

PROWLER

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

ESSAY

The newly discovered consequences of vapes

By **LYLA KIM**
Staff Writer

There's a rising epidemic among the younger generation: vapes. It was bound to happen, yet no one thought it would happen so soon.

E-cigarettes were designed to help slowly transition addicted smokers to a smoke-free life. Unfortunately, they only got the new generation hooked. Juuls, mods, drops, carts, etc. are easily accessible vapes that are able to create a buzz or a high. After seven deaths related to lung collapses and 450 different cases of lung disease, it is conclusive that vapes are the main source.

Juuls, along with many other similar products, contain about 59 mg of nicotine per milliliter. Nicotine is more than what you think. It's a toxic substance that raises your blood pressure and spikes your adrenaline, resulting in a higher heart rate that could leave you with a heart attack.

When inhaling the vapor, you are inhaling a mixture of chemicals that create a buzz. It's as if you are taking hits from an aerosol can. These chemicals are

linked to a variety of different diseases such as lung disease, heart disease, and cancer. Many of these diseases require a lung transplant in order to survive. According to HRSA, there are not many lungs to hand out, on average 20 people die a day waiting for a lung. And if you do receive one, there's only a 55% chance of survival.

What is crazy about all this is that people have been smoking cigarettes for years. And while they do encounter health issues, the serious issues didn't occur for 30-50 years, whereas e-cigarettes are just beginning to get popular, and people are dying and getting these diseases within four years. It hasn't even been a quarter of the time cigarettes had to affect us, and we're already dying.

Sadly, since it's so new to our society, we don't have enough data and research to know the long-term effects, so the younger generation are the guinea pigs. And as we can already see, the results are not good. So don't be a guinea pig. Even if your friend who smokes more than you is fine, it affects everyone differently due to the fact that we are all built differently. Stop taking the risk, and end the excuses.

If you can't find a reason to stop for yourself, think of the influence you are putting on younger kids. The National Youth Tobacco completed a study where they learned that more than 3.6 million middle and high school students currently use e-cigarettes.

If you want a reminder how old you were in sixth grade, you were eleven. This means that kids who are ages 11 and up are starting to get into the habit of using e-cigarettes. This is not only bad for their health, but bad for the development of their brains.

Many people think that Juuls are the only cause of this problem, but what they do not know is that marijuana cartridges are the reason behind many of these deaths. This has to do with the vitamin E that you are inhaling.

Carts are made by stuffing the pot that was too moldy, ugly, or weak into steel tubes, then adding a filter to one end, releasing cans of lighter fluid to flow through the pipe, in order to squeeze out every last drop of the psychedelic THC. Since pot isn't legal, these products are being produced unregulated.

Due to the fact that pot isn't fed-

erally legalized, scientists also haven't been able to conduct the amount of research on carts as they should, although they have been able to learn some concerning facts. When marijuana buds are smoked, it discharges a cuticle wax, which is a good since it's the shiny layer of lipids on the outside of the leaf. But when the pot is being vaporized instead of smoked, this wax isn't being expelled, causing it to build up in your lungs, according to Kymron deCesare of Steep Hill Labs in Berkeley. In fact, the more powerful your battery is, the more carcinogens, or cancer-causing substances, are released when taking a hit. If you think carcinogens are bad, that's the least of your problems. There are many other chemicals that are mixed into cartridges. I bet you didn't know there were pesticides in them.

Overall, e-cigarettes and vaped marijuana have consequences that outweigh the good. If you are a user and experience any of these symptoms—coughing, chest pain, shortness of breath, fatigue, vomiting, diarrhea, or a fever—than you could be the next statistic. If you need help quitting, text "DITCHJUUL" to 88709.

New year brings new renovations to QO

By **MADDY FREEDMAN**
Staff Writer

If you tried coming to Quince Orchard this summer to use facilities such as the tennis courts, practice and stadium fields, or even tried dropping something off at the main office, you might have realized these places were under construction and therefore not allowed to be used. This is due to a series of new renovations, both inside and outside of the building, QO began this summer to prepare for the upcoming school year.

Students who have driven through the parking lot may have noticed the rundown tennis courts. In mid August, however, renovations were completed on eight brand new US Open official regulation blue tennis courts. This includes new nets, netpost, fencing, and gates. Senior Paisley Hahn, who is on the tennis team, is very excited to use these new courts. "It will be better for the team since its the surface we train on," she said.

This upgrade—along with the upgraded stadium field, practice fields, and still-under-construction weight room—are all part of improvements the QO athletic department sought to have completed due to the old age of these facilities. The improvements, which cost around \$75,000, included converting to bermuda grass, re-

sodding the entire field, and both increasing the size of and adding all-new equipment for the weight room. The hefty price tag for these improvements came from different sources, including major fundraising from the teams who use the fields, the Booster Club, a gift from the class of 2018, and funds from within the

school itself. "These renovations were absolutely necessary for our school and add to the look of the campus." said Athletic Director Jeff Rabberman "I am really pleased with the renovations, but we are not fully done yet."

In addition to the major improvements outside of the building, there are

many noticeable changes inside the building. In the main office, old carpet was removed and replaced with more durable tile, and additional administrator office was built within the main office. A security vestibule has been added to control access to the building and three more portables have been added outside, behind the building. There is also a new storage space on the third floor above the main lobby, a gender neutral student and staff restroom, and a new office built within the counseling suite. noted "These changes were very necessary. We have much more space in the office which we needed with our growing population." Said office secretary Elivia Castro.

All of these improvements, although they may seem minor, add to the modernization of our 30-year-old building.

"These renovations were absolutely necessary for our school and add to the look of our campus."
- Jeff Rabberman



PHOTO COURTESY OF QO TWITTER

<p>News</p> <p>Read about the new ban on gun sales at Walmart</p> <p>Page 4</p>	 <p>PHOTO COURTESY OF TIME.COM</p>	<p>Features</p> <p>New, gender-neutral bathroom opens on second floor</p> <p>Page 5</p>	 <p>PHOTO BY ZOE BELL</p>	<p>Sports</p> <p>Football begins their fight to make it to States again!</p> <p>Page 10</p>	 <p>PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOWN COURIER</p>
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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.



New York Fashion Week highlights

By **JENNA LEVY**
Managing Editor

This year, Tom Ford, the new chairman of the Council of Fashion Designers of America, decided to make some big changes to New York Fashion Week. With changes in locations, performances and designers, Ford managed to fit Fashion Week in only five days, compared to the regular seven to nine days last month from September 6-14. However, the shortened length doesn't mean the show was any less spectacular than usual.

