senior Jordan Tallistich poses in front of Farrand Field at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Tallistich is excited about "the location and meeting new people," and plans to study business and

ready to embrace the end- less experiences that lay ahead on this journey to the best years of their lives.

Students' spirits soar as spring spirit week spreads spunk

continued from PAGE 5

I'm also going to make sure to bring my camera so that I can capture the last memories I'm going to experience at QO."

For those Cougars who aren't seniors, spirit week is still important. "Spirit week is important to our grade, just like all the other grades, because even though we are freshman, we are given the chance like everyone else to take part in the events, dress up, and

have lots of fun. It's a time for the whole school to become one!" said Laney Rubenstein, freshman class president.

Going all out for spirit week can show other grades that your class has a lot of school spirit. "I think seniors set the example, because if they aren't really that into it, then not as many other people will want to be," said junior Erin Moore.

Sophomore Annarose Kennedy said, "I think it's fine if you

go all out because the seniors are always encouraging us to get pumped up and show spirit, so I think it would make them proud."

Spirit week is especially important to the seniors. "It's our senior year, and we want to go out on top!" said SGA officer Morgan Dorset.

Courtyard games were also a big part of spirit week. "The feeling of thinking your class is the best at something can be contagious and it really brings the whole class to-

gether as one - whether they are participants or just bystanders. Sometimes those cheering the participants on have as much fun as those who are actually competing," Rubenstein said. The spirit week games and themes were voted on by all of the grade representatives at the SGA general assembly, but the final decision rests with SGA sponsor Karen Jones and SGA president Jordan Finkelstein.

"I think it's important for students to look forward to something

besides final exams and AP tests," said Finkelstein. "Spirit week is a chance to have fun one last time."

Spirit week is of course optional, but participation is highly recommended. Konecke says, "Spirit week is important to me because it unites everyone. No matter what you do here at QO, it is awesome to see everyone dress up for one common goal, to celebrate our spirit. I just plan to make the most fun out of spirit week and enjoy it while it lasts."

The QO Drama Club wishes to thank everyone for attending their spring musical! Stay tuned over the summer and the beginning of next year for show announcements and audition information!



Boys lacrosse team prepares to come up big in postseason play

By **BRADLEY WALKER**
Sports Editor

As the end of the regular season approaches, the boys lacrosse team prepares to make a name for itself by being successful in postseason play.

Concluding a successful regular season, senior captains midfielder Carson Stewart and defenseman Marty Heyn hope to make their mark on the program with a strong post season. "Hopefully we can provide leadership for the little guys, and enthusiasm to get the team excited to play," says Heyn. This team's strong leadership from their seniors has gotten them to where they stand now, which is a one-loss season, with the loss to arguably their best competition, the Wootton Patriots. This season got started with a huge win over the Urbana Hawks of Frederick County with a score of 3-2 in an overtime battle.

This team features a lot of young talent including freshman Jake Christensen. Christensen is one of two freshman on this year's team; the other being defensemen Mike

Harris. Christensen has had a huge amount of success this year and continues to get better with the help of the more experienced players. "Being a freshman, I am surprisingly treated very well by the upper classmen. I have a lot of support from the seniors which helps me on and off the field," says Christensen. His success has included a hat trick against cross-town rival Northwest. Christensen hopes to improve his skills and contribute to the team more by limiting his mistakes.

Head coach Michael Kowalick has very high expectations for the end of this season and for the post season. He believes the athletes need to be more coachable to be successful in crunch time. The team's ability to work together as a single unit has improved as the season has gone on according to Kowalick. Leadership from more experienced players is a coach's dream. Kowalick believes he has that in his seniors including Heyn, Stewart, Sean Greenspan, Chris McPherson and Cameron Riddell, to name a few. Strong leadership and youthful talent is a strong combination for success.

