

husky herald

December 2011/January 2012

Acting up!

The cast of *Status Update* performs for the school.

From left Gwendolyn Oberholtzer, Saige Bree Greenwell, Nick Gunderson, and Matt Doubrava.



Theater Program Updates Status With Original Show by Gina Cruz

The Highland High School Theater Program performed its original play **Status Update** on December 9 and 10 to a young and enthusiastic audience. The production, written by English teachers Krista Petrosoff, Steve Masson and Josh Tatum, is a commentary on how social networking can tragically alter high school experiences.

Gwendolyn Oberholtzer, who plays the part of Taylor, a self-interested instigator, describes the show as being about “high school and pretty much what kids go through daily with all the texting backstabbing and the drama.”

The show peeks into the inner workings of a spectrum of realistically-portrayed high school cliques, but centers around Mary, an artistically inclined and socially inexperienced freshmen. A misunderstanding spirals out of control over an unexpected encounter with her English partner, football jock Sean Prater. The resulting discovery sparks intense jealousy, insecurity, and acts of revenge gone too far.

The production process itself was a grueling but worthwhile experience for the entire cast, from the first read-through to

curtain call on the final show night. The play really came together during last week or so of rehearsals, but in the end cast and crew managed to pull it all together.

“I don’t think the kids were acting on stage so much as being,” says director/co-writer Krista Petrosoff of the devoted cast. Though the roles themselves were written before the actual casting process, everyone involved was able to become the characters, making the conflict of the play feel more tangible to the cast and more real for the audience.

“We hope the play makes you think about how social networking impacts your life and your identity,” explained Mr. Masson, who can also be thanked for the music and recordings done for both unique and impacting texting scenes.

“I’ve been here since day one” says co-director Nicholas Signorelli. “I can honestly say this was the most amazing play I’ve ever worked with.”



Dan Russo as Brendan, Katrina Tocci plays Amy, and Nicole Bellacicco plays Meghan in a preview show of Status Update.

In A 9th Grader's Shoes

By Jess Cruz

Last year Ms. Marz spearheaded a program called "In a Ninth Grader's shoes". This program takes 8th grade students through the school life of their 9th grade mentors for a day. This means that the 8th graders get off at the high school in the morning, and get on the bus at the end of the day, going from class to class with their mentors.

This program is aimed to ease the 'seniors of the middle school' into the role of high school freshmen, so it isn't such a shock going from the middle school to the hustle and bustle of HHS.

This does actually help

incoming students with their transfer to high school.



"It helped me because it showed me what the high school is

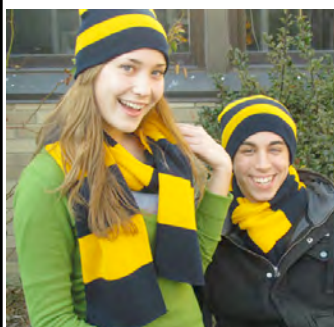
like and what the teachers are like and how classes are as well as the lunch and the hallways," explained Shadene Taylor.

9th grade mentor Dana Nicholson added "This program is important because we tell them about the school and they would feel more comfortable coming into the high school."

While this counts as community service for the mentors, they intend to enjoy it too, mentor Kayla VanTassel says "I wanted to become a 9th grade mentor because I wanted to help the 8th grade with the high school."

This runs throughout the entire year and the eighth graders genuinely enjoyed their trip!

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GSA Spreads Holiday Cheer

" I am so proud! The G.S.A. collected enough for one basket last year, and enough this year for three baskets of complete meals! I'm proud of the five students who put their heart and soul into helping others. Great job all!- Fran Scriber, Advisor G.S.A "



GSA members Victor Figueroa, Jessica Gonzalez, Shelby Petrose, Cheyenne Berry, and Stephanie Goetschius proudly show their collection of food to donate to charity.

Biker Gang of Students

Story and photos by Nicholas J. Signorelli

The date was October 21, 2011, a cool fall day, in which the photography class of Highland High School set off on their bikes. The purpose of the field trip was to allow students to hone their photo-taking skills using the landscape and architecture of the area. The journey was underway. Every kid bundled up, jeans on the bottom and helmets on top.

After a journey across the Walkway Over the Hudson into Poughkeepsie, they made a stop at Fratelli's Pizza. Students enjoyed sitting outside on the beautiful autumn day to eat their lunches. Students took a

multitude of photos of the places and people they saw.

After taking pictures of almost everything they could find in and around the pizza parlor, the photography class decided to move to the next location, Cafe Aurora. This fine eating establishment provided a nice backdrop for photos. They were sad to leave, but were on their way before they knew it.

Students then biked across the Walkway, only stopping a couple of times to regroup and rehydrate on their way down the rail trail, past Tony Williams Park and back to their starting point, Highland High School, concluding their 12-mile journey.



"It's important for students photographers to explore their immediate surroundings."

*-Les Castellanos,
Photography Teacher*



Fangs Alot!

By: Clayton Bodendorf

On November 9th, 2011. AP English and theatre classes ventured to Rhinebeck Center of Performing Arts. They were on an excursion to see a local adaptation of Bram Stoker's Dracula. The journey was underway, every kid, thrilled to participate in the viewing of such a theatrical production of Dracula.

After what seemed to be a neverending bus ride of eagerness and excitement they arrived at RPAC to find a dark stage that put them right into the action.

