



PROWLER



Quince Orchard High School • 15800 Quince Orchard Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20878

An eventful year for QO's English department

Loss of English and drama teacher Nicholas Saadipour causes a stir

By **AYESHA SHAHZAD**
Editor-in-Chief

This year has been an eventful one for QO, the English department especially. There has been an influx of new teachers, new leadership, and, most recently, an unfortunate accident involving one of the key members of the department.

Over Thanksgiving break, English and drama teacher Nicholas Saadipour crashed into a guardrail. Another driver

was forced to swerve around Saadipour's vehicle, and was killed in doing so. The driver was identified as Sandy Griffin, a 59-year old New York resident. Some of Griffin's family members were in the car as well and suffered minor injuries. The incident took place in North Carolina, where Saadipour spent the short holiday.

When the news broke out, the Quince Orchard community was shocked and upset. Staff and students alike were taken aback. As it turns out, this is not Mr. Saadipour's first offense; as reported by Bethesda Magazine, Saadipour appeared in court twice in March of 2016 following traffic violations. That month, he was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and a few related charges. Weeks later he was charged similarly for a separate incident.

English resource teacher Elicia Eberhart-Bliss has worked closely with Saadipour over the last few years. "Despite several challenges this school year, the QO English Department continues to thrive. All teachers routinely provide a high-quality education to all students, sparking student inquiry, self-growth and achievement," Eberhart-Bliss said. Junior Ashley Minear has known

Saadipour since her freshman year. Minear is the head of hair and makeup for QO's drama department and has gotten to know him well over the past three years. "I had heard about his DUIs, I was very disappointed," Minear said. "I'm sorry for his students that they lost a teacher. I think that it's going to be very hectic [for the drama department] because I know that he had very big plans for *Hello Dolly*." *Hello Dolly* is the upcoming spring musical that Saadipour was supposed to direct. It seems that a new director has been appointed and the musical is set to take place as planned.

Sophomore Jordana Kravitz is currently in Saadipour's English 10 class. "I was really shocked. Mr. Saadipour is a very upbeat, outgoing person and I could not imagine him doing that," Kravitz said. "I'm sorry about the outcome of this tragic accident." Rumors were flying around as soon as the news broke, but Kravitz does not subscribe to gossip. "One thing doesn't define a person; don't let this change your view of him too much. I still think he's a decent person."

Our thoughts are with Saadipour and the victim's family.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WJLA.COM

Nicholas Saadipour receiving an award for Distinguished Service to Public Education in May of 2017.

"I'm sorry for his students that they lost a teacher."

- Ashley Minear

"Despite several challenges this school year, the QO English Department continues to thrive."

- Elicia Eberhart-Bliss

Quince Orchard admin promotes body safety

By **JENNA LEVY**
Managing Editor

Last month, Quince Orchard presented a lesson about personal body safety, in an effort to encourage students to tell a trusted adult if themselves or anybody else they know may be suffering from abuse. Students watched multiple videos promoting student to take extra precaution online.

In case you missed it, the first video demonstrated potential signs of abuse featuring the acting of our very own QO students. A scenario of a boyfriend lashing out at his girlfriend unexpectedly advised students to look out for abnormal behavior in their friends.

The second video depicts two unfamiliar teenagers who decided to meet up in person after only prior to communicating online via facebook. With the intentions of meeting a peer of the opposite gender, the audience soon realizes that the "teens" catfished each other: bothThe teens ended up being middle- aged men who each thought they'd be meeting a younger

child. Ultimately, the video was intended to teach students a valuable lesson:; be careful of what you put online to avoid dangerous situations.

In the final video, David Mullaney, the resource counselor, and Brook Aranda, the resource teacher for the health and PE department, clarify the process following a suspicion of abuse: tell a trusted adult. Mullaney ensured students that, in the event of notifying an authority of their suspicions, their names will be kept confidential and anonymous. Principal Beth Thomas inserted her two cents concerning body safety by informing students about how students can help another individual who may be suffering.

Senior Sera Smith believes that if an individual suspects their friend is abused, "talk to them and get an idea of whether it's serious or not before you proceed to tell an adult." She says that an abused person might "wear long sleeves to hide their marks, act skittish around people, seem closed off about their personal life, and have random outbursts of aggression."

Sophomore Chloe Levine has yet to take high school health education,

but she also discussed the importance of looking for warning signs. "When someone is abused, they begin to act differently, and they may not open up to you like they usually do," she said. Levine would immediately go to an adult for help if she thought her friend was abused in order to "make sure they're safe and not going to put anyone else in danger."

Health teacher Susan Soule explained what to do if one comes across someone being abused . "If a student themselves is abused, go to a trusted adult for help, which may include a family member, guidance counselor, trusted teacher, or a coach. However, if a student doesn't feel comfortable telling their parent[s] right away, a counselor can work with the student to help decide how to tell their parent[s]."

If a student knows somebody that was/is abused, Soule advises them to "help their friend seek help and even suggest to go with them to a counselor." People may not know that there are several types of abuse, such as emotional, physical, and sexual. "The most difficult for people to explain is emotional abuse," said Soule. "The abuser may toy with the

victim's head, kind of like bullying where nobody sees the physical evidence."

Soule also suggests that students pay close attention to a friend who may seem a little off, displaying out of the blue changes in their behavior, clothing, and mood. Soule also says to look for evidence of any self-harm.

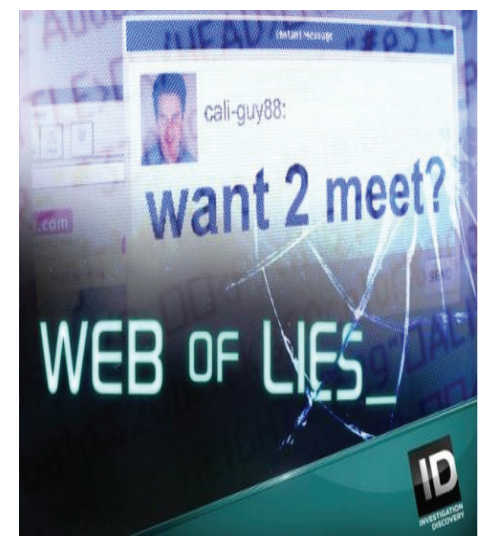


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The Prowler gladly accepts comments, concerns, and letters to the editor. Letters may be emailed to qohsprowler@gmail.com, mailed c/o The Prowler to the school address above, or dropped off directly to Ms. Cooley-Klein in Room 241. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

ABOUT

The Prowler is published six times a year by the students of Quince Orchard High School, and it has been continuously published since the 1988-89 school year. To become a staff member, students take Journalism A & B to qualify for the Advanced Publications class.