The CFDA President and Chief Executive Officer Steven Kolb in an interview with CNN Style that he has "gotten feedback over the last few seasons that the longer schedule was difficult for editors and buyers and guests of fashion shows." The hopes of this year's fashion show was to make buyers more eager to make a decision between designers.

Even the location of fashion week was revised. Most of the shows opened in Brooklyn, which is unlike the past years of



PHOTO COURTESY OF VARIETY.COM

Fashion Week. CNN Style reports that some of the top designers are Brandon Maxwell, Pyer Moss, Telfar and even Michael Kors. The Brooklyn Museum, known for its massive collection of artwork, showcased some trendy clothing pieces. According to

CNN Style, "Tory Burch paid a floral tribute to Princess Diana" in the museum.

Rihanna entertained the audience in her Savage x Fenty show, with a collaboration performance with Halsey, Tierra Whack and DJ Khaled. CNN says

that "models Alex We, Cara Delevingne and Joan Smalls, actress Laverne Cox and singer Normani" strutted Rihanna's new fashion line.

Overall, New York Fashion Week 2019 attracted new buyers with the innovative collections.

Parking lot? More like parking less.

By **MELANIE FRANK**
Staff Writer

The new school year beginning means new drivers are coming into the parking lot. Over the past two years, the parking lot has been one of the topics students always seem to be talking about. The process for receiving a parking pass has changed this year, with students needing to apply and give reasons as to why they deserve one.

It seems that, at Quince Orchard, one of the main things juniors and seniors talk about is the parking lot and what problems they have with it. During the period of free parking in the beginning of the school year, students and teachers were annoyed with people taking their spots. Last year was the first year

students were given out specific parking spots, which took away the worry of someone taking your spot. Along with assigned spots came the rule that if someone did park in your spot, they'd get fined \$5 or risk losing their pass.

The requirements this year for parking passes differ from years prior, with seniors, athletes, and people with special situations prioritized. This makes new drivers like senior Hailey Schwartz nervous. "I don't play a sport and I live pretty close, but I want a spot just as much as anyone" she said. Athletic director Jeff Rabberman took charge of the parking passes this year and says he is much happier with the way this is working and just "wanted to make it fair for students." He seemed excited to see how it's going so far and

is glad students are happy and understanding of the process.

Every year, the incoming seniors decorate parking spots with chalk the night before school starts. Senior Isabelle Hozempa decorated her spot but was not always able to claim it. "[I was] really mad the first few weeks of school when I would see a junior is in my spot," she said. Although the chalked spots aren't permanent, they were ways of seniors marking them to hopefully ensure a spot and celebrate the start of their final year.

The new rules and organization of parking passes seem to be the best and most efficient, as it looks into what makes people deserving of a pass as opposed to prior years where students just waited in a line

and passes were handed out on a first come, first served basis. Anyone who doesn't get a pass for this semester will be upset, but there aren't many other options because there are more drivers than there are spots at this school.

"I don't play a sport and I live pretty close, but I want a spot just as much as anyone."

- Hailey Schwartz

Hidden consequences of the Amazon fire

By **JAY MOTIWALA**
Staff Writer

To add to the plethora of environmental disasters the world has faced, there's another worrying issue that the news and social media has brought to the world's attention. While famously some of the pictures posted by social media influencers and celebrities may not have been of the correct incident, the Amazon rainforest has experienced massive fires, and, as of the writing of this article, is still trying to be brought under control.

Besides the fact that the rainforest is being destroyed, there are unknown consequences many people don't understand go along with these fires,

some even more serious than first anticipated.

The fires originally started when Brazilian farmers and loggers illegally set flames to clear forested parts of the land to make a better area for agriculture. These fires then spread onto other parts, and have now affected a large majority of the rainforest.

The country of Brazil has been caught in heavy controversy due to its delayed response of how to deal with the inferno. Ever since being elected in October of last year, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has relaxed the country's environmental protections, and critics claim that he is the main reason why these fires happened. There have also been many complaints that

claim Brazil isn't doing enough to quell the fires. Brazil was infamously known for rejecting the G-7's donation of \$22 million to help fight the fires. (The G-7 is a coalition of countries, which consists of Canada, France, The United Kingdom, The United States, Japan, and Italy.)

Because of the fires, many tribes living in the Amazon are in danger of getting in the crossfire, this time literally. According to *The New York Times*, the indigenous people of the Shanewana tribe have turned to prayer to try to stop the fires from ravaging their homes.

"We want peace and love," Shanewana leader Tekahyene Shanewana told *The New York Times*. "Peace, harmony, and education to stop these fires that

have burned down the Amazon."

Finally, many Brazilian cities have been experiencing massive rates of pollution due to the fires, with even São Paulo - which is over 2,000 miles away from the rainforest - experiencing darker skies due to the flames. The World Health Organization has issued a formal warning for communities that are located close to the flames.

These fires have had more consequences than just destroying this rainforest, with people being affected directly. These consequences are ravaging the country of Brazil, and are in danger of spreading to other South American countries if it's not stopped.



Democratic nominees narrowing down for primary election

By **ASHLEIGH GORDON**
Editor-in-Chief

The next Democratic presidential debate is scheduled for October 15, with a second debate the following night if necessary. QO seniors and juniors who will be 18 years old by November 2020 will be able to vote for one of these candidates in the primary election in April.

Students are already thinking about how their voices can impact our future. SGA president and senior Kate Faraone thinks we “100 percent need to spread information on the election. We need to increase voter turnout and participation in our country. Get involved!”

Two years prior to the 2020 US presidential election, the Democratic National Committee (DNC) announced the preliminary schedule for twelve official debates, which began in June.

For each debate, there are specific qualifications that each entrant must

meet. According to the DNC rules, all candidates had to either receive “at least 1 percent support in three DNC-approved polls” or “receive donations from at least 65,000 unique donors with a minimum of 200 donors in at least 20 different states” in order to participate in the first set of debates this summer. For the following debate in September, candidates were required to meet both the polling and fundraising criteria by August.

The fourth debate is coming up in October, and the qualifications haven’t changed, but many candidates have begun to suspend their campaigns.

In between the second and third debates, Sen. Kristen Gillibrand, Sen. Mike Gravel, Gov. Jay Inslee, and Rep. Seth Moulton all left the race. Since leaving, Gravel has given his support to Sen. Bernie Sanders.

Eleven candidates have reached the thresholds needed to participate in the October Debate: Former Vice President Joe Biden, Senator Cory Booker, Mayor



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEDIATE.COM

Pete Buttigieg, former HUD Secretary Julián Castro, Representative Tulsi Gabbard, Senator Kamala Harris, Senator Amy Klobuchar, Representative Beto O’Rourke, Senator Bernie Sanders, hedge fund manager Tom Steyer, Senator Elizabeth War-

ren, and businessman Andrew Yang. The stage is set for an exciting conversation and chance to learn more about candidates’ stances on important issues that affect us all.