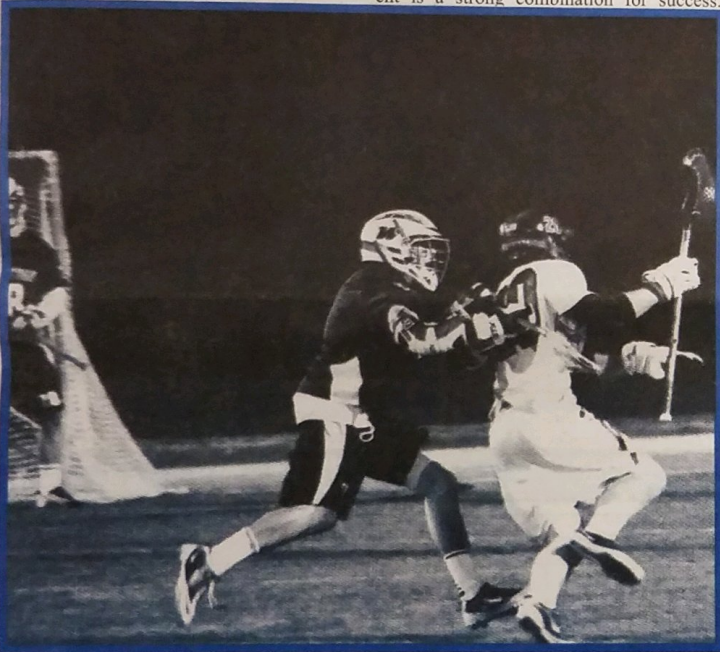


PHOTO BY TEDDY MEYERS

ON THE RUN: Senior Chris Mcpherson beats his defender and rips a shot.

Lady cougars continue their success after strong opening

By **VIK AGRAWAL**
AND JASON WILLIAMS
Sports Editors

The girls softball team kicked things off with a bang by starting the season 7-2, with clutch victories against the Churchill Bulldogs and Wootton Patriots.

The Lady Cougars have played well together, because they are returning seven starters off last year's team that made a playoff run. "Most of our players are returning players, which helps us understand everyone's strengths and weaknesses," said junior left fielder Ellen Goldstein. This great team chemistry has helped them in close games.

Coach Colleen Kelly agrees and believes the girls have done a great job "working through some tough spots and keeping each other in the game," which is largely due to their great team attitude. The girls have done a great job "not letting it get to them" and "slowly chipping away to regain

the lead" as a team rather than trying to do it all individually with one big swing or play.

Sophomore catcher and third baseman Megan Dougherty worked to "become a more consistent batter and increase my on-base percentage," throughout the season. Her main goal was to do everything she could to help her team win and "stay positive throughout tough match-ups."

"I expect us to continue to play hard and be real competitors to some real intense teams," said Ellen Goldstein. The team has been winning some games by very small margins. Even when the team is down four or five runs, the team continually chips away at the other team's lead, so they so they can go on to win the game.

The solid relationship among the athletes is a major factor in their success. They draw strength from one another to play to the best of their abilities and it has shown in their record.

The team is looking to make a strong playoff push this season, with their veteran experience.

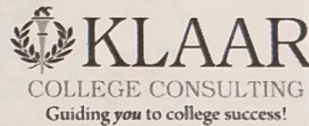
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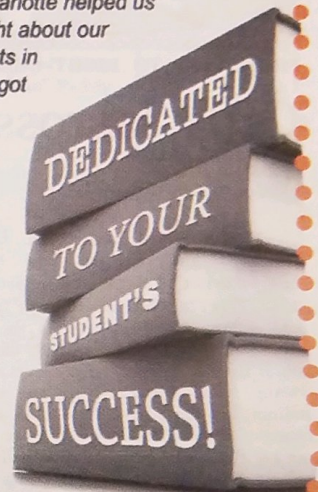
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Volleyball overcomes adversity

By **TEDDY MEYERS**
Sports Associate

Finishing the season strong, the boys volleyball team is looking to claim a high seed for the playoffs and to take home a region and possibly state championship.

Junior captain Andrew Thorpe said, "without the leadership of Coach Jones this season, we could not have been as successful". This is only coach Jones' second season back in charge and she has shown why she was able to win a state championship with the girls varsity team. As the head coach for boys, coach Jones has led the team to its second winning season.