All about recent immigration and border policies

By **ASHLEIGH GORDON**
Managing Editor

Surrounded by people of all ages, dangerous gangs, illness, and horrendous weather conditions, the life of the people that anxiously wait to cross into the United States from Mexico is not easy, yet so many endure the pain for a chance to work in America.

One of the most controversial topics surrounding the 2016 United States presidential election was the alleged wall that Donald Trump's campaign pledged would force Mexico to pay for along the shared border. Then-candidate Trump suggested that the number of

undocumented immigrants living in the United States could exceed 30 million, and hoped that a wall will "stop the people we don't want to have" living amongst US citizens.

News on the border has since shifted to focus on the people and families that are attempting to start a new life in the United States, and the hardships they endure trying to make their dreams a reality. As CNN journalist Kyle Almond states, "the pull is just too great."

In May of 2018, the Trump administration announced that authorities would criminally prosecute anyone who illegally crosses the border. But when those crossing the border are a

family, the parents are sent to federal prisons and are unable to take their children with them. As of December 2018, almost 15,000 children taken to facilities run by the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement.

On June 20, Trump signed an executive order in an effort to end the separation. As he signed the order in the Oval Office, the president claimed that "We're going to have strong—very strong—borders, but we are going to keep the families together." However, the executive order did very little to help the nearly 2,300 children already separated from their parents. According to the Department of Homeland

Security, as of November 30, 81 children have been separated from their family members at the southern border since the order was signed into action.

In 2017, two Quince Orchard High School graduates experienced the intensity of Trump's policy first hand when they sent back to their native of El Salvador, where they had not lived for nine years. Two days after 21-year-old Lizandro Claros Saravia informed US immigration officials that he had earned a scholarship to play soccer at Louisburg College, he and his brother were deported in what their attorney says was the fastest deportation process he has ever seen.

Bezos brings Amazon headquarters to East Coast

By **NIKKI AHMADI**
Managing Editor

In November, Amazon announced that they would be expanding their headquarters from their location in Seattle, WA between two locations: Arlington, VA and Long Island City, NY. This decision was made after carefully deliberating between a list of major cities across the U.S., including Austin, Nashville, Boston, Columbus, Atlanta, and others. Their desire to expand comes from the company's need for more space and more employees to do technological work.

This expansion is designed to create a number of positive changes for residents in the Arlington

and Long Island City area.

The integration of Amazon's new headquarters is expected to bring roughly \$15 billion in new economic activity and 62,000 new jobs by 2030 to the D.C. area, according to The Washington Post (Disclaimer: Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos also owns The Washington Post.). As each new building opens, they are expected to hire over 50,000 new employees between the two locations. "With an average salary of \$150,000 per year for the tens of thousands of new jobs Amazon is creating in Queens, economic opportunity and investment will flourish for the entire region," according to AboutAmazon, a blog dedicated to providing information and the latest

news about the company.

The new jobs to arise will not consist of only tech related work, but will require people with many different skills. A number of different managers, designers, marketing executives, researchers, and in tech, data engineers and software engineers. The change will not only lead to an economic boom for the regions, but strides towards greater education that would prepare potential future employees. Amazon plans to invest \$1 billion into a graduate school for Virginia Tech, not far from their new building. They also plan to invest \$223 million for transportation. This would not only benefit Amazon employees, but many residents of the area.

However, Virginia and D.C. residents who commute by car will face increased hours in traffic. NYC and D.C. are in the top ten worst cities where commuters are stuck in traffic each year. The influx of Amazon workers and new business to the regions will leave residents stuck in their cars for longer than they would like.

The expansion was an interesting move from creator Jeff Bezos, considering his lack of optimism towards his company. On multiple occasions over the years, he has shared his fear of the company failing, and that it is inevitable. In 2013, Bezos spoke on the CBS show "60 Minutes," claiming that companies come and go, that they do

not have a terribly long life span. "I don't worry about it because I know it's inevitable," Bezos said. He just hopes that his company is able to outlive his own life. Earlier this year on CNBC, Bezos again made a remark regarding the demise of his company. He predicts that Amazon will go bankrupt and that the company will "fail." He plans to work towards delaying this day for as long as possible.



PHOTO COURTESY OF APOKAVOICE

NEWS FLASHES

QOHS.org:

New and improved



PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

By **HANNAH MYERS**
Staff Writer

Checked out the Quince Orchard website lately? Well, you should! AP Computer Science/PLTW teacher Colleen Adams has completely upgraded the QO website. Now that there is a updated database for our high school essentials: we can find an updated staff directory and calendar, bell schedules, departments, clubs/organizations, parking permit applications, and even Naviance help. If you see Mrs. Adams, be sure to give her a shoutout!

Giving back this holiday season



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALIA IMAGES

By **CINDY LIU**
Associate Editor

'Tis the season of giving. As the year wrapped up, Quince Orchard just hosted its 9th annual Giving Tree. The Giving Tree is a way for QO students to embody the holiday spirit and give back to the community. On November 13, the Giving Tree and cards went up in the main lobby. The cards contained some information about the recipient to give the gifters ideas on presents to give. After receiving all the presents, a gift wrapping and organizing event took place on December 13, lasting approximately three hours, where students earned SSL hours by helping out. Giving Tree represents QO's generosity in spreading holiday cheer.



VIEWPOINT

Why literally no one ever needs to own a gun

By HANNAH MYERS
Staff Writer

The number of firearms available to American civilians is estimated at around 310 million, according to a 2009 National Institute of Justice (NIJ) report. India is home to the second-largest civilian firearm stockpile, as well as the second most populated country in the world, estimated at only 46 million. Americans own the most guns per person in the world, about four in 10 saying they either own a gun or live in a home with guns, according to a 2017 Pew Center study. Lastly, the U.S makes up less than 5% of the world's population, but holds 31% of global mass shooters. These statistics alone are enough to emphasize the importance of gun control—regardless of

self-defense, amendments, or the inevitability of violence—when it comes to the safety of our American people.