The play, which is an adapted version of the novel, is set in an asylum, in the 1800's. When the inmates of Dr. Van Helsing's asylum begin acting strangely ever since a certain Transylvanian Count's ship comes ashore; Van Helsing is certain he sees a connection.

Renfield, the deranged performance of whom the students enjoyed very much, seems to channel the diabolical voice of Dracula himself. When the young Jonathan Harker's fiancée Lucy (a variation from the book) begins to grow increasingly agitated, paces at night, craves strange items, Van Helsing suspects the worst. The show climaxes in a creepy graveyard scene wherein Dracula's minions rescue him from certain (permanent) death.



McDonald's after the show, Megan and Patricia enjoy milkshakes

The stage also had more than meets the eye, like trap doors, smoke machines, and even a visual projection. Students never knew what to expect next.

At the end of the play the students got an opportunity to ask the actors questions. They learned a bit about what it took behind the stage to get the play to work as well as some of the director's inspirations in shaping the play.

After leaving the center the students got back on the bus and ventured to McDonalds where they enjoyed a scrumptious and very unhealthy meal.

Conversations sprung up around the performance we had just witnessed, "The surprises and trap doors really got my

blood pumping" stated junior Saige Greenwell.

Senior and over-enthusiastic drama critic Nick Signorelli described the play as "a great play, amazing acting - three thumbs up way high!"

English Teacher and trip organizer AnnMarie Meisel stated that she wanted her students to get an opportunity to see a literary classic come to life on the stage. She praised Rhinebeck's mission to keep theater affordable for students.

"There's something that live theater brings to our understanding of the human condition; maybe it's watching characters wrestle with conflicts - or in this case, vampires!"



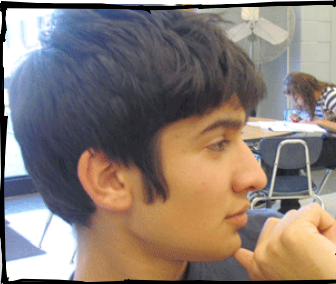
"The surprises and trap doors really got my blood pumping!"
- Junior Saige Greenwell



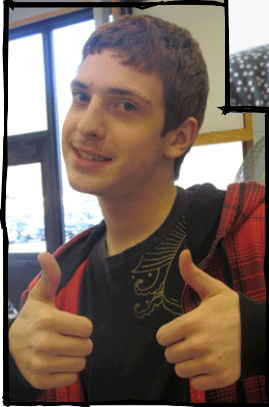
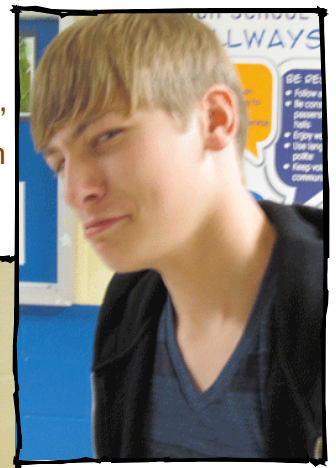
What Are You Thankful For?

by Ashley Hartford

"Sourpatch
kids and my
friends."
-Aryana
DePorres

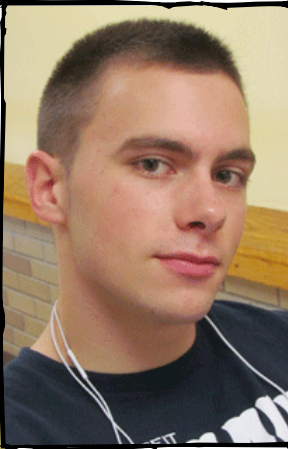


"Indoor toilets."
-Evan Martensen

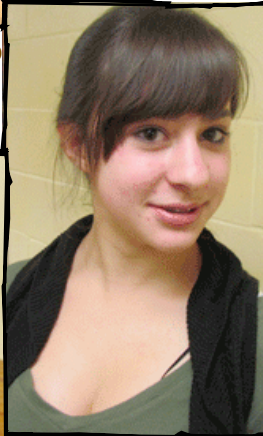


"Phones and
entertainment."
-Joey Jackson

"Snookie."
-Greg Saso



"My intelligence."
-Carl Adamczak



"Humanity."
-Kerry Gordon

"Life." -Elise Ludewig



"Tacos and
chinese food."
-Anthony
Wheeler

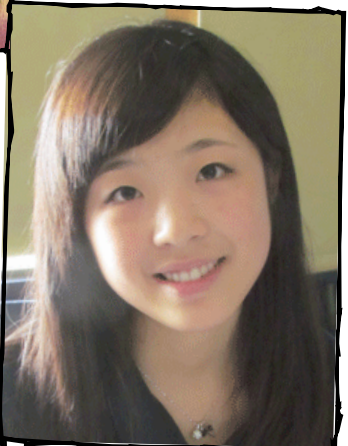


"The whole
wide world."
-Amy
Jacobini



"My friends
and family."
-Monica Van
Steenbergh

"Everything I have
that less fortunate
kids don't that we
take for granted."
-Shar Shuai



"My band
making it to
the last
round."
-Mike Feola



"My good friends,
my mother, and
my shortness."
-Hunter Fauci



"Mike's band
succeeding"
-Brendan
Tanner



Capturing the City

by Jesse Cruz, photos by Michael Chen



pizza for lunch. Following their break from the cold and the crowds of the sidewalks their trip around the city lead them to the famous Rockefeller Tree so they could marvel at the great-beast that is a New York City Christmas.