The boys have had to face adversities during the season after losing one captain and Thorpe being picked as the new captain to join senior Jonny Dragan. Thorpe said, "we've had a couple minor injuries this year but they didn't slow us down because we have so many versatile players who can move to different positions whenever needed". Junior Preston Douglas noted one of those versatile players is junior Will Costa. Douglas said, Costa "is definitely a standout this year; it's only his first year playing, but he is a big presence on the court".

Adversity has plagued the boys during the season, but they are hoping to avoid injuries and ineligibility as the postseason comes around.



PHOTO BY TEDDY MEYERS

SWINGING FOR THE FENCES: Junior Leanne Youstra hits a triple bringing in two runs.



Cougars impress while participating in "America's Pastime"

By **TEDDY MEYERS**
Sports Associate

As the old adage goes, "defense wins championships", and that is how coach Jason Gasaway intends to make a deep run in the playoffs with the varsity baseball team.

Gasaway noted that this year has been a year of comebacks stating, "[we were losing to] Gaithersburg by five in the sixth inning, [came back and] scored nine in the sixth to win. [we were] down three in the seventh

to Damascus [and] scored three to tie. [We went on to] win the game in 11 innings." According to Gasaway, the team should play from behind the entire season. Senior Billy Plante also noted the team's strongest aspect so far this season was its ability to win games late.

With playoffs around the corner, the baseball team has to tighten up on the defensive side according to Gasaway. He revealed his expectations for playoffs when he said, "All depends how we play defensively. If we make plays we will do well."

The boys have faced many close games this season because of early runs given up, including those in the game against Rockville where the Cougars pulled out the close win to end the game with a final score of 4-2. The boys have also lost close games including a 1-2 loss to Whitman. Plante said, "We want Whitman [in the playoffs]."

The Cougars have depended heavily this year on standout pitching from senior Chad Martin and juniors Alex Thoms and Daniel Fishback. Gasaway said, "if we are going to win any champion-



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT (ABOVE): Junior Alex Thoms, sophomore David Thibeau, and senior Billy Plante show off their skills. PHOTOS BY TEDDY MEYERS

Girls lacrosse team sets the bar high during spring season

By **IAN BENT**
Journalism Student

With a brand new coach, Quince Orchard's girls lacrosse team has a new mindset for the upcoming season. This mindset is to win games and improve their play along the way.

Many players this year made the transition from the junior varsity level to the varsity level. These players are mainly juniors and have gone through a lot of changes. Junior Erin Moore is experiencing her first year on varsity and had a lot to say about her first year. "It's a lot more work but it's worth it because everyone has improved so much" says Moore.

Junior Chandler Holdsworth was asked about the team chemistry and stated, "it's great we all love each other."



PHOTO BY TEDDY MEYERS
DETERMINATION: Allie Solomon proves her skills as she cradles the ball down the field.

Allie Solomon, a senior on the team, said her main goal is to "show leadership, never give up, and always work hard so underclassmen work hard too." Solomon went on to describe some team traditions. "Sometimes we have dance parties before games," Solomon added. "We say 'tenacity' a lot as kind of a team word."

As for how the team has improved Solomon stated, "we have a new coach who is a lot tougher and has a lot more knowledge of the game so everyone has improved significantly with practices and new drills and plays." Solomon also added that, "the whole team acts as leaders."









Great expectations are certainly set. By working hard and benefiting from its new coach, the girls lacrosse team hopes to accomplish its goals and perform better than last season.

Summer School @ QOHS

Get a head start this summer and have fun at the same time!