One common argument against gun control is that people need to be able to protect themselves. But if you are eligible to own a gun, you will be able to have a gun. It will just require more background checking to ensure that you are qualified to own a lethal weapon. Additionally, law enforcement personnel are trained and know how to react in a dangerous situations and understand all the laws, whereas civilians do not. I am confident that the average gun-owning civilian would not comprehend what to do if faced with a life threatening situation, where their gun would be necessary.

Another common argument is that the Second Amendment

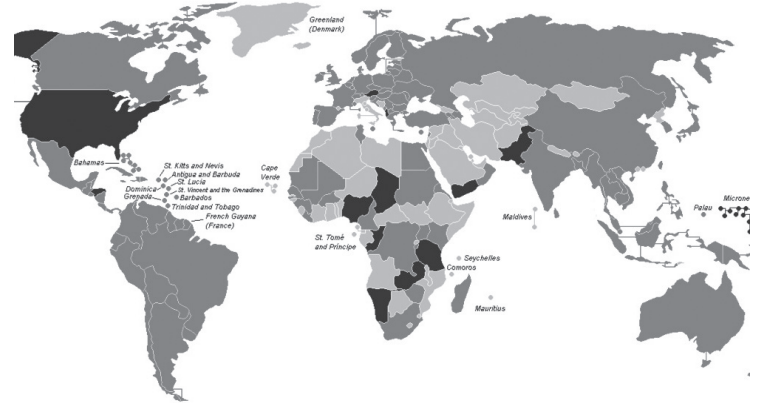
distinguishes Americans' right to bear arms. Although I respect these persons' need to be able to defend themselves, the amendment that designates a person's right to bear arms was created hundreds of years ago, during a time where there were no local law enforcement agencies or cell phones to call for help or emergency services. There are other, more reasonable, and more adequately trained services available for your protection.

Lastly, another common argument is that gun control laws won't stop people from getting what they want. Yes, people will always find ways to get what they want, legal or illegal, but that does mean that as a society we should inherently encourage the use of guns by making it easy to attain them.

In conclusion, people will

still retain their right to own a gun. I believe it is necessary to have a little more safety precautions to ensure you are coherent enough to own a gun. I believe that at the time when the second amendment was made, it was a logical

argument to need to carry around a gun; however, that argument is now outdated. Finally, by taking away lethal weapons and making it more difficult for those are unable to use them, we are establishing a safer country all together.



WIKIPEDIA
Firearm guiding policy by country, according to the University of Sydney (darkest shade = permissive policies, middle shade = restrictive policies, lightest shade = data not included)

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Students want more variety in languages offered

By CINDY LIU
Associate Editor

For MCPS students, the importance of learning a second language has been emphasized since elementary school. Usually, students begin to take a foreign language starting in seventh grade, either Spanish or French. In high school, the choices increase; QO offers American Sign Language (ASL), Latin, and Chinese in addition to Spanish and French. However, some students think the limited pool of options leaves much to be desired.

In an informal survey, a majority of students reported they would rather take a language that's not offered than their current language class. German, Japanese, Korean, and Italian are the most popular languages that students would like to see in school. Unfortunately, adding a new language is a difficult process. To add a new language, "parents need to initiate a desire and express it to the principal," according to Spanish teacher Zunilda Garro. To add more language options also requires a certain amount



PHOTO COURTESY OF BUCHANAN HIGH SCHOOL

of students interested in the class. Certainly both Spanish and French have full classes, while Chinese barely meets the required numbers with three levels combined in one class.

Due to the limited languages classes offered at school, some students have turned to self-

studying in order to fulfill their wish to learn certain languages. One freshman, Alison Wang, is currently taking Chinese 1 right now. However, the language she really wants to take is Japanese. She started self-studying over the summer. As for now, she believes her method of study-

ing is efficient. "I usually use Duolingo," Wang said. "My mom also helps because she speaks it." Chinese is a close alternative to Japanese, so some take it to make up for the lack of Japanese classes at the school.

Wanting to learn a language not offered is not the only reason

some students have turned to self-studying. Some students have voiced complaints about the world language curriculum. "The teachers just throw vocab at us. They don't actually teach us how to use them in sentences," said junior Marina Aronez, who is a native French speaker and a current ASL student. "I want to learn Spanish because I'm half-Hispanic. If I had the time, I'd rather study it on my own. Although I have taken my five years of Spanish in school, I don't feel like I've learned much." Wang, who has also taken three years of Spanish throughout middle school, agreed. "We learn mostly vocab and proper grammar, not how people actually speak in native countries," Wang said.

Garro, on the other hand, believes the current curriculum is efficient. "Learning the use of the language is a big priority," she said. "We use all the vocab in sentences. Everything we do in the county is context." She added, "Students need to take responsibility for their learning and see the big picture."

Follow-up on MCPS condom distribution

What happens when you ask for a condom in the nurse's office?

By NIKKI AHMADI
Managing Editor

Earlier this year, MCPS announced that they would provide free condoms to four high schools in the county. Quince Orchard nurse Julie Koplán stated that the county requires an interview of any individual who wished to get condoms from the nurse's office. However, the interview questions and the length of the entire process were unknown. The only way to determine these factors—and ensure that I would be treated like any other student that may ask in the future—was to ask for some condoms myself.

Upon walking into the nurse's room, one of two things can happen: you will either be greeted by someone other than Nurse Koplán and you will be asked to make an appointment to speak with her, or she could be present and would ask you for an interview on the spot. The first

time I walked into the nurse's office, I had hoped I could get the interview done then, but the main nurse was not present and I was asked to wait until she returned. She was not present the next day, either.

I was then told that it would be best to make an appointment for next week, as she would be busy that Friday with the blood drive. I was allowed to make an appointment for any day at any time. I requested that mine be on Monday, December 3, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. Being able to make an appointment during a class would allow a student to discretely have this meeting, rather than have to walk in at lunch or after school when other students may be wandering by. This would benefit any student uncomfortable by the situation.