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VIEWPOINT

Walmart gun policy changes are ineffective

By SARA KLEMOV
Staff Writer

On August 3 in El Paso, Texas, a gunman walked into a local Walmart with an assault-style rifle and killed 22 people. Earlier in that same week, two Walmart associates in Southaven, Mississippi were shot and killed by a fellow associate.

Due to these tragedies, Walmart discontinued handgun sales in Alaska, the only state that they were still selling handguns to, as well as sales in all their stores of ammunition commonly used in handguns.

Ultimately, they are reducing their market share of ammunition from 20% to 6-9%. Furthermore, Walmart CEO Doug McMillon decided to change their open carry gun policy. "We are respectfully requesting that customers no longer openly carry firearms into our stores or Sam's Clubs in states where open carry is permitted - unless they are authorized law enforcement officers," said McMillon in a memo to Walmart employees.

However, Walmart's new changes are pointless because the policy is not enforced enough to be truly effective in the long run.

The specific change in their policy is that they ask their customers not to open carry in their stores. The local store manager has the discretion to enforce said policy.

In like manner, a retailer can refuse service to anyone so long as it is not on the basis of race, religion or another protected group. In short, a store manager can refuse service to someone who is open carrying and ask them to put their gun in their car or leave the store, but it doesn't mean that they have to.

This became evident to David Amad and 38,000 other members of Open Carry Texas, an organization dedicated to the safe and legal carry of firearms in the state of Texas, when many decided to open carry in their local Walmart to see what happens. Not a single one of them were bothered or asked to leave.

"They are ducking the issue," Amad said of Walmart in *The New York Times*. "They are trying to get the gun haters to leave them alone, while at the same time leave us alone when we carry in their stores." The only effect Walmart is making with their policy is fooling gun control activists.

"We have been focused on store safety and security. We've



PHOTO COURTESY OF WHAT'S TRENDING.COM

also been listening to a lot of people inside and outside our company as we think about the role we can play in helping to make the country safer. It's clear to us that the status quo is unacceptable," said McMillon.

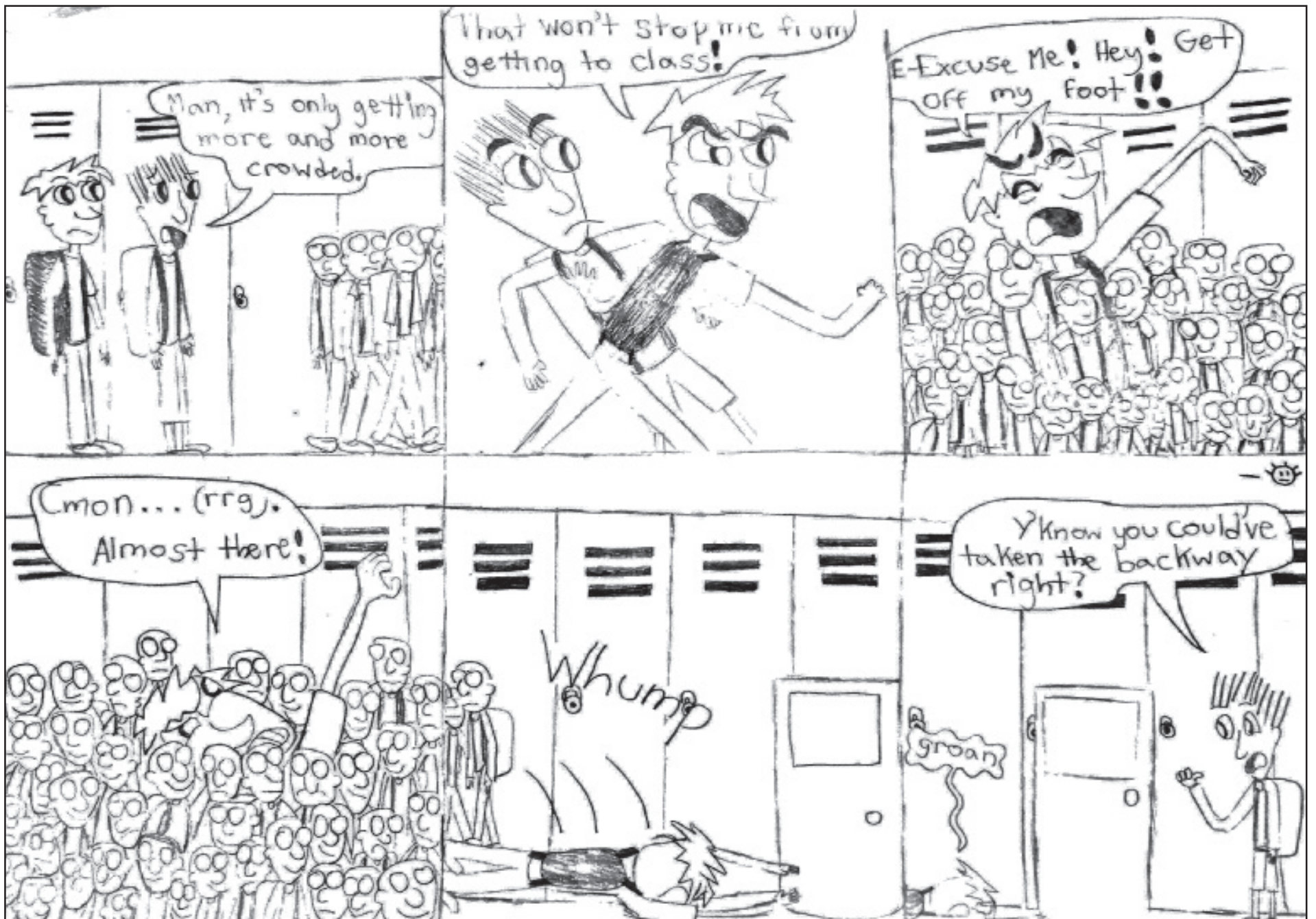
It is obvious that the reason behind Walmart's policy change is to influence gun control in America. They claim to want

their customers to feel safe in their stores, and yet their policy does not achieve said goal.

Since the store manager is in charge of enforcing the policy, it is more about if they feel that the store is in danger and not whether the store is actually in danger or not.

All in all, the policy is there to make gun control activists

feel better, but also does not completely restrict gun activists from running their daily errands with a gun strapped around their back. Walmart should revoke their changes because it just misleads their customers to think the policy has power to effect gun control; it doesn't.