MCPS Course Number	Course	Audience	Start Date	End Date	Start & End Times	Cost	Register
7835 (1/2 credit)	Comprehensive Health Education Complete this required 1/2 credit class to allow for a full year elective during the school year! Learn factual health information and develop lifetime skills in mental health, tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs; personal and consumer health; nutrition and fitness; safety and injury prevention; family life and human sexuality; and disease prevention.	rising 10th grade students only	6/18/12	7/6/12 (no class 7/4)	8 AM - 1 PM	\$300	using the form on the back of this flyer
5611 (1/2 credit)	Microcomputer Technologies A Begin the CISCO pathway by learning how computer hardware works, how to assemble and configure a computer, install operating systems and software, and troubleshoot hardware and software problems.	rising 9 th -12 th grade students	6/18/12	7/6/12 (no class 7/4)	8 AM - 1 PM	\$300	
5612 (1/2 credit)	Microcomputer Technologies B In this course, you'll be introduced to networking and wireless networking. Completion of this course will prepare you to take CompTIA A+ certification exam and it will allow you to register for "Network Engineering and Management A/B" during the following school year.	rising 9 th -12 th grade students	7/9/12	7/26/12	8 AM - 1 PM	\$300	
6055 (1/2 credit)	Foundations of Art A In this course you will create artworks that convey personal meaning using a variety of production processes, including drawing, painting, crafts, commercial art, printmaking, and sculpture. Earning an A in this course will allow you the option of skipping Foundations of Art B, and registering for Studio Art 1 the following school year.	rising 9 th -12 th grade students	7/9/12	7/26/12	8 AM - 1 PM	\$300	
N/A non-credit course	College Application Workshop Get a head start on completing those college applications with the support of an Advanced Placement English teacher.	rising 12 th grade students	6/18/12	6/22/12	12 PM - 3 PM	\$125	
N/A non-credit course	Algebra 2 Prep Workshop Review the skills you'll need to be successful in Algebra 2.	'12-'13 Algebra 2 students	7/16/12	7/20/12	8 AM - 11:30 AM	\$125	on-line at qohs.org/departments/math/
N/A non-credit course	Pre-Calculus Prep Workshop Review the skills you'll need to be successful in Pre-Calculus.	'12-'13 Pre-Calculus students	7/16/12	7/20/12	8 AM - 11:30 AM	\$125	
N/A non-credit course	AP Calculus Prep Workshop Review the skills you'll need to be successful in AP Calculus.	'12-'13 AP Calculus students	7/16/12	7/20/12	8 AM - 11:30 AM	\$125	
N/A non-credit course			7/23/12	7/27/12	8 AM - 11:30 AM	\$125	

Registration forms available in the QOHS guidance office.

<i>The Prowler Asked...</i>								
<i>April Showers bring May....</i>	flowers	Cam Newton	championships	muscles	I get your number?	I took a shower this morning	men, clean freshly showered men... * Old spice whistle*
<i>What are your plans for the summer?</i>	teaching dolphins how to speak lax: yea brah	adventures with Emily Mercanti to try to get Cam Newton's auto-graph in NC	learning to swim with my bros	fishing, fishing, fishing	get swollen and fix my hairline	chilling out and relaxing all cool	tanning... lots of tanning	teaching the Hoof how to swim
<i>What is your favorite spring attire?</i>	Anything that covers my mid-calf and pinny tan lines	5 pairs of socks	tube socks and Sperrys	sperrys, sweet shorts, polo tee	tank tops, so everyone can see my muscles	Apple Bottom jeans and boots with the fur	spandex and a crop top	leather and animal prints
<i>Who is the coolest athlete on your spring team?</i>	Vik Agrawal. He's our biggest fan!	Cam Newton	Dos Hype	Marty Heyn hands down	Afshin, because he has the second most muscle	It's the tennis team...who's not cool?	David "Sexy Man" Richey	Jimbo :)
<i>What's your favorite spring food?</i>	muscle milk	sweet tea	matzah and ketchup	sweet tea	raw eggs and a bowl of nails	Harvard... Jeremy Lin's alma mater	fried chicken and Kool-aid	eggs (from the tree by my house)
<i>Who is your dream prom date?</i>	rows 2 and 3 of my AP class... you know who you are :)	my blood siblings Jared and Lauren because Cam Newton said no	Tori Black...from that "Friday" song	Nicole Tapiero	a personal trainer so I can work on my muscles	Jordan Singer... he talks slow	my girl Dakota!	hopefully a boy this year... Actually I don't really care

Enjoying the benefits of running, on and off the track

By **MATT QUINN** and **ANDREW FINK**
Journalism Students

This year's outdoor track team has had a strong season with records of 5-1 for the boys and 4-2 for the girls. They look forward to continuing their success as they head into the postseason.