When I arrived to my appointment, Koplán was ready and expecting me. She led me into her office and asked me to sit down. She started by asking me a few questions. She asked if I was sexually active and if I had a partner. With each

question she asked, she was very non-judgemental and did not pry with each answer I gave. She praised me for choosing to engage in safe sex and taking up this opportunity that the county is offering.

Before giving me the condoms, she asked me if I was familiar with them and if I knew how to use them. She retrieved a wooden member from her drawer and gave me a quick demonstration. She explained that in order to stay safe and get the most use out of them, I should encourage my partner to keep the condom on for the duration of the act. I was given a quick lesson on how sperm can survive for a few days in the vagina and that I should be cautious of the condom breaking.

An important point that she mentioned was that MCPS has initiated this program not to encourage sex, but to keep teenagers who are active safe from pregnancy and STDs. This program was started initially to reduce the number of STI reports in the county.

[Nurse Koplán] mentioned...that MCPS has initiated this program not to encourage sex, but to keep teenagers who are active safe from pregnancy and STDs.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CURRENT



WHEN IT COMES TO PROTECTION, CONDOMS ARE KING! THEY PREVENT THE SPREAD OF STDs AND HIV - ALWAYS USE 'EM!

PHOTO COURTESY OF BEHANCE



QO's JUNTOS dances their way to the top

The team comes together to strive for greatness at recent competition

By **CLAIRE SULLIVAN**
Associate Editor

For the love of dance, Quince Orchard's JUNTOS practices with dedication and teamwork in order to perfect their routines for competition. Being able to have connections and trusting relationships with each other enables the team to bring their best.

“You feel so proud of yourself and where you are from.”

- *Edgar Olivas*

“JUNTOS to me is my culture,” said junior Jesly Torres. Torres appreciates her friends on the team and is honored to be seen as a role model for new dancers.

Practicing multiple times a week—typically Tuesdays, Thursdays and often Saturdays—the team inspires each other, and works together to develop new ideas. Everyone is welcome to pitch in new ideas as the team works to perfect their choreography.

On Saturdays, the group works with an instructor to learn new styles and be exposed to different techniques. Then, throughout the week, they continue to



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESLY TORRES

FELICITACIONES: JUNTOS came home with four trophies their last competition.

practice what they learned and educate the others. “We dance many different dances, such as Salsa, Machata, Merengue, Cha-Cha and more,” said junior Asa Morrison. “We like to explore new dances and practice drills with spinning.”

Not only does the team dedicate a lot of time to their routine, especially with an upcoming competition, but the group also

makes time to do fun activities together. Social activities, such as hosting a holiday get-together and grabbing food when practice goes late, add to the team's connection and makes them that much more prepared for when they run onto the stage.

In addition, JUNTOS attends multiple competitions and performances to display their hard work and express their

dedication to dance. The team's biggest competition is in November every year, and in the most recent competition they won four trophies and were proud of all they accomplished. “It went great,” said Torres. “I'm really impressed on how much we improved from last year.”

Besides their competitions, JUNTOS has been given the honor of performing for Congress this upcoming summer. “It's a year round thing, [we] never stop working,” Torres said, adding on to the excitement of going to D.C. to perform. JUNTOS typically performs for elementary schools in the springtime, which is “always a lot of fun to see the kids happy,” said Morrison.

Coming from all different backgrounds and ethnicities, the dancers in JUNTOS get the opportunity to express their culture through dances from their home countries. “You become so close to your culture and it's a great feeling,” said senior Edgar Olivas. “When you're performing and the crowd cheers you on, you feel so proud of yourself and where you are from.”

JUNTOS continues to dance year-round, and they emphasize how welcoming they are to new members. Talk to a JUNTOS member to get more information and on how to get involved. “It doesn't matter where you come from,” said Olivas. Everyone who is interested in dancing is encouraged to try it out, and even if you don't know how to dance, they will be by your side. “No need to be afraid—we will teach you!” said Torres.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESLY TORRES



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESLY TORRES



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESLY TORRES

A BOND LIKE FAMILY: JUNTOS dedicates their time to strengthening bonds inside of practice and out, enabling them to dominate when the team runs onto the dance floor.

Not from Ridgeview or Lakelands, but still QO

By **ZOE BELL**
Managing Editor

Often, the first question asked of a QO student is “Did you go to Ridgeview or Lakelands?” But sometimes, the answer to that is neither. Although they may sometimes be overlooked, a small number of our school population transferred here, attended a magnet program, or were homeschooled before attending Quince Orchard.

In Germantown, Roberto Clemente Middle School is home to the Humanities and Communication program, the Math, Science, and Computer Science program, and non-magnet students. In the Humanities program, skills such as reading, writing, creative thinking, and problem solving are emphasized. Junior Aniko Alexander, a former Humanities student at Clemente, described her middle school experience as “interesting, close-knit, and educational.”

Only accepting a fraction of its applicants (students who take the magnet test in December of their fifth grade year), the program is far from easy. In

seventh grade, Humanities students are assigned a research project based on a classic author. Over a span of six months, the students put together a presentation as well as a six- to eight-page essay.

“This project taught me so much about the research process and the different kinds of media you can use to present something,” Alexander said. “It was really informative.”

From a sense of community to an eight-page research paper, the Humanities program at Clemente offered a lot to their students.

Another school for highly gifted and talented students is Parkland Middle School, which specializes in aerospace technology. One of those former students, freshman Pelin Altintas, is now a varsity volleyball player at QO. Some of her middle school classes included robotics, forensics, engineering design, and aerospace engineering, which have prepared her for academic success in high school.

“I have a lot more background knowledge in science, and it is something I really like,” Altintas said.

Some QO students are new to the

state of Maryland. Junior Luke Evans moved from Utah to the Montgomery County area because of his dad's job at Astrotech. The most difficult part of moving from coast to coast for Evans was leaving friends from his high school back in Utah. However, QO offered newfound experiences. “The school spirit is a lot stronger here as opposed to my other high school,” Evans said. “The sports teams perform better and have better records.”

“School spirit is a lot stronger here. Our sports teams perform better and have better records.”

- *Luke Evans*

As for academics, Evans says there's not much of a difference between the school system in Utah and here in MCPS.

Since AP classes are offered throughout the country, the content taught is similar.