COMIC BY ADRIAN ISASSI



MCPS adds gender-neutral bathroom to schools

By ZOE BELL
Editor-in-Chief

In the senior hallway (the red hallway on the main floor), there is a new bathroom that is labeled neither girls nor boys. Instead, it's gender-neutral. New MCPS policy issues that it is a "current standard in newly constructed schools, as well as in existing schools (as requested), to provide single-occupant, gender-neutral toilet rooms," according to a letter written by Superintendent Jack R. Smith. This is why the former men's staff bathroom was reconstructed to accommodate any student regardless of gender identity.

A wide range of students benefit from a bathroom that is open to people of any gender, such as people who are uncomfortable in men's or women's rooms or those who are gender non-conforming. A study by the GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network) reveals that nearly two thirds of transgender students avoid school bathrooms due to feeling unsafe or uncomfortable.

Someone who is non-binary does not fit into the categories of "male" or "female." One such student, a junior named Grayson, who did not wish to reveal their last name for privacy reasons, feels strongly about the new gender-neutral bathroom.

"I think it's incredible," Grayson said. "It can definitely help some of the people who may be questioning their gender or people who don't feel comfortable in either of the bathrooms."

Grayson, who has avoided gendered bathrooms in the past, feels more represented at our school now. Students' comfort is the number one

priority for principal Beth Thomas.

"The gender-neutral bathroom will help [gender non-conforming students] have a safe space, so they can use the restroom and not feel torn between where they need to go and how they will be received or perceived," said Thomas.

Junior Ian Joegriner agrees that this new bathroom is a step in the right direction.

"I think it's pretty good and inclusive," Joegriner said. "[The gender-neutral bath-

room] is a nice middle ground for students."

However, not everyone in the school community agrees; some students believe that the gender-neutral bathroom is unnecessary. Some believe that adding a gender-neutral bathroom is "stupid" since public schools already have male and female restrooms.

"I don't understand the point," an anonymous senior said. "I think it's too complicated of a philosophy. If you

have a penis, go in the men's room."

Another issue brought up was the cost. According to the superintendent, the current average cost to retrofit a restroom in a school is \$25,000.

"It was a waste of money," said an anonymous freshman. "There shouldn't have been a gender-neutral bathroom because the boys' and girls' bathrooms are so close together. I think it was just an excuse to have another bathroom."

Although not every member of the school community sees eye to eye, the gender-neutral bathroom is here to stay.



PHOTO BY ZOE BELL

The men's staff bathroom in the senior hallway was reconstructed into a gender-neutral restroom.

"I think [the gender-neutral bathroom] is incredible. It can definitely help some of the people who may be questioning their gender."

- Grayson, a non-binary student

Make our climate great again

Thousands gather in Washington, DC for Climate Strike on Sept. 20

By ZOE BELL
Editor-in-Chief

On the morning of September 20, thousands of people gathered in the nation's capital for the same cause: the climate. This event, the Washington DC Climate Strike, was a youth-led protest demanding world leaders to address the ever-growing climate crisis and enact viable solutions. Young activists in more than 150 countries organized similar strikes on the same day.

As the large crowd made its way from Main Street and onto the Capitol Lawn, wielding signs promoting science, every person, young or old, had the Earth in mind. Since the strike took place on a Friday, the many high school and college students in attendance had opted to miss school in favor of activism.

Senior Alex Aronez, who hopes to major in environmental science, traveled to DC as a student activist. She strongly believes that it is important to get involved.

"It's our future; it all depends on [activism]," Aronez said. "If we don't start doing something now, since we only have ten years, it's going to be too late before we know it."

However, not everyone agrees on just how pressing the climate crisis currently is. President Trump and his supporters often dismiss the issue altogether as a hoax, according to multiple sources including TIME Magazine and The Washington Post. In fact, two years ago, Trump announced that the United States would withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement, a global agreement to reduce emissions that

contribute to climate change, in addition to rescinding the requirement that oil and gas companies report methane emissions.

Despite the White House dismissing climate change, Trump's own administration have released reports about the severity of this issue, such as the new federal climate assessment from the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). The marchers at DC also wished to counteract politicians such as Trump who actively deny this issue.

"I feel like it's really bad that someone who is in charge of our country doesn't want to acknowledge that we are in a crisis," Aronez said. "[Climate change is] going to affect everybody in the end, and I think that's really irresponsible."

Teens at the Climate Strike were not afraid to say what they wanted loud and clear.

"I want policy change and I want the passing of the Green New Deal," said senior Sari Langholt. "Protesting is a way to make our voices heard and influence Congressmen."

Other students, including senior Eric Fagan, agree that protesters and young activists must pave the way for future generations.

"The Baby Boomers have already shown repeatedly that they are going to ignore [climate change] for the most part," Fagan said. "The fact still remains that teenagers are going to make up a very large part of the next vote."

Inspired by 16-year-old Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, who recently delivered a scathing speech at the UN Climate Action Summit criticizing world leaders, these teens are not afraid to step up and demand action.



PHOTO BY ALEX ARONEZ

TEEN ACTIVISTS STRIKE AGAIN: Supporters of climate action march onto the Capitol Lawn urging world leaders to enact policies to protect our environment.