After walking through another hour or so of the frozen weather and the never-ending Salvation Army bells, the group explored the Apple Store and FAO Schwartz.

One head-count later, they headed back to Grand Central Station and waited for the train home to pull in, which would arrive back at the high school at around 5:45, thus completing a picture perfect day.

Freshman Michael Chen described the trip: "The city definitely opened our eyes to the many diverse people and cultures that were scattered around the Big Apple. All of the people and buildings made it possibly the best environment for shooting photos."

"When you purposefully go out to take pictures outside of your normal environment, then you notice these small things that seem monumental," explained Mr. Castellanos about the trip.

On Thursday December 8th 17 H.H.S. photography students took the train down into the city with Mr. Castellanos. Their mission: to capture the essence of the city with their cameras, in its cacophony of senses.

Emerging from Grand Central Station they took a trip around Manhattan stopping first for a brief visit outside the NYC Public Library. Next stop on this nearly ten hour field trip was a quick pop-into Dylan's Candy Bar where students indulged their sweet teeth.

On the way to their next destination they quickly grabbed some



Magic and Illusions at Highland High School By: D. Pikul

On Friday, November 18, magic unraveled in the auditorium at Highland High School when magician Max Droge and Illusionist Michael Bochar performed.

Max Droge, who has been performing magic around the tri-state area for thirty years, started off the show with a few magic tricks. The best one during his first appearance was his newspaper trick. He opened up the newspaper, showed it to the crowd and then began to rip it up into pieces. And then with a flick of the wrist the newspaper he had just torn was whole again.

His best trick by far was to close off the show when he performed a classic Houdini trick. He locked himself in a wooden cart that was closed shut with chains; he escaped from it in an estimated minute.

Michael Bochar was an illusionist. He did pretty good considering he and his magic/illusions partner met just before the show. Michael would build up all of his tricks. His best illusions were when he used two people in our school community in his trick on the stage. Nihir Parikh and Mr. Masson were used as props in two of his tricks.

"It was cool," described Nihir. "I got to see how it was behind the curtain, but at the same time, I don't know how she did it because I had my back turned. I



thought I would understand it, but I was like...whoa!"

Cassidy Woodruff added "This was a great experience for me; I'm a big fan of magic. I was on the edge of my seat the whole time."

"The magic show was pretty good," Hunter Fauci commented.

"It was a fun time because it consisted of some laughs and quality time with friends,"

Fauci said he likes to perform magic on his own at home.

"Some of the tricks that the magician performed, I have done myself."

Mr. Heath, the main person in charge of putting the magic show together talked about the magic show himself. He stated "The magic show

raised a lot of money for the French Club. The money will be spent on a trip to **Phantom of the Opera** on Broadway. "The funds offset the price of both the show and the train tickets down to the city."

Mr. Heath remarked on the actual show: "Considering that they put it together three hours prior to the show, it was good but there could have been some adjustments. The show was good, some was better - overall, the little kids liked it."

Despite a few of the show's missteps, the students had a magical time. "I hope they have more events for the French Club like this," Fauci said.

Transitions Meets Career Professional By Shelby Petrose

On September 20th I had the pleasure of meeting and listening to Don Redl from Executive Options, Poughkeepsie. Mr. Redl is the CEO of this company. He works as a private investigator and body guard. Some of the celebrities he has worked for are The Black-Eyed Peas, Jon Bon Jovi and Cindy Crawford.

Mr. Redl went into this career, he said, because he is a detail oriented person. He has been with the company for 15 years. When he was in high school he wasn't sure about what career he wanted to go into.

With this career, he works long hours which often are during the holidays. I asked him for advice for students here at Highland and he said "Keep yourself valuable, keep your history clean, your credit history good and learn skills like technology and networking skills."



Mr. Don Redl with client Jon Bon Jovi

Vegan Treats From Veggie Club

by Ashley Hartford



On November 14th Veggie Club threw a vegan potluck to celebrate national Vegan Awareness Day, which was held on November 1st.

Student members and teachers each cooked a vegan dish to share with the group. The result was variety of delicious, unique dishes: macaroni and cheese, veggie burgers, brussel sprouts, hummus,

chocolate covered strawberries, brownies, beans, and homemade lemonade, all vegan, are just some of the tasty treats that were served.

After sampling the foods, participants exchanged recipes - one favorite was the macaroni and cheese made by Special Services coordinator Barbara Chapman. "I was honored to be able to participate in the Vegan Pot Luck

with the Veggie Club," said Mrs. Chapman. "All of the food was wonderful and sharing compassionate food with people brings out wonderful conversation. I only wish we had had a little more time to spend together and talk about food issues and animal rights, but I am always open to having those conversations whenever the time is available."

If you're interested in Mrs. Chapman's recipe, visit http://www.daiyafoods.com/recipes_new/recipepage.aspx?id=21



Highland's Top 10 Winter Activities

In preparation for the winter season, we asked Highland High School Students what they were looking forward to doing over their break. We polled 80 students and tallied the votes to find Highland's top ten:

1. Baking cookies
2. Snowball fights
3. Snowboarding/skiing
4. Making hot cocoa
5. Sledding
6. Building igloos
7. Building snowmen
8. Ice skating
9. Making snow angels
10. Snow mobiling

GSA, Interact Warm Hearts



When it comes to helping out, Husky clubs certainly come through.