However, traditional school is not for everyone. Homeschooling, or the education of students at home, is an option for those who learn better outside of a classroom environment. Sophomore Zane Obi was homeschooled for two years and is now attending his first year at QO. He was taught by his mom for most of the time, while he went to a school-like environment to learn math and science. His transition to public school was somewhat difficult. Obi, who received two hours of homework per day when homeschooled, reports that more work is assigned at public school. He also feels that he missed out on the social aspect of public school.

One of his main challenges was “walking up to people and making friends,” Obi said. “Because when I was homeschooled, I didn't talk to anybody.”

If he could say one thing about homeschool: “Don't do it.”

Within our student body, a few of us were not previously Bobcats or Falcons, but now we all wear red and black under the same roof.



New Year's Resolutions

By KAITLYN PRICE AND NICKI THOMAS
Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editor

The New Year tends to inspire people all around to reflect and make changes. While some are right on top of what they seek to accomplish with endless notes, lists and charts, others make spontaneous goals right before the ball drops. English teacher Marisa Trettel said she “honestly hasn’t thought about [her resolution] yet.” While she may not have a clear idea of one right now, in previous years Trettel has “kept up with the abstract ones” such as taking more risks.

Students, however, seem to be going into the New Year with change on their mind. Freshman George Kavadias said he is going to work harder in school and sports. Kavadias also claimed he will “try and be nicer to [his] sister” but probably won’t end up succeeding. Senior Grace McKiernan said she is going to simply work on how to be “less annoyed with all people” both in school and outside of school.

If you don’t have any ideas of your own, here are some for everyone:

- Focus on yourself and be confident
- Meet new people — put yourself out there!
- Get GOOD sleep every night (not just on the weekends)
- Leave toxic relationships aside #thankunext

2018 IN

By LISETTE GEILING and REID

Spotify's US T

Male:

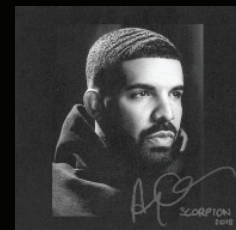
1. Drake
2. Post Malone
3. XXXTENTACION
4. Travis Scott
5. Khalid

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4. Lucid Dreams
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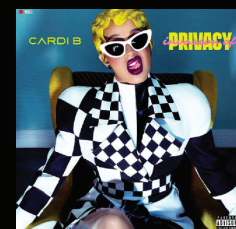
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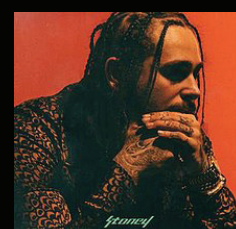
2. Beer Money
- Post Malone



3. ? - XXXTentacion



4. Invasion of Privacy



5. Stoney

A WRAP

D PLOSHNICK



Top Artists 2018

Female:

1. Cardi B
2. Ariana Grande
3. Taylor Swift
4. Nicki Minaj
5. Halsey

ongs 2018

ongs

an - Drake

XTENTACION

a \$ign) - Post Malone

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ums 2018

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ost Malone

Ktentacion

on of Privacy - Cardi B

- Post Malone

Monthly Highlights

January:

- People were eating Tide Pods
- That was it

February:

- Super Bowl 52, Eagles vs Patriots: Eagles win
- Winter Olympics in South Korea

March:

- American Idol returns
- Villanova wins March Madness

April:

- Coachella
- Kate Middleton welcomes baby #3, Louis Arthur Charles

May:

- The Royal Wedding: Prince Harry and Meghan Markle
- Childish Gambino music video, "This is America"

June:

- Incredibles 2 arrives
- Washington Capitals win the Stanley Cup
- IHOP becomes IHOb

July:

- IHOb returns to IHOP

August:

- Absolutely nothing noteworthy

September:

- Justin Bieber and Hailey Baldwin get married
- Mac Miller passes away

October:

- Ariana Grande & Pete Davidson call off engagement
- Boston Red Sox win World Series

November:

- Ariana's "Thank U, Next" video arrives
- QO wins States

December:

- Nick Jonas gets married to Priyanka Chopra



A summary of QO's holiday experiences and traditions

By **FAITH LANE**
Managing Editor

As we enter the new year, everyone is focusing on their New Year's resolutions. Whether that is to eat healthier, get more sleep, or stop procrastinating, the goal is to make the new year better than the last one. Although this year can be made better than the last, there are still many things to look back on in 2018, like winter break!

Winter break is longest break we get all year. These 10+ days allow us to travel across the world, see different cultures, and eat different foods. Or they allow us to relax in the warm indoors of our houses for a week and a half. Either way this break is greatly needed by students and teachers in order to get through the rest of second quarter.

Winter break for those who celebrate Christmas is definitely a magical time of the year. It is spent with your family and friends, with different holiday music, movies and traditions. For example, junior Sarah McClure says, "For me, I spent Christmas and winter break with my family. We went to church on Christmas Eve and had a big, nice dinner. Then on Christmas morning, we had a delicious breakfast together and opened our gifts." McClure adds, "One thing my family always does is we open one gift on Christmas

Eve, which is always fun."

For other people, like junior Briana Segal, winter break is filled with traveling. "I went to Florida to visit my grandparents and cousins." Segal adds, "I loved the splash of warm weather in the midst of this brutally cold winter. Also, I loved spending time with my family and, of course, having a break from school."

AP Psychology and Sociology teacher Jessica Burdette went to India and the Maldives over winter break. This surely was not the average winter weather vacation, but instead a tropical oasis, filled with new culture, food, and experiences.

Winter break was filled with many different experiences amongst QO students and staff. To some people, winter break consisted of celebrating a holiday like Christmas or Kwanzaa. Although Hanukkah did not occur during winter break this year, some years people celebrate Hanukkah during the break. Sophomore Elliott Eager says, "I love Hanukkah because I am surrounded by my family and get to celebrate for 8 days."

Of course, winter break was a time for everyone to celebrate the new year. Whatever your winter break consisted of, hopefully it was a time for you to relax and have fun, to not have to focus on schoolwork, and to be surrounded by the people you



PHOTO COURTESY OF FREEWORLDMAPS.NET

"I loved spending time with my family and, of course, having a break from school."
- Briana Segal

love.

Although winter break is over, we have 2019 to look forward to – and of course spring break, which is only a little over 3 months away!