PHOTO BY ALEX ARONEZ



PHOTO BY ALEX ARONEZ

NEW PEOPLE AT QO

FRESHMAN STEREOTYPES

By ANNA SOYKAN and KAILY PAULINO
Staff Writers



The VSCO Girl



Blocking hallway

NEW TEACHERS AT QOHS

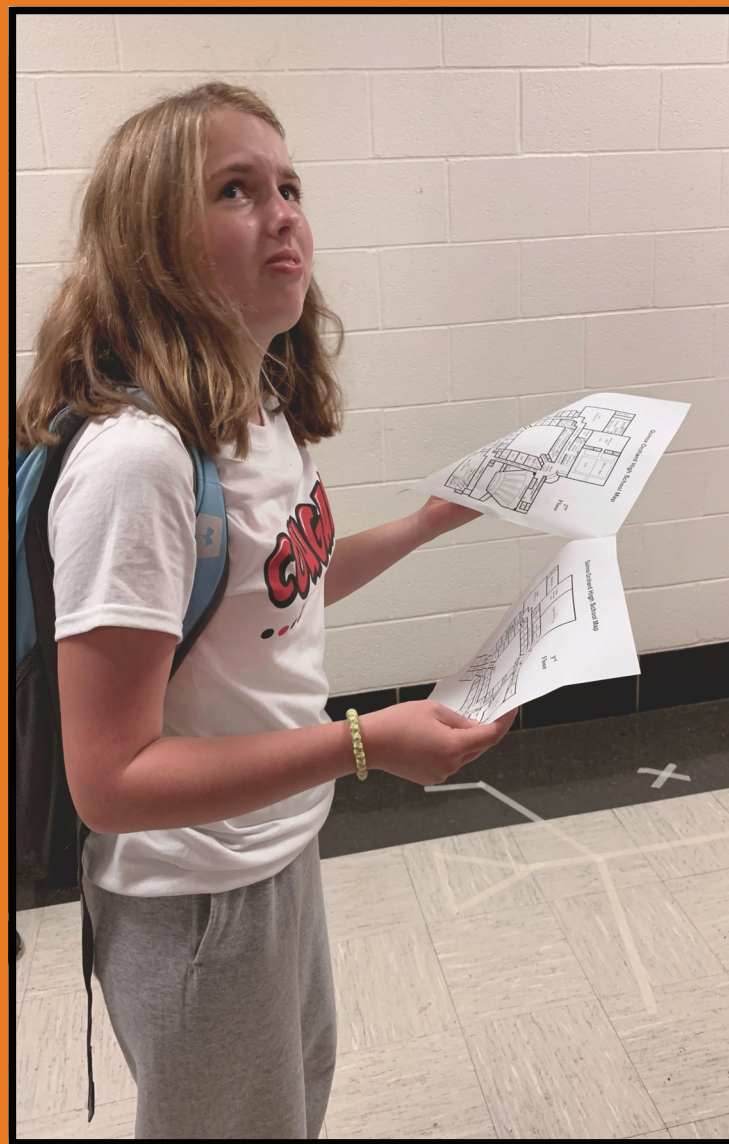
By FAITH LANE and MADDIE POMRINK
Senior Staff Writer and Staff Writer

	Bryn Crowder, Athletic Trainer	James Key,
Where did you work before?	"I worked as an athletic trainer at Seneca Valley High School."	"I used to work at Sh... at Central Office as a
Where did you go to school? And what did you study?	"I went to Louisiana Tech for grad school where I studied sports administration with a concentration in sports psychology."	"I studied math at th
Why did you come to QO?	"I came to QO because I heard about the supportive community and competitive athletics."	"I have a ton of respo... one of my main inspir... of respect for him as
What do you love most about QO?	"Since I've been at QO, everyone is super welcoming, from the mailmen to parents to athletes."	"I feel like there's hi... environment with res

QUINCE ORCHARD



Running in the hallway



Being lost in the school

Math Teacher

Michael McMillen, Counselor

erwood High School and Loiederman Middle School as a math teacher and math specialist.”

“Lakelands Park Middle School for eight years as a counselor.”

e University of Maryland.”

“I went to undergrad at Grove City College. Then I went to graduate school at Johns Hopkins where I earned my master’s in school counseling.”

ect for Mrs. Thomas after working with her at Central Office, so she was rations for coming to QO. Also, I’ve worked with Jernigan and have a ton well.”

“I really enjoyed Lakelands. I developed good friends and relationships, but I needed a change after working there for eight years. I also wanted to grow professionally and have always wanted to be a high school counselor. When QO was looking for a counselor, the decision was easy, as I also have created relationships with many of the students who went to LPMS.”

gh expectations for teachers with high support. Overall, a positive work pectful students.”

“Haven’t been here for too long due to paternity leave, but what I like most is the people and students in particular. I really find it endearing the pride that everyone has at this school, whether it be for sports, clubs, or the community.”



The daunting task of class transitions

Consistent increase of QO students causes population growing pains

By **CLAIRE SULLIVAN AND MIA RESNICOW**
Editor-in-Chief and Staff Writer

Getting from class to class is a daunting task for all QO students—especially if you go through the back stairwells, where students resort to rough behavior just to make it to class under the five-minute period. This often results in overstepping boundaries in terms of students' personal space, and at times results in broken items, hurt feet, and pushes that get out of hand. For the scared freshmen, sprinting between classes is a necessity.

But the growth of students is not just an issue in our school; Montgomery County is past its tipping point. According to the Montgomery County Planning Department, our public schools are at 120% capacity and we are expected to gain over 11,000 students by next year. Due to this, the county is desperately searching for ways to resolve this problem in our schools, such as adding portables or building additions to schools to compensate for the increasing amount of students.

These changes are present at QO, such as the increase of portables in the back parking lot. Although this allows for more classroom space, many students argue that this is not a lasting solution to the overpopulation and other conflicts need to be addressed.

"Students in the portables are at a disadvantage because they have a farther distance to get to their next class," said freshman Jack Campbell.

In addition to being an inconvenience for students, the portables are also considered a safety hazard. Between classes, students are exposed to the outside without a roof or path to protect them from potential danger. Also, portables lack

concrete walls, which provide extra protection to students, but with Maryland's diverse and ever-changing weather, students are often battling against the elements outside. Sprinting with backpacks over their heads is one solution students consider while attempting to avoid the rain or snow.

"Students in the portables are at a disadvantage."
 - Jack Campbell

As students groan over having classes in the portables, questions often arise over what changes need to take place in order to benefit students, as well as the teachers who have classrooms outside. Many argue that a bathroom needs to be put outside, due to teachers encouraging bathroom use between classes, which is impossible if you are a student rushing from the third floor to the portables. The process of going from a class at the top floor to a class at the bottom is a long journey, resulting in no time to waste. Students lack enough time to stop by the bathroom, go to their lockers, or stay after class to ask questions and clean up.

Even if the portables seem like a nuisance to the students, there are teachers that do not feel the same way. "I love my portable classroom. I never want to go back inside, ever," said English teacher Skyra Blanchard, whose classroom is located outside. Blanchard has made it her mission to make her classroom

as comfortable as possible to encourage students to have a positive learning experience. By having a couch for students to read on, or a hightop table in the corner, her classroom almost feels like a home. When her students walk in, they don't feel constricted by a traditional standardized learning environment. "First off, it looks like a living room. I love the fresh air, [and] I always craved being outside," Blanchard said.

In the end, the portables are a much cheaper solution to our school's overcrowded classrooms, compared to adding attachments directly to the building. As students adjust to the school's changes, they continue to find new ways to reach their vast destinations.



PHOTO BY OF MIA RESNICOW

Students struggle to walk through the most crowded part of the school—the back stairwell.



PHOTO BY OF MIA RESNICOW

THE MOSH PIT OF QO: Students resort to shoving their way through crowds to make it to class.

The new food craze in Kentlands: Berries and Bowls

By **STACY SHIN**
Staff Writer

The recently opened restaurant in the Kentlands, called Berries & Bowls, has been a very popular spot for their most popular item, acai, which is a smoothie type snack made from the South American berry. Located at 120 Market Street West, it has new customers flowing in everyday.