The GSA ran a mitten and hat drive for local families in need.

In addition, from December 12 to the 21, Interact sponsored a clothing drive to benefit Community Action.

Interact President Patricia Lamark explained, "A lot of people can not afford warm clothes for the winter and this allows them to get clothes in their price range."

Nice work, Huskies!

Highland Enjoys Culture of Montreal

Early in December, on the 2nd of the month, Highland High School sent about 50 students on a weekend long trip to visit Montreal, Canada. Mr. Heath, the French teacher, has been supervising this trip for years and says he loves it every time he goes. The trip usually alternates between Montreal and Quebec.

Students arrived in Montreal at approximately 1 p.m. It was a six hour ride, but it was well worth it. The food was a huge part of

During the trip students saw many interesting historical and cultural sites, including the Montreal Museum and the Biodome. Students enjoyed an evening touring Montreal's Chinatown, and spent Sunday morning at a salsa dance lesson. Students also participated in a juggling workshop. The photo (above right) shows a

famous sculpture about the fall of society.

There were many good places to eat at up in Canada. The first place we ate at in Montreal was called Puca Puca, a Peruvian restaurant with a chef that runs a one man kitchen/operation. There we ate a great meal. We even got to meet him before the dinner and he spoke Spanish and French to the students. Another cultural place we ate dinner was a French restaurant called l'Academie, a really fancy restaurant that had very eccentric food.

The next day we explored and ate at Montreal's amazing Underground City. It was a huge mall that was built underground and had many exotic and cultural places to eat. Montreal was a very cultural city and included cultures students weren't even expecting to see there.



The group took a trip to the ice rink the second day of Canada. It was located inside one of the tallest buildings in Montreal. Despite most of us being afraid of falling and not being able to ice skate, we had just about everybody on the ice. It was really fun and it was a nice way to spend time in Canada. It was a new activity for most of us and a very enjoyable one for us too. Above, Katherine Bender and Evan Martensen enjoyed the time they spent on the ice and got enough balance to pose for this great picture.

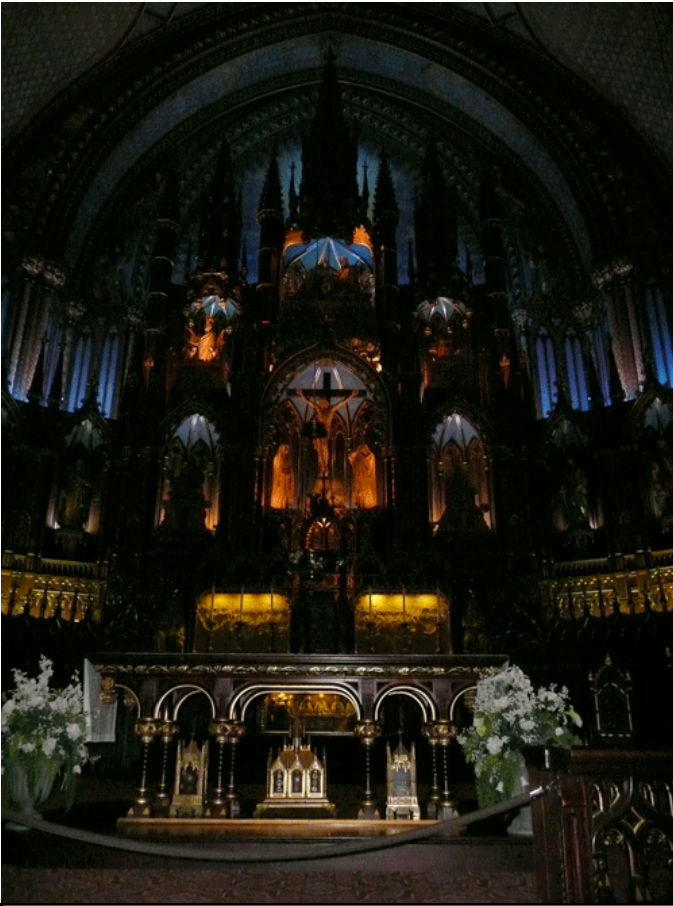


We traveled to the top of Montreal's highest point of the city so we got a full view of all of the buildings. Both of these photos (above and right) were taken atop this mountain. The photo on the right shows what the city of Montreal looks like from the sky and includes the St. Lawrence River. It was a nice way to see what the whole city looks like at one time. Although it was cold and windy because we were so high up, we enjoyed the time we got to spend viewing the entire city. Above, Emily Puccio and Colleen Sheehan enjoy the view.



Highland Enjoys Culture of Montreal

Story by Matt Hart Photos by Nate Cooper and Sara Bennett



The Notre Dame Basilica is one of the nicest churches in North America. It was huge and could fit over 7,000 people inside. Although it is not filled every day they still hold services; it does however, fill up around the major holidays including Christmas and Easter. Most of the decorations in the church are coated in gold leaf which looks really nice. There are many statues inside representing different saints and important people in the religion. This church also had a huge pipe organ located on the second level of the Basilica. It was manufactured in 1891 and consists of 4 keyboards, 97 stops, a pedal board, and over 9,000 individual pipes. One man plays it but only on certain days of the year.