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Noms, Snubs, and Dubs



Another year has passed, and the Grammys are back for another round

By **RONNELL FOREMAN**
Staff Writer

After a year of twists and turns, the music scene has seen heartbreaking tragedies to heart-pumping triumph. Who would have thought XXXTentacion would be killed at such a young age, or even 6ix9ine's sophomore album would turn out being one of the biggest in the autumn months. However, even through the many variations and genre-bending work we may see, one thing that has stood throughout time is The Grammys. Every year we all gather together to watch the Grammy Award ceremony, what most look at as the pinnacle for musicians at all levels, covering all genres.

The 61st annual Grammy award ceremony has just released the nominations for this year. For best record of the year, Cardi B's "I Like It" and Drake's "God's Plan" are at the top of the most likely winners list. However, Post Malone's "Rockstar" can definitely steal the spotlight; it was a huge hit early on in the year but has since died down. Senior Justin Burton disagrees with the list entirely. "My favorite song is 'Anxiety' by Blackbear," said Burton. "I don't listen to anyone else on that list much."

"My favorite song is 'Anxiety' by Blackbear...I don't listen to anyone else on that list much."

- Justin Burton



PHOTO COURTESY OF BILLBOARD.COM

There is also the Best Vocal Pop Album, which is very star-studded from top to bottom. Camila Cabello, Ariana Grande, Shawn Mendes, Taylor Swift, P!nk, and Kelly Clarkson head this mix of stars of representing the past, present, and future. Freshman Karla Maldonado said she "listens to all the artists, but really hopes Shawn Mendes wins."

There are definitely snubs across the board. "Travis Scott's 'Stargazing' captivated many and had the whole world ready for the release of *Astroworld*. However, it did not even make the list, even with the hundreds of millions of views on YouTube alone. 6ix9ine's "FeFe" also not making the nomination list proves his worth in the mainstream.

While some think he has made it big, the nomination committee thought otherwise. Especially with his latest conviction, it is very possible he has been placed in the dog house due to the bad press he may bring to the award show.

Artists like Mac Miller, who saw a rise in popularity after his death, got his last album *Swimming* on the nomination lists. This is especially a feel-good moment considering his unexpected death.

VIEWPOINT

Jingle ball, jingle ball, jingle all the way!

By **JENNA SHATZMAN**
Associate Editor

Decembers call for festive Starbucks cups, an abundance of holiday sweaters, and most importantly, Jingle Ball. Just like every year, Hot 99.5 put on their installment of the holiday show and, per usual, I was there to catch all of it in its glory. Shawn Mendes, The Chainsmokers, Bazzi, Bebe Rexha, Sabrina Carpenter, Meghan Trainor, NF, and G-Eazy lined the stage. The Chainsmokers and Shawn Mendes were advertised as the headliners of the night, but multiple acts stole the show.

"It's almost love!" Sabrina Carpenter sang as she opened the show with the highlight track off of her most recent album, *Singular Part 1*. She had the arena — or, at least, those that know her well enough to know the chorus of her most popular songs — shouting the lyrics along with her. She started the show off with impressive vocals, and despite her short stature, owned the stage. Carpenter is best known from her starring role in Disney Channel's *Girl Meets World*, but her Disney image was shed on the Capital One Arena stage.

Bazzi followed Carpenter's set, drawing a few more active participants in the crowd than his predecessor. "DC, you look beautiful tonight," he announced before singing his appropriately named collab with Camila Cabello, "Beautiful," sans Cabello. His catchy lyrics and smooth vocals were the savior of his performance, as his stage presence was rather lackluster.

Fast forward to NF, whose tone resembled Eminem so much so that when I walked into the arena mid-set after a



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOT 99.5

bathroom break, I thought Eminem had made a surprise appearance on stage. The singer/rapper's performance was dark, eerie, and confusing at times. The performance only started to make sense as he sang his hit song, "Let You Down," which was still not a stand out of the night.

Surprisingly not a closing act, Shawn Mendes then took the stage and was, at this point in the show, the one who drew the greatest enthusiasm from the crowd. I would barely know, however, because I was too busy screaming the words to my all-time favorite songs. Sporting a

post-Grammy-nominated glow, Mendes owned the stage. He tried out a few note changes to his hits "Treat You Better" and "Lost In Japan," giving a little more depth to his lyrics and vocals alike. Mendes was a stand-out of the night, grouped with Jingle Ball veteran Meghan Trainor, and The Chainsmokers, who added new member Matt McGuire.

Bebe Rexha definitely impressed, singing her long list of hit songs that you most likely forgot she was featured on, such as "Me, Myself and I" with G-Eazy and "In The Name of Love" with Mar-

tin Garrix. Rexha, in her long red coat and bedazzled top that was aggressively complimented by the hosts of the night, was able to connect with the audience while singing some of the year's most famed tunes. G-Eazy was another crowd pleaser, but not a personal favorite.

All in all, Hot 99.5's Jingle Ball was a success, and brought a fun night to DC to celebrate the season and biggest names in music. iHeartRadio proved, once again, that the radio is still a prevalent musical force in our lives and can still pull a good crowd.



Third time's a charm: QO clinches football 4A title

By **JACOB CHERIS**
Staff Writer

After two straight years of frustration and heartbreak in the state championship, Quince Orchard (13-1) broke through the pain by defeating the North Point Eagles (13-0) 40-33 in the Maryland 4A football state championship. The last time QO won a championship was back in 2007, when junior running back Marquez Cooper was only five years old. Now he is the backbone of QO's offense.

This journey began when QO breezed through the regional semi-finals, defeating the Richard Montgomery Rockets 42-10. Next, QO battled against their bitter rivals, the Northwest Jaguars, at the Cougar Dome, shutting them out 35-0. Next up was the Wise Pumas, the team that conquered QO in the past two years at States. The winner would earn their trip to go Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. According to head coach John Kelley, "Our kids [were] very confident all year long. Beating Wise was awesome, but I think they play with the same swagger all year long and they felt like from week one that they can beat anybody in the state."