The menu consists of five different acai bowl bases with different toppings and non-acai options, such as smoothies and juices.

Senior Sara Mercer has been working at Berries & Bowls since the day of its opening, on September 7. "Business has been good so far," she said, "but it's been crazy busy!" She elaborated that all of the workers were glad it's been so popular, and they have been working hard to get orders done with great quality.

The website, with the heading "Superfood Cafe", describes the different options they have.

Their slogan being, "the healthiest meal you will eat all day!" The website clearly aiming to grasp the attention of consumers who strive for a healthier alternative.

"Berries & Bowls is perfect!"
 - Clare Lilyestrom

Junior Clare Lilyestrom recently visited Berries & Bowls to see what all the hype was about. Lilyestrom said, "I got an acai base with granola, bananas, strawberries, and blueberries." She also said she has recently been trying to eat cleaner and has been looking for new places that have healthier options. "Berries and Bowls is perfect and the vibe is really good," she said. She also complimented the big serving size and the overall aesthetic of the bowl.

Although Berries & Bowls has been popular lately, we will see if the craze continues to thrive the rest of the year.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAMEIG.BLOGSPOT.COM

The outside of the new Berries & Bowls restaurant is shown with the door open for customers.



REVIEW

Tarantino's latest flick adds to his filmography

By MATTHEW MINTON
Staff Writer

It should come as no shocker that director and writer Quentin Tarantino is considered one of the best directors working in the film industry today. His iconic filmography includes masterpieces such as *Pulp Fiction* and *Inglorious Bastards*, among other well-known, critically-acclaimed films. Tarantino's latest outing in *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood* serves as a love letter to the City of Angels and adds another memorable masterpiece to his filmography, but how does it complement and compare to his past films?

Once Upon a Time in Hollywood takes place in the late 1960s known as the "Golden Age" of Hollywood. The A-list talent featured is nothing short of outstanding with Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt, and Margot Robbie, the most prominent stars featured. The film is largely about capturing the iconic period in the late 1960s that involves the infamous Manson Murders along with the brutal murder of real-life actress Sharon Tate (played wonderfully by Margot Robbie).

Tarantino brings reality and fantasy together once more; like *Inglorious Bastards*, the results are satisfying. Fictional actor Rick Dalton (played by Leonardo DiCaprio) and his stunt double Cliff Booth (played by Brad Pitt) are as iconic of a duo as Vincent and Jules are in *Pulp Fiction*. The film follows Dalton as he struggles to find his place in a changing and evolving Hollywood that he no longer recognizes, drinking and having breakdowns that



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB.COM

serve as scenery-chewing material that make DiCaprio's chances of getting another Oscar nomination extremely likely. Like *Pulp Fiction*, Tarantino follows these separate characters before ultimately discovering surprising and effective ways of bringing their stories together with unexpected payoff.

The majority of Tarantino's films have a strong narrative pull throughout that can be very clearly identified to any viewers. However, this is where Tarantino's latest entry differs from the rest of his filmography. *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood* could be described as a hangout comedy where nothing really happens. In the hands of a lesser filmmaker, this aimless approach would have been painful to watch, but instead, Tarantino's latest is a stunning piece of film-making — all 160 minutes of its runtime. Several of the

most compelling scenes in the movie depict characters simply driving around the city, listening to music, or having ordinary conversations with one another. In this regard, it's very similar to Tarantino's *Jackie Brown*. The film transports viewers into a long-gone time, and Tarantino's love for filmmaking shines through in every frame, which is why he is such a fascinating director to watch. While Tarantino doesn't hold back in portraying on-screen gruesome violence, he decides to save it until the very end, making the film's eventual payoff even more effective and fulfilling in the long run.

Ultimately, *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood* demonstrates how even some of the best and most well-respected directors can grow and mature. Tarantino's combination of an amazing cast, a killer soundtrack, an incredible screenplay, and

an ending for the ages that combines Tarantino's knack for depicting on-screen violence with a rare, confounding, bittersweet final moment for the film-maker makes his ninth (and possibly second-to-last) film one for the ages. Tarantino ultimately gives movie-goers and cinephiles alike a reason to remember Sharon Tate: not for her gruesome, highly publicized death, but for the life she lived.

Like *Pulp Fiction*, Tarantino follows these separate characters before ultimately discovering surprising and effective ways of bringing their stories together with unexpected payoff.

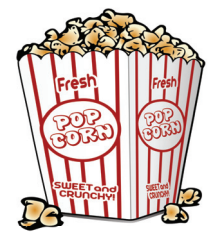


PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC DOMAIN CLIP ART

Upcoming Concerts

By BERI ALLEN
Staff Writer

What does your typical Saturday night look like? Hanging out with friends, homework and stressing about school the following Monday? If you're thinking about changing it up, look no further! Concerts can make any boring night into a night of fun, friends, and music.

Popular Artists:

Post Malone
Saturday, Oct. 12 8pm
at Capital One Arena

Twenty One Pilots
Tuesday, Oct. 15 7pm
at Royal Farms Arena

The Chainsmokers
Tuesday, Oct. 15 7pm
at Capital One Arena

Something new:

Amon Amarth, Sunday, Oct. 13 7:00pm
at The Fillmore Silver Spring

Belen Escobedo and Panfilo's Güera
Monday, Oct. 14 7:30pm
at the Rhizome DC

Spectral Snake, Coven Tree and Extravision
Tuesday, Oct. 15 8pm
at the Rhizome DC

Bea Miller
Monday, Oct. 28 7pm
at the 9:30 Club

REVIEW

"A Whole New World" of Disney's *Aladdin*By NATALIE PRICE
Staff Writer

Continuing with the live-action film trend, Disney recently released an additional movie to their collection. Along with others such as *The Jungle Book* and *Dumbo*, *Aladdin* premiered in theaters on May 29.

Based on the animated movie released in 1992, *Aladdin* is a comedy portraying the life of a thief who wishes to become a prince after crossing paths with a genie. In the Arabian city of Agrabah, Aladdin (played by Mena Massoud) faces the struggles of discovering his identity, while falling in love with Princess Jasmine (played by Naomi Scott).

Massoud, who has made other appearances in movies such as *Ordinary Days* and *Final Exam*, takes the lead role along with his co-star Scott, who has also acted in *The Martian* and *Lemonade Mouth*. Massoud illustrated a young man hesitant to tell the Princess his identity as a thief, while Scott highlighted the Princess's struggles of constantly being bossed around by men. The remake did not necessarily live up to the original movie's high standards, largely due to the actor and actress's mediocre job portraying Aladdin and Princess Jasmine, as there were many noticeable pauses during interaction between their characters and lack of genuine emotion during important, intimate moments.