Montreal is home to its very own Biodome. With many animals roaming around the inside of it in different habitats, the Biodome was a great place to go to experience how animals act in the water, rainforest, arctic, and mountainous habitats. Animals inside the Biodome included monkeys, penguins, alligators, bobcats, fish, different types of birds, and many other different types of animals.



The students traveled to the top of the tower of the Olympic Stadium in Montreal, home to the 1976 Summer Olympics also known as "The Big O", which was a reference to both its name and the doughnut-shape of the stadium's roof. It also housed the Montreal Expos and teams of the CFL, (Canadian Football League).



Although it was cold and frigid in Montreal, the kids got time to warm up with these nice spring flowers found in a nice, colorful market.



The Art of Slow Shutter Speed

Text and photos by: Nicholas J. Signorelli

Slowing down the shutter of a camera creates an amazing illusion by making the exposure time of an image sensor, or film, longer.

Now, what the heck am I talking about? Everyone has seen those pictures of highways, the ones where you see only the light coming out of the head and tail lights. Well, that is because the shutter of the camera has been left open for a long time, thus letting more light into the image sensor.

Well, what is an image sensor? Let me first explain how a camera works all together. When you take a picture, you hear a quick click of the camera; that is the sound the shutter makes when it quickly exposes light to the image sensor. Imagine it as a blank canvas; once the shutter opens, the painter starts painting his picture,. Once the painter is done with his picture, the shutter closes.

There is now a full picture on this canvas that was once blank. That's the same way a camera works, except it doesn't take as long to get a picture as it would a painter to paint one. In fact, it only takes about 1/1000 of a second to turn that blank canvas (the image sensor) into a complete picture.

When you take a picture with a slow shutter speed, let's say, 10 seconds, all light, everything from head lights, moon light, stars, the sun, flashlight, fireworks, light, all light, that the camera can see in that whole 10 seconds will remain in the final picture once that 10 seconds is over. So when you take a picture like this, for instance, walking past the camera with a candle, the candle light will create a line of orange from where it started all the way to where it ended. The only thing

is, you cannot move the camera at all. Whatever moves in the picture becomes blurry, and if you move the whole camera, then the whole picture will be blurry and ruined.

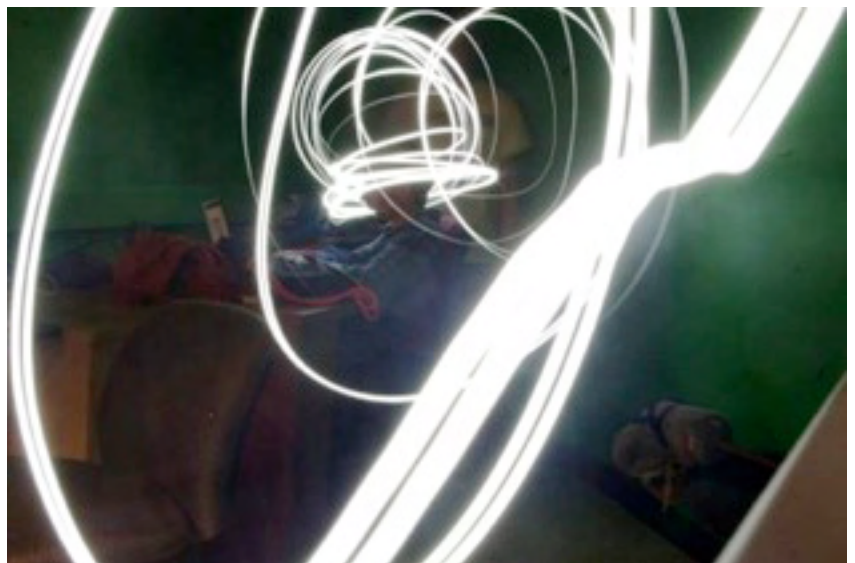
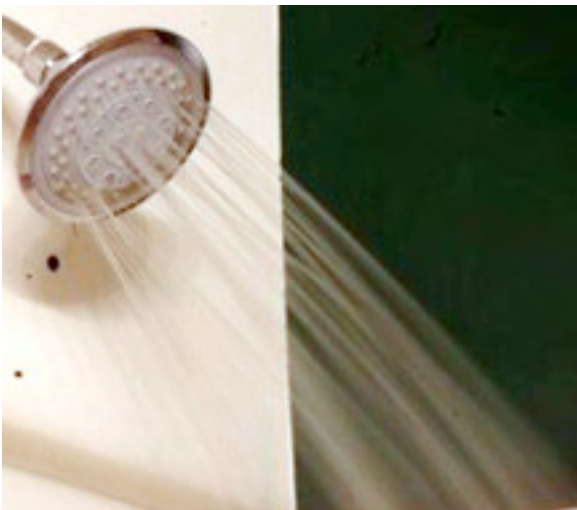
So, to slow down the shutter on the camera just means you're exposing the image sensor longer than 1/1000 of a second - the more it's exposed the more light gets in. The more light that gets in, the brighter the picture comes out. If you don't use this technique correctly, you start getting blurry pictures. Most of your

handheld cameras auto correct the shutter speed while shooting in dark environments, so if you remember taking that one picture at grandma's birthday party that you thought was going to turn out so good, but instead got all blurry since you took it outside? Don't blame your camera for that; if your hand wasn't so shaky, that would have been a very well-lit picture.