The Cougar sprinters push each other during practice to make each other better. First year sprinter, junior Matt Choi, said, "it's very competitive between the sprinters. Everyone wants to be the fastest, so every-

one works hard to get faster times everyday."

On the girls side of the track, senior sprinter Jessica Konecke says, "we practice a lot. And we work together a lot."

The coaches also help the sprinters through their encouraging words. "The coaches try to push us to complete our workouts at practice and to try our hardest," said Choi.

"The coaches teach you how to run and what will make you a better runner. I've improved so much from when I started freshman year," explained Konecke. "My form is a lot better; I no longer run like such a soccer player. I'm a lot faster."

Konecke believes that track has a lot of benefits. "Track keeps you in shape and gives you something fun to do in the spring." Konecke also uses track to stay in shape for soccer, especially since she will be playing soccer in college. Track also has non-physical benefits; it is a way for Cougars to meet people. "I'll miss all the people and making all new friends," said Konecke.

Track is not only a place to express your physical abilities, but a place to learn useful life lessons. "I've learned that you never give up no matter what," remarked Choi.

Both teams are preparing for impor-

tant upcoming meets including counties, regions, and states. "We are focusing on getting to the next level in practice by getting better and stronger," said sophomore distance runner Mary McMeekin. The Maryland State Championships are May 25 and 26 at Morgan State University.

The Cougars look to wrap up their season with a strong finish. They are focusing on keeping up the hard work and bringing back a state championship to Quince Orchard. "We are heading into the last stretch of the season and we need to keep our eyes on the prize," said McMeekin.



PHOTOS BY TEDDY MEYERS

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT (ABOVE): Evan Burnham, Evan Laratta, Andrew Ankrah, Eric Kaczmarek, Elliot Davis, Michael Borten, Joey Sonken, Aracely Hook, Jessica Konecke



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT (ABOVE): Samantha Jonjo, Jack O'Keefe, Daniel Scott

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Cougar athletes prepare to play at the next level

By **JAKE SALZMAN**
Sports Managing Editor

One thing that Quince Orchard High School always boasts is a plethora of talented sports teams that impress each year. One of the most impressive things about these teams is the number of athletes who will continue playing at the next level.

Many of Quince Orchard's top athletes now have the opportunity to pursue their sport at the next level and play in college. However, only a select few of these athletes will be up to the challenge of com-

peting in collegiate sports. Most every sport at Quince Orchard has at least one team member who is now playing in college, including boys and girls lacrosse, football, girls soccer, and baseball. These athletes will be challenged both physically and mentally, as college level sports generally require a larger time commitment and present much tougher competition than high school sports. They will also be expected to step right in during either the summer or spring time and be ready to compete for a starting position on the roster.

Damell Leslie, who was a

key member of our football team's dominant defense this past season, will be continuing his football career at Monmouth University in New Jersey. Leslie said, "It means a lot. I'm living out my dream of being able to continue playing the sport I love at the next level." Leslie is also aware of the obstacles that will stand in his way in college saying, "One challenge will be fitting all of it into my class routine." Leslie also noted that it was important for him to be able to earn a scholarship to play in college so he could save his parents some money.

Gabby Paolini will play soccer

at Clark University next year, after her four-year career as a member of QO's varsity soccer team. Paolini explained how contacting coaches allowed her to get noticed: "I emailed a bunch of coaches and told them to come to tournaments I play in and then once I chose a handful of schools, I went and did overnight visits with the teams," said Paolini. Paolini also placed importance on her preparation throughout the her senior year for her college career. She said, "I will exercise every day since fitness will be the biggest difference from high school sports to college sports."

Chad Martin, a pitcher on Quince Orchard's baseball team for the past two years, will play at University of Delaware. Martin said, "The biggest challenge will be balancing school and baseball, especially during the season." It seems that Martin will be up for the challenge, as he will be putting in work all summer long to prepare. He will be playing in a wood-bat league in Gaithersburg with other local players on their way to the college game. "I am most excited about playing against good talent and getting better along the way," added Martin.