On the other hand, the iconic role of the genie (played by Will Smith) was incredibly well-casted. Smith accurately displayed a man who's been cursed into enslavement, yet remains humorous and helpful to Aladdin throughout his excursions.



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB.COM

The greatest aspects of *Aladdin* were easily its soundtrack and costume design. The movie opens with an engaging theme, captivating viewers with the enchanting city of Agrabah. Later on, the film continues with the inspirational melody from "A Whole New World," a popular classic from the original. The costumes were just as significant, as characters danced around in vibrant skirts, dresses, and trousers painting a picture of authentic Arabian culture.

Aladdin teaches the important lesson never to hide who you are, and illustrates that those who truly care about you will

love every aspect of your identity. Appealing mostly to younger audiences, *Aladdin* communicates messages key for shaping future generations. While it may not be quite as magical as the original, it is still a pleasing movie to watch with family.

The iconic role of the genie (played by Will Smith) was incredibly well-casted.



Defending champs hungrier than ever for a repeat

With everyone against them, QO football looks for back-to-back rings

By **KENDALL LUMSDEN** and **BEN STROBER**
Staff Writers

“Every year, the goal is to win a state championship,” said Coach Kelly, QO’s varsity football coach since 2014. After losing two state championships back to back, the Cougars were hungrier than ever for a long-awaited state championship win last season. Now that the 2020 season has arrived after last year’s state championship and a long off-season of hardwork and dedication, the goal remains the same.

“I think the good thing about [winning last year] is that the guys are coming in with a silver token,” said Coach Kelly. He believes that “everyone is on the same page” and his Cougars have been wasting no time in the off-season to get back to work to work towards their everlasting goal. The players began working out and improving their strength just three weeks after their state championship win over North Point.

Your defending state champions have been continuously “putting all effort into everything,” claims junior Demeioun Robinson, the outside linebacker also known as “Chop”. The Cougars played up to their potential last season but strive to exceed expectations for this season. “To be honest, [the intensity] is a lot more than I expected. We want it even more this season,” says wide receiver/backup

quarterback, junior Anton Parmach, one of the new additions to the varsity team this year. Parmach describes the team’s work ethic as the “hardest working team in the state” and how team bonding is a huge part of their success. Marcus Bradley, senior, one of the newest defensive tackles, describes how the team is “getting better” as a result of “more life on the team” this season.

Even though the 2019 class included some of the greatest talent QO has ever seen on the football field, such as Johnny Hodges, Aaron Green, Brendan McGonagle, and Rashaud “Boogie” Thomas, the class of 2020 contains stellar athleticism as well.

This class consists of one of the best running backs in the state and Kent State University commit, senior Marquez Cooper. Cooper last year ran for over 2,000 yards and 38 touchdowns, and he has spent endless hours working on his craft helping him become Quince Orchard’s all-time rushing yards leader. Cooper last season was named an honorable mention on the All-Metropolitan list, but he is hungrier for more and wants to make the first All-Met team this season. Cooper’s goals for his senior year are set higher than ever. “I plan on rushing for 2,500 yards and winning another state championship before I leave QO,” Cooper said in his postgame interview with *The Town Courier*.

Some say repeating as champions is one of the most challenging hurdles in

sports. However, Quince Orchard believes that all the hard work they have put in and the talent they possess will allow them to accomplish their goal once again. Multiple teams in Maryland’s recent history have been on historic winning streaks. One of the most relevant to QO would be Damascus winning 52 straight games and 3 championships in a row before falling to Oakdale last season in the playoffs.

Now that QO has overcome their championship demons and established

themselves as a powerhouse in Montgomery County, they want to prove that last year wasn’t a fluke and that they are coming to dominate anyone that stands in their way.

“I’d say we are the hardest-working team in the state.”

- Anton Parmach



PHOTO COURTESY OF MAC KENNEDY FROM THE TOWN COURIER

Golf: More than just putt-putt

By **ZACH LEVEY**
Senior Staff Writer

When the school year starts, everyone begins to panic and rush through their summer homework and mentally prepare themselves for the long year ahead. However, for some student athletes, their school year starts off a little different. The golf team spends their own time working on their game.

While most teams have team practices everyday, it’s different for golf. The golf team only has one practice a

week for three hours. Obviously this isn’t ideal for teams to stay on top of their game, but the golf team does a great job of staying on themselves. Captains Senior Kyle Balow, Senior Jantzen Focht, and Junior Sophie Oristian do their best to make sure that everyone gets as much practice as they can. (Disclaimer: Focht is a Prowler staff member.) Whether it’s setting up a mini putting green in the garage, going out to the driving range, or playing a full 18-hole course on the weekends, everyone on the team is always doing something to gain an edge on their opponents.

Senior Ryan Soler says, “I spend a lot of my time on the weekends playing golf with my teammates. Even though I was already close with my teammates, being on the team and going out on our own time has made us even closer.” The athletes on the golf team have come to realize that they are really a part of the QO golf family instead of just playing golf for the QO team.

“Being on the team and going out on our own time has made us even closer.”

-Ryan Soler



PHOTO COURTESY OF WONGHAN

Cougar XC racing to victory

By **BEN FLEISCHER**
Senior Staff Writer

The fall season of cross country is back once again and the valiant Cougars are attempting to turn things around this year.

The leaders that the team needs are in this year’s senior squad. They have seen both sides of the story, the good and the bad, and they are ready to make sure that this team is at peak performance for their last year.

Seniors Jake Alalouf and Emily Miller are looking forward specifically to seeing how well the team has developed over the season at their end of season county race. They say that cross country is more of a team sport than anything else, because the closer your runners are to each other at the finish, the more points the

team will get. Also, everyone pushes each other to be their best. They also added that if they all work together during their practices and races, supporting each other, then they will succeed and be a great team.

Everyone is pushing each other day in and day out to work their hardest and to get better to achieve their goals. With that being said though, they have one goal in mind: passing everyone in their path and winning Counties. Go out and support the team as they run their hearts out!



PHOTO COURTESY OF KANETRE AREEWONGSAGUL



Senior leadership taking fockey team to new heights

By JANTZEN FOCHT
Editor-in-Chief

The girls field hockey team is off to a good start to the season as of October 8, sitting at a record of 7-2. Led by senior captains Zene Howard and Jenna Bauer, the team is looking forward to competing every day and making a playoff push to win States.

All summer, the girls have been working hard to prepare for their season by doing various strength exercises designed to improve their core, arms, and legs. In addition, they've been doing a great deal of running, which helps them build up their stamina for the season.