Let's talk about how to use this technique correctly, First off, use a tripod, use a tripod, use a tripod! You may think you have the least shaky hand in the world, but

trust me, you don't. Next, you should find out how to manually set the shutter speed on your camera. Some have the setting set as simply "S", and some cameras have it under the "TV" setting. Once you find that, you can set it to your desired setting. The pictures here are all set to a 30 second shutter speed.

What I recommend for a photographer starting off is to do exactly what I did, mess around with your camera a bit, mess with the settings, try everything. Watch videos on YouTube about your camera, try to recreate your favorite photographs. Afterall, the more you shoot, the more you learn.



Highland Enters the Vault

by Michelle Forget

On Thursday November 10, Highland's Federal Challenge group, lead by Mrs. Mosimann and Mr. Mango took a train to New York City. They visited the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and took a tour of the gold vault.

The group was impressed by the building's level of security; they could enter the building only three at a time after they went through a metal detector. From there, the students took an elevator ride to another floor of the building.

On this floor they had tons of games and an amazing coin collection from all over the world and different



time periods. After watching a movie on the reserve they were finally brought to the vault where they were allowed to touch the gold.

Aryana DePorres said, "Entering the gold vault was really cool. They had an air tight door and it was very muggy. Literally I could not breathe."

The group then grabbed some grub from Grand Central Station before enjoying their train ride home.

DePorres explained why she joined Fed Challenge. "I thought it would be a cool experience, something new. I never imagined having an economic club in the school!"



"A wonderful experience it was for the students of Highland High School to see the inner workings of the Federal Bank of New York." - Mr. 'Mango'

Happy Mole Day to You!

by Heather Fagerstrom

On October 21st Mr. Sgro's chemistry classes celebrated the wonderful event of Mole Day. At first, everyone in class was wondering what a mole was, because we were sure Mr. Sgro wasn't spending a whole day on that little animal.

In fact, Mole Day commemorates Avogadro's number (6.02×10^{23}), which is a basic measuring unit in chemistry. Mole Day was created as a way to foster interest in chemistry.

Generally Mole Day is celebrated annually on October 23 from 6:02 a.m. to 6:02 p.m., but we performed Mole Day on Friday instead because the 23rd falls on a Sunday.

For a given molecule, one mole is a mass (in grams) whose number is equal to the atomic mass of the molecule.

Schools throughout the U.S. and around the world celebrate Mole Day with various chemistry activities.



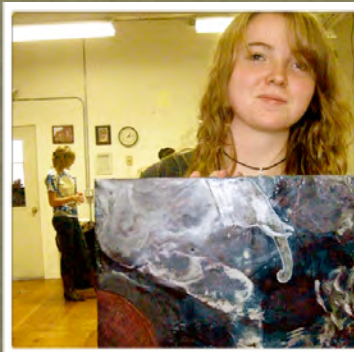
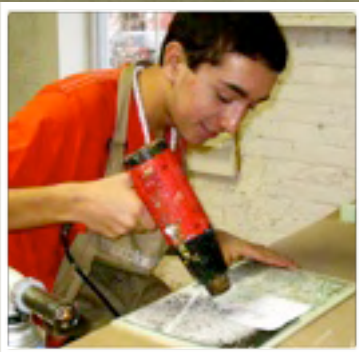
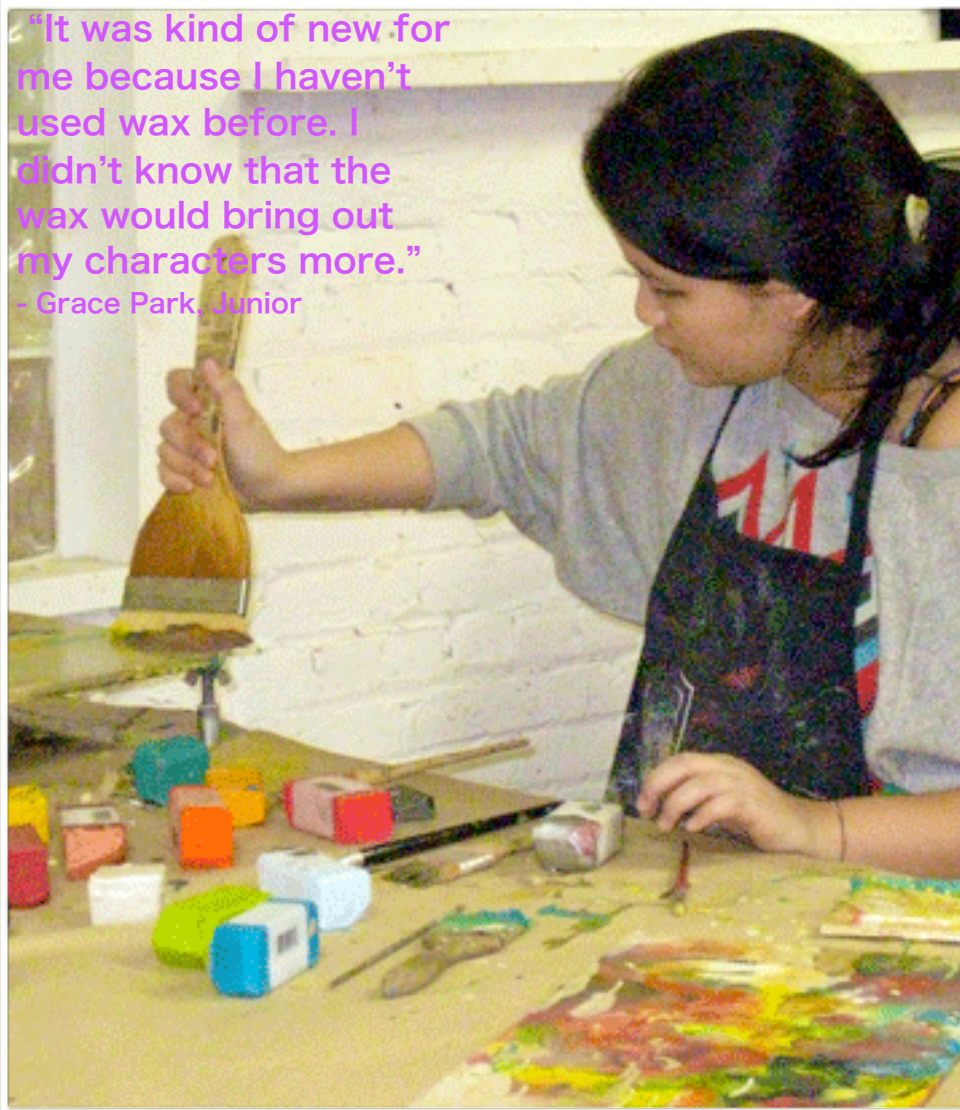
In our class Mr. Sgro set up different stations where he demonstrated the wonders of chemistry. At the first station he set up 5 bases and the colors became lighter because of the dry ice he placed in gave off acids. Mr. Sgro also turned iodine into a gas by the process of synthesizing.