Athletes on the tennis team serve it up this spring season

By **JASON WILLIAMS**
Sports Editor

Led by captain Shota Ono and vice-captains Alex Lee, Tony Losada, and Daniel Ahianyo, the boys of varsity tennis have finished their season with hopes to excel heading into the county tournament. "We have a great squad this year," said Junior John Quintas, "everyone has given their all every practice to improve and help our team place in the top of our division."

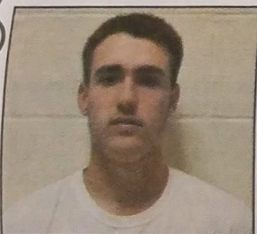
The theme of the team's season has been just that, to get better every day and do whatever it took to find success. Coach Jana Matouskova is most impressed by "the level of improvement all across the team." He believes if his team can keep up all their hard work they can become a "top-notch team by next year."

The captains play a huge role in the team's success and improvement. Matouskova says their roles include articulating team goals, being role models, generating team spirit, and supporting their teammates. Junior Jordan Singer feels his captains have been a huge inspiration. "They show me the ropes, correct swinging form, and offer me ways to improve my game in a very motivating way," said Singer.

While the tennis team has had many ups, they have also had to deal with some downs. Some of the players do not practice year round which makes it hard to get better from year to year. They also have faced some very tough competitors such as Poolesville and Magruder. On the bright side, the team finished the season with a strong record and seems to have had a very fun season.

ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

Baseball



Daniel Fishback

Junior Daniel Fishback has pitched two complete games giving up only two runs (non earned) and only five hits. Fishback is nine for 21 with an average of .428 in the month of April.

Softball



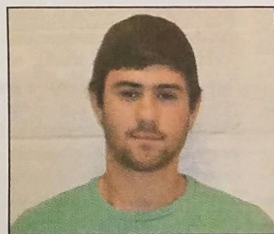
Ellen Goldstein

Junior Ellen Goldstein has come up big late in games this year. Her late game at bats can only be described as clutch. Goldstein has knocked in eight of her teammates to total eight RBI on the season.



Congratulations Spring Athletes

Boys Lacrosse



John Barkanic

Junior John Barkanic has been instrumental in his defensive leadership. Barkanic has one shut out this season against Magruder High School and has kept many teams to less than 5 goals in many games.

Girls Lacrosse



Morgan Dorset

Senior Morgan Dorset plays midfield and is a teammate who always gives her all to get up and down and play offense and defense. She is all around one of the strongest players on the field.

Boys Volleyball



Justin Yuen

Junior Justin Yuen is the boys team main setter and runs the offense. He served 13 straight points in the match against Einstein and had a similar run against B-CC.

Corollary Softball



Brandon Vreeland

Senior Brandon Vreeland always gives his all and is willing to help with anything that is asked of him. He is always cheering on his teammates and being the best teammate possible.

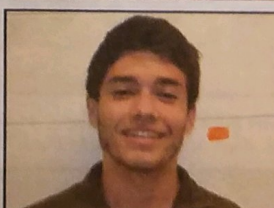
Girls Track & Field



Cierra Wells

Freshmen Cierra Wells recently won the 3200 meter run at the Darius Ray Invitational. Wells also ran the winning leg of the 3200 meter relay at the same invitational.

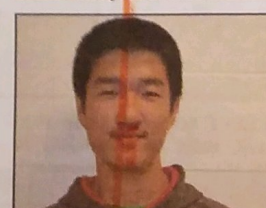
Boys Track & Field



Carlo Vakas

Junior Carlo Vakas has claimed the second fastest QOHS time in the 200 meter race behind Cameron George. Vakas also has been a key leg of the 4x100 meter relay throughout the season.

Boys Tennis



Alex Lee

Sophomore Alex Lee is the number one singles player on the boys tennis team. Lee is still undefeated in singles division play so far this season. He will be looked to to lead the boys into playoffs.