In addition, Howard says that during the summer, the players went to World Camp, which is three straight days of field hockey being trained by coaches from all over the globe.

During the season, the team has been playing pretty well, even though they've had their ups and downs. Howard says despite this, it "helped us develop as a team even more."

As the other senior captain, Bauer says that one of the most important tasks she has is to "keep everyone motivated to always play their best and to come out with the best attitude possible."

"I make sure to give constructive criticism while also encouraging my teammates and letting them know when they do something well," Bauer added.

One interesting development that has occurred on September 25, was that the girls defeated Paint Branch by a score of 4-0, even though Paint Branch had not given up any goals up until that point.

With big scores from senior Jenna Levy and Bauer, the team has solidified themselves as a prolific, high-scoring offense, able to gain goals at will.

Some of this newfound offensive prowess can be attributed to a new formation, which allows the team to transition more efficiently and score more.

This is not to say, however, that there are no areas where the team can improve; both captains believe there are some things they can work on to make themselves a more well-rounded team.

Howard thinks that as the season goes on, they can improve on their communication and chemistry. "We work very well as a team and are most always on the same page," she said, "but I think more people could step up and challenge themselves, playing more of a leadership role as well."

Overall, the girls field hockey team is off to a very solid start, and will look to build off their success going into the latter stages of the season. With a solid foundation headed by additional senior players



such as Anna Beville, Melanie Frank, Maddie Pomrunk, and Josie Juhring, the leadership to advance far into the playoffs is certainly there. Now all they have to do is stick to the grind and stay focused on their goals. (Frank, Levy, and Pomrunk are members of The Prowler staff.)



PHOTO BY KANTRE AREEWONGSAGUL

Field hockey gets pumped up with cheers for their game against Poolsville in the Dome.

The revenge tour for G-Soc has begun

Girls soccer has set out to win States after falling short last season



By LILY STEWART
Staff Writer

With fall sports getting underway, football isn't the only QO team with its eye on winning States. The girls varsity soccer team is on a revenge tour this year after falling short of making it to States last season.

Seniors Lauren Dwyer, Lindsey Brick, and Kate Faraone are ready to fight. "Last season ended in a fashion that we did not like, and I think that pushed us to play even harder this year and practice harder," said Dwyer. That loss has been their main motivation going into this season. Dwyer also believes that the loss has

brought the team closer, since many of the girls are returning.

The girls have proved how good they are going to be by beating Whitman, who beat them in regionals last year. When asked about what beating Whitman meant to the team, Faraone said, "literally everything. It just proved to us that we have the capability to win States." The team has always gone back and forth with Whitman every year, so to finally get a big win on them just showed them that their hard work does pay off.

As of October 1st, the girls team is 4-1, and their only loss coming by way of Walter Johnson. Along with trying to go back to States, the girls are excited

to face some new teams this year that haven't been in their division before, like B-CC and Urbana, who knocked them out of state semis two years ago. "We have never played B-CC and Urbana before, so it's going to be a new challenge," said Brick. Playing the new teams will allow the girls to really see how far their skill sets have come this year, since there is no standard to how those teams compete.

Getting back to States will not be easy, as they have to beat some really good teams like Walter Johnson, B-CC, and, of course, Northwest. Even though Northwest may not be the best, it could still be a close game due to the fact that the teams are such big rivals.

While the varsity team looks to get back to States, the junior varsity team isn't far behind. The team has scored a total of thirteen goals this season. If they keep up the hard work, varsity could continue to dominate in the future. But no matter the amount of talent that comes up from JV, they can expect to be whipped into shape by coach Peg Keiller.

This is also a very exciting season as two of the starters, Brick and Carli Sullenger, have already committed to Division I schools. Brick will be attending Syracuse University in the fall, Sullenger will be attending the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Senior captions Brick and Faraone both agree that they are the best and most spirited team to watch in the fall season, and they encourage you to come out and show your support at their next home game on October 14 against Poolsville.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAUREN DWYER

The team celebrates together after a hard-fought win against B-CC in the middle of the season.

"Last season ended in a fashion that we did not like, and I think that pushed us to play even harder this year and practice harder."

- Lauren Dwyer



ATHLETE OF THE MONTH QUESTIONNAIRE

Boys Soccer



Alex Soler '20
Senior Alex Soler is a very strong leader on the field. He talks to his teammates throughout the game so they can press and cover as a unit to try to force easy turn-overs.

Football



Carson Burke '20
Senior Carson Burke (a.k.a. Burke 30) is the kicker for the football team. Carson not only has a lot of strength in his leg, but he's also got pinpoint accuracy.

Golf



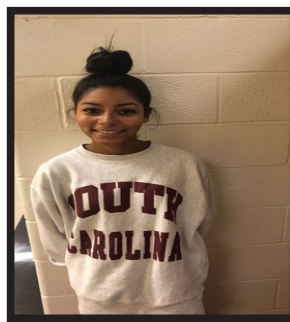
Chase Reed '20
Senior Chase Reed has been on the golf team for the past two seasons and always stays on his grind. Chase takes a long, deep breath and shakes his legs before each swing of the club.

Cheer



Chloe Smith '20
Senior Chloe Smith is a four-year varsity cheerleader and is now a captain of the team. Chloe's best skill is her dancing at the competitions, but her school spirit at the games is even better.

Poms



Sydney Toole '20
Senior Sydney Toole is one of the most motivated people on the team. She always wants what's best for the team and always has fun with it.

Girls Volleyball



Sarah Donnelly '20
Senior Sarah Donnelly is great at bumping, setting, and spiking. She's got great focus during the games and practices to get better and improve everyone else on the team.

We asked these athletes the following questions...

	Alex Soler	Carson Burke	Chase Reed	Chloe Smith	Sydney Toole	Sarah Donnelly
What are you looking forward to most this season?	Winning States	Hopefully winning another state championship	Making a match	Competing	Performing at competitions	Senior night
Which teacher did you miss the most this summer?	Marsden	Ms. Patel	Gonzo	Ms. Haase	Mr. Davis	Ms. Patel
Who helps motivate you while you're playing?	My teammates	My teammates around me	JR Walther	My teammates	My little sister on the team and my teammates	Our coach
Do you have plans on playing in college?	No	No	No	Depends on what college I go to	I think I'll do a club team	No
What are you going to be for Halloween?	Zach Levey	Myself. I'm scary enough.	Covered in mustard	Maybe a princess	No idea	I don't know
How many pickles do you think you can fit in your mouth at once?	0	3	The whole jar, but I hate pickles.	25	Like 5	1



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