Next, he passed around a sponge; just a normal, soft sponge. Out of no where he pulled out a container of liquid nitrogen, poured it onto the sponge and after a few minutes the sponge was completely stiff - so stiff that he smashed it with a hammer and the sponge crumbled. He also poured liquid nitrogen onto Mini Oreos - they were still delicious! As the bell rang everyone was so sad to have to leave.

We all wanted to experience more of Mole Day!



"It was kind of new for me because I haven't used wax before. I didn't know that the wax would bring out my characters more."
- Grace Park, Junior



ART MEETS ENCAUSTICS

Advanced Art Classes Take Field Trip to Encaustics Factory

On Tuesday December 6, Highland's advanced art classes visited a facility called R & F Encaustics. There students were able to work with oil sticks and encaustics (pigment encased in resin and beeswax) to produce original works of art which they were then able to take home. Art Teacher Aliza Driller explained that the origins of encaustics can be traced back to the ancient Greeks who adorned their battleships with it; the Egyptians then took the technique to design their sarcophagi. She is thrilled that a local family has revived the ancient art which can now be explored by students. "It's a mom and pop business that has grown to an internationally renowned producer of these pure pigments," she said.

Senior Megan Olson said that the trip was enriching: "I really loved the atmosphere and how we were treated like professionals. We were allowed to completely express ourselves in however we wanted."

A Boo-tiful Night for Highland

By: Travis DiStasi



Halloween costumes are traditionally modeled after supernatural monsters/fiction characters such as clowns, ghosts, skeletons, witches, and devils. At Highland, Halloween allows students to tap into their alter-egos.

Wearing jack-o'-lantern sized grins, students at Highland took the school's annual Halloween celebration to new heights, parading in their costumes and scaring the daylight out of one another (or at least making each other laugh) as part of an improvised haunted school.

The elaborate party included trick-or-treating in the high school classrooms and administrative offices, as well as a Halloween contest. "I think what makes it fun is the trick-or-treating," said Quinn Halligan, 16, who described his get-up as a wrestler. "I like to get scared," he added.

The contest gave students a chance to celebrate Halloween and

Travis's Fact:

"Halloween actually means Halloween or the Eve of All Hallows."



win very valuable Prizes. The winners of the 2011 Halloween contest are Travis, and Jarrett DiStasi (yeah, that's me and my brother) who dressed up as the cool Italian brothers Mario and Luigi. We both won tickets to the Headless Horsemen. Next year there will most likely be an even better Halloween costumes than ours.

For most students, the fun extends beyond the school day. Vinny Molinare commented about this holiday: "I seriously find Halloween a chance for children to fool around and for adults to have fun and try to scare the pants out of kids."

"If you remove all the marketing gimmicks and promotion of tooth decay, Halloween is all about fear," stated Darren Pikul

Adam Shepard remarked "Halloween has always been my second favorite holiday - probably because of the old classic scary movies, leaves falling, crisp cool days, jack-o-lanterns and all the free candy."

One of the bests parts of Halloween, which comes in the wake of the annual apple harvest, is the candy apple.

Another scary day that everyone talks about when Halloween is coming is Friday the 13th, which superstition holds to be a day of bad luck.

Whatever you associate with the season, people love Halloween for the obvious - getting free candy from people and scaring the pants out of friends and family. Above all reasons, however is wondering who has the most candy out of your friends at the end of the night!