After QO's win against Wise, the stage was set for the MPSSAA football state champi-

onship, where the Cougars would play the North Point Eagles for a chance to change history. If QO was going to have success, they had to shut down North Point's pass-heavy offense. According to senior linebacker Tre Wade, "We had to make sure we cover[ed] [wide receiver Malik Lawrence]. We had to protect the seams, so we kept [senior middle linebacker Johnny Hodges] to watch the quarterback so he couldn't break any runs."

In the first quarter, North Point drew first blood, but QO created energy of their own from sophomore outside linebacker Demeioun "Chop" Robinson blocking the extra point.

Later in the game, as QO got into North Point territory, sophomore quarterback Brian Plummer worked his magic by throwing a short screen to junior Ryan Jones, which Jones then ran 18 yards to put QO in the red zone. Shortly afterward, Plummer ran 5 yards into the endzone to tie the game. However, North Point responded by blocking the extra point, and then North Point quarterback Asa Williams chucked a long 30-yard touchdown to give the Eagles the lead.

Mid-way through the second quarter, Cooper leaped into the endzone to tie the game at 13. Building off that

momentum, Plummer threw a 20-yard touchdown to senior tight end Max Bernard, giving QO a 20-13 lead going into half-time. "They left [Bernard] wide open, and [it was an] easy throw," said Plummer.

With QO up going into the second half, Plummer remained calm knowing that there was even more pressure on him. "I was able to stay calm by trusting the defense and knowing that we can't score every drive. We had to play all four quarters," said Plummer.

Four minutes into the third quarter, Cooper maintained his sensational running game with a 12-yard run, putting QO up by

13. The Cougars were motivated to keep North Point's defense on their heels, and when that happens, mistakes usually follow. Two minutes after QO scored, Robinson stripped the ball from Williams's hand, as senior defensive linemen Kevon Carter-Hackey scooped it up, and returned it for a 62-yard touchdown to give QO some breathing room. "I knew my team needed it, and I knew I had the chance to make us go farther and win the game," said Carter-Hackey.

A champion would not be decided without twelve more minutes of play. North Point came out of the gate with strong defense. To add to the excitement, North Point scored after their 50-yard pass was called back, inching closer to tying the game. As the game was getting down to the wire, Cooper came up clutch again with another touchdown, making it 40-26. "I needed to score for the community, for my team, for my family," said Cooper. The final score was 40-33 as QO took their first state championship in nearly 11 years.

The inspiration and motivation behind this victory was former student Tyler Terry. Terry passed away last year and has served as a spirit for the entire QO community. "Everything's for Tyler," said Carter-Hackey.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATHAN TRAN
FINALLY: The Cougars pose for a championship photo after defeating the North Point Eagles 40-33.

"Dripping that water, Oceans, Moana"

QO Swim and Dive look to build upon their success from last season

By **ZACH LEVEY**
Managing Editor

Coming off of an amazing season last year, the Quince Orchard swim and dive team plans to pick up right where they left off. Senior captains Bryan Gurcan, Jacob Lind-

ner, Matthew Steinwandel, Emily Mann, and Meredith Canova, along with junior captain Samantha Fogle, look to lead the team to yet another successful season.

Although the team only has two practices a week, they still may have the hard-

est practice schedule. The team starts their week off right with a Monday practice after school from 4:00 - 5:00 PM. The team gets a break on Tuesday, but it's back to work on Wednesday. While everyone is still sleeping, the team is already in the pool: every

Wednesday, the swimmers and divers are up early for their 5:00 AM practice at the Germantown Indoor Swim Center.

Just like any other sport, swimming and diving take a physical toll; however, the hardest part about swim and dive is the mental toughness required. One thing that people don't un-

derstand about swimming is that swimmers train all year just to cut their time by only a tenth of a second, which could decide whether someone makes States or if their season ends early.

one goal, and then finally accomplishing it, is one of the best feelings in the world," says junior Becca Owens. Owens has been a dedicated swimmer on the QO team for three years. Although Owens has a passion for swimming, she comes back to the team every year because "everyone is really friendly and always supportive of each other." While swimming/diving may be considered an individual sport as opposed to a team sport, swimmers and divers disagree. "Most people think that [swimming] is mostly individual, but it takes the whole team's support to make everyone confident and excited to see what they can achieve," says Mann. The team finds that people tend to perform better when the rest of the team encourages them. The team wins together and they lose together.

Even though swimmers and divers always have their teammates to rely on for confidence, it isn't always enough. With more people coming to their meets to cheer them on, swimmers and divers will have more success in the pool and on the board. The Red Army needs to go out and support the QO swim and dive team in order for the team to have just as successful of a season last year.

"Come out and watch us: we wear speedos!"

-Bryan Gurcan

derstand about swimming is that swimmers train all year just to cut their time by only a tenth of a second, which could decide whether someone makes States or if their season ends early.

The hardest parts of swim and dive only make the best parts even better. "Knowing that you've worked so hard for weeks on end to reach this



PHOTO COURTESY OF WONGHAN

Junior Carson Burke slices through the water as he races in the 100 yard breastroke.



Boys basketball looks to get back on track after slow start

Will look to use raw athleticism, young talent to their advantage during season

By JANTZEN FOCHT
Managing Editor

As the weather gets colder, and the chance for snow increases, the passion of the QO boys varsity basketball team heats up.

With a record of 15-13 in the previous year, plus a first round defeat in the playoffs against Clarksburg, the Cougars have much to improve upon this year. Considering that the team is centered around a surplus of young talent, the squad will look to use its raw

athleticism to its advantage, especially on fastbreaks and on defense.

Through three games (as of December 18), the Cougars sport a less than perfect 1-2 record, and will look to get back over .500.

Nahiem Howell, a senior guard, describes that this year, one of the strengths of the team is that this group of players are buying into Coach Paul Foringer's strategies and lessons, which makes them more unified as a whole. "None of our egos are too big, and we all

make a point of listening to each other and growing as a unit," said Howell. He also went on to say that he can help the younger players by "getting on them when they are not focusing, but also helping them out as well." Howell understands what most of these younger kids are experiencing, and explains that in order to get through the early difficulties of competing on varsity, they "have to take it one day at a time." Added Howell, "They have a tremendous amount of potential to improve and win: they just have to

take it slow."

Senior captain Alexander Raines says that one way he can be a leader is by making the practices more intense. This way, he explains, the more inexperienced players will get to understand what it feels like to take part in high-level basketball. Raines also says that they can improve their record by playing to their offensive gameplan, which is to get high-quality shots around the rim while making their threes at a high percentage.

As for the rest of the season, the Cougars' main goal is to get back to the position they were in two years ago: in the State Championship. With a group of young talented players who can skillfully shoot the rock and defend some of the best teams in the county, they certainly have what it takes to take a deep run in the playoffs. The only thing that is stopping them is inexperience. The great news about inexperience? It can be earned while competing day in and day out.

"None of our egos are too big, and we all make a point of listening to each other and growing as a unit."

-Nahiem Howell



PHOTO COURTESY OF BETH THOMAS

UNITED AS ONE: The boys basketball team stands for the national anthem before tip off, prepared to capture a victory

Cheer, Poms keeps spirits up

By BEN FLEISCHER
Managing Editor

Senior season is bittersweet for all athletes: it's their last year on a team they love. However, for these two athletes on the cheer and poms teams, respectively, they've had their best seasons as captains of their favorite teams.

Senior Karen Gottlieb, captain on the cheer team, has been through it all, the bumpy and the smooth roads, during her four years on the varsity cheer team. Gottlieb hopes to end her final season with a bang. Gottlieb says, "We've had some bumps in the road, but we are still giving it our all and want to continue cheering for our teams." The cheer team has been successful in their three competitions and have given the team some mo-

mentum going into next year. They will be cheering on the sidelines at every home basketball game in the upcoming season.

On the poms team, senior Tara Zeid has spent countless hours with her fellow teammates beside her, training and competing for their performances and competitions. As it all begins to come to an end, Zeid said, "This season was a great one for us. We really came together to bond and always had fun." The poms team wants to end their year in good graces with their goals and expectations.

While the cheer team is finished for the season, the poms team needs the Red Army's help in their upcoming finale and they want you to be there. They have four competitions starting in early January. Go cheer or dance them to victory just like any other Cougar team!



PHOTO COURTESY OF GIOVANNI PIZZINO

Senior Karen Gottlieb and the cheer team performs at the latest pep rally.

QO hockey strives for success

By GABI EYRICH
Editor-in-Chief

The Quince Orchard ice hockey club is unrecognized in the schools athletic program, full of talented and determined players. With a record of one win, four losses, and one tie, the team is working towards a more successful season. "We are in a tough division, but we have stayed competitive," junior forward Jared Katon said. "We are a small team, which takes its toll in close games."

The team continues to practice every week in order to focus on their own skills, as well as working all together. "During practices, we mainly focus on moving the puck efficiently, and skating mostly. Our goal is to create a fast-paced game where all of us on the ice can impact the game in a positive way,"

junior goaltender Noah Patrick said.

QO hockey continues to stay motivated and hardworking throughout the season, each in their own unique way. "Everyone does something different to stay focused and motivated. For me, it's cutting out everything else and keeping my mind on the game," senior captain Nick Reese said. "Once I step on the ice, that's all that I'm thinking about until I step back off."

As the team looks forward to the rest of the season, the players are working harder than ever to be competitive and aggressive. "We have exceptional offense this year," Reese said. "Not only have our returning players improved, but we've had more skilled forwards join the team."

Make sure to cheer on and support your fellow Cougars at the rink as their season progresses!



PHOTO COURTESY OF GIOVANNI PIZZINO

Sophomore center Brandon Cavey finishes a slap shot against Wootton high school.

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH QUESTIONNAIRE

Swim & Dive



Eric Blackman '20

While Eric Blackman may be most known for his math skills and his jokes, but he is an even better swimmer. Blackman gives his all for every race and leaves it all in the pool.

Wrestling



Rodrigo Cornejo '20

Junior Rodrigo Cornejo can slam any opponent to the ground. Cornejo uses his size to his advantage by getting and staying low during matches for the best balance anyone can have.

Boys Basketball



Nathan Dorsey '19

Senior Nathan Dorsey leads the team both on and off the court. The best feature of Dorsey's game is his jumpshot. He always trusts his jumpshot to pick the team up.

Indoor Track & Field



Jamie Grossberg '19

On the track, senior Jamie Grossberg resembles a lion hunting down their prey. Grossberg hunts down the finish line and first place during every race.

Bocce



Lyla Kim '20

Junior Lyla Kim has got all it takes to be an outstanding bocce player. Her focus, strength, and precision are impeccable. Kim was born to be a bocce star.

Girls Basketball



Paige Copenhaver '19

Senior Paige Copenhaver has ball handling skills like no other. She can weave through defenses like it's nothing to score a basket with ease.

We asked these athletes the following questions...

	Eric Blackman	Rodrigo Cornejo	Nathan Dorsey	Jamie Grossberg	Lyla Kim	Paige Copenhaver
What do you do on a snow day?	<i>Cuddle with my dog Brody</i>	<i>Eat food</i>	<i>Play 2k</i>	<i>Have snow fights</i>	<i>Make a snow slushie</i>	<i>Watch Netflix</i>
What is your favorite part about the holiday season?	<i>Eating latkes</i>	<i>The food</i>	<i>Being boo'd up</i>	<i>Candy canes and fires</i>	<i>Snow days</i>	<i>Being with family</i>
Favorite holiday movie?	<i>Elf</i>	<i>Elf</i>	<i>The Grinch</i>	<i>The Grinch</i>	<i>Elf</i>	<i>Family Stone</i>
Which teacher did you miss the most over break?	<i>Jernigan</i>	<i>Mr. Wu</i>	<i>Mr. Gasaway</i>	<i>None of them</i>	<i>Mr. Denhard (Denny)</i>	<i>Schuman</i>
What is the first thing you'd do if Frosty the snowman came to life?	<i>Tell Mr. Jernigan I have a friend</i>	<i>Ask him if he likes frosting</i>	<i>2 man</i>	<i>Keep him out of the warmth</i>	<i>Hug him and see if he is warm</i>	<i>Hug him</i>
What's your New Year's resolution?	<i>Get a 5 on the AB Calc Exam</i>	<i>Keep my circle small</i>	<i>Try and get a bag</i>	<i>Get a better sleep schedule</i>	<i>Dedicate my life to bocce. #bocce2states</i>	<i>Graduate and go to college</i>



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