Travis's Fact:

"Two of the best place to go trick-or-treating in Highland are Sunny Brook, and Bridgeview."



Travis's Fact:

"A fact about this is ... if the month starts on a Sunday there will be a Friday the 13th no matter what."

Gamer-Time

The Allure of Arkham City- Worth the Buy!

The Story of Arkham City is hands down, the best part of the game. It is written by Paul Dini who wrote the animated series, so he knows how to write Batman and it shows.

In this game, the mayor has sectioned off a very large portion of Gotham and puts all of the prisoners from Arkham Asylum into it calling it Arkham City. Bruce Wayne goes to protest against this segment of the city but is captured and thrown into this hell by the command of Hugo Strange who is in charge of the city.

From then on, old villains show up with Joker once again taking center stage. Whatever twists happen, you won't see them coming and the ending is just epic!

The gameplay on this game is the same as Arkham Asylum just more polished. In the first game there were a couple bosses and some equipment you could acquire to use in combat, like the bat-arang. In this new game, there are several devices, but while this sounds good on paper, it fails in the game. It's just too complicated for its own good thanks



to the tricky button combos. To make matters worse, some enemies require the gadgets which necessitate a difficult button combo to activate. I

wish the game didn't make you use some gameplay mechanics like that because if they fail, it's not fun to fight those guys. Stealth is still good

though. Preying upon your enemies fear makes you feel like Batman! There are a lot more gadgets to use on the Joker's henchmen but my personal favorite is a device that jams an opponent's gun.

You can traverse the city faster but the meat of the game is the Riddler challenges. They are a set of trials by the Riddler to test your knowledge of Batman-lore. These range from collecting hidden trophies, to "Saw"-style torture chambers. There are also side missions that are just as fully polished and fun as the main game. Lastly, there are challenge rooms for combat and stealth objectives, plus a new mode called Game Plus which lets you play the game again but with all the gadgets upgraded to the hardest difficulty!

Overall, Arkham City is great but its predecessor, Arkham Asylum is clearly superior. It still rates 8.5 out of 10 stars.

Worth the buy!

- Alex Vitarius



Modern Warfare 3 - Still Worth the Buy!

Modern Warfare 3 is the third installment of the series that's changed the face of gaming. In a holiday season that is packed with strong releases that could steal its thunder, does Modern Warfare 3 have what it takes to keep its top spot or is the engine finally running out of steam when it needs it most?

With a new survival mode, full social network integration and the same multiplayer madness that fans around the world know and love, Modern Warfare 3 delivers an experience that deserves to be packaged with the epic culmination of the story arc. And while this sounds like the kind of game that would be worth your money, it's still similar enough to previous installments that it's only barely recommendable to everyone. But it still is.

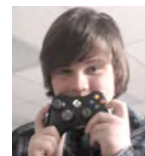
The campaign: if you've played any Call of Duty game in the past four years, then you are probably well aware of the kind of high octane story telling that this series brings to the table. For those who are not, Modern Warfare 3 follows this tradition by throwing you headlong into a futurist fray, at top speed and does not

let off from beginning to end. If you aren't in the middle of a fire fight under the shadow of the Eiffel Tower or a fighting in war torn London then you are witnessing some of the most gripping cinematic scenes in games or film.

Of course, how else could you frame World War 3? Doing anything less would be an injustice to the kind of global scale the series is known for. And you will be spending plenty of time around the world. You will be hitting almost every major city in the world in search of the man who orchestrated it all - Makarov. You will still get to spend time with everyone's favorites "Soap" McTavish and Captain Price but you will also be able to jump into the shoes of elite Special Forces from around the

world. While the engine isn't nearly as powerful and detailed as Battlefield's Frostbite 2, it is plenty powerful enough to put you in awe of the destruction taking place. In some ways, the lack of focus in perfect detail allows for a little bit more artistic freedom in things like using lighting to set the mood.

- Jon Alverson



HIGH SCHOOL CONCUSSIONS:

THE TRUE, CONFUSING, STORY

by Charlie Merget

It was the third quarter and the game was coming down to the wire. It was the Homecoming Game and was very important to all the seniors. Going into make the tackle, Luke Canino went head to head with the opposing running back. And then, he went down hard after the hit to the head. After getting up he felt confused and lost, he half-jokingly said "I felt alone like there was no one else besides me. Like the last puppy in a cardboard box in the city during a rain storm."

After being diagnosed with a concussion, Luke Canino was out for two weeks and had to take precautions such as no physical activities or contact sports. He also explained how he is grateful that the high school's new helmets saved him from a more severe concussion.

Highland football has seen many concussions happen just this last season. Other players that received concussions this season are Matthew Quinn, Tim Russell, Ryan Stafford.

But concussions don't only happen in football they can happen in any sport. Wrestling is one of these sports.

Vinnie Montesana got a concussion while on the mat after getting his head slammed on the floor. He said that "everything was just a blur and confusing." He also mentioned the after affect of the concussion, he cant concentrate as well as before and he is still experiencing these symptoms a year later. When asked are you aware of the long term affects of concussions do you worry at all, he said "I am aware but it does not make me worried or nervous."

Luke Canino and Matthew Quinn both agree that they are worried about the future and what the concussion could do to them in the longterm, especially with college on the horizon. And they both explained how the effects of the concussions are still around. They both said they sometimes find it hard to concentrate in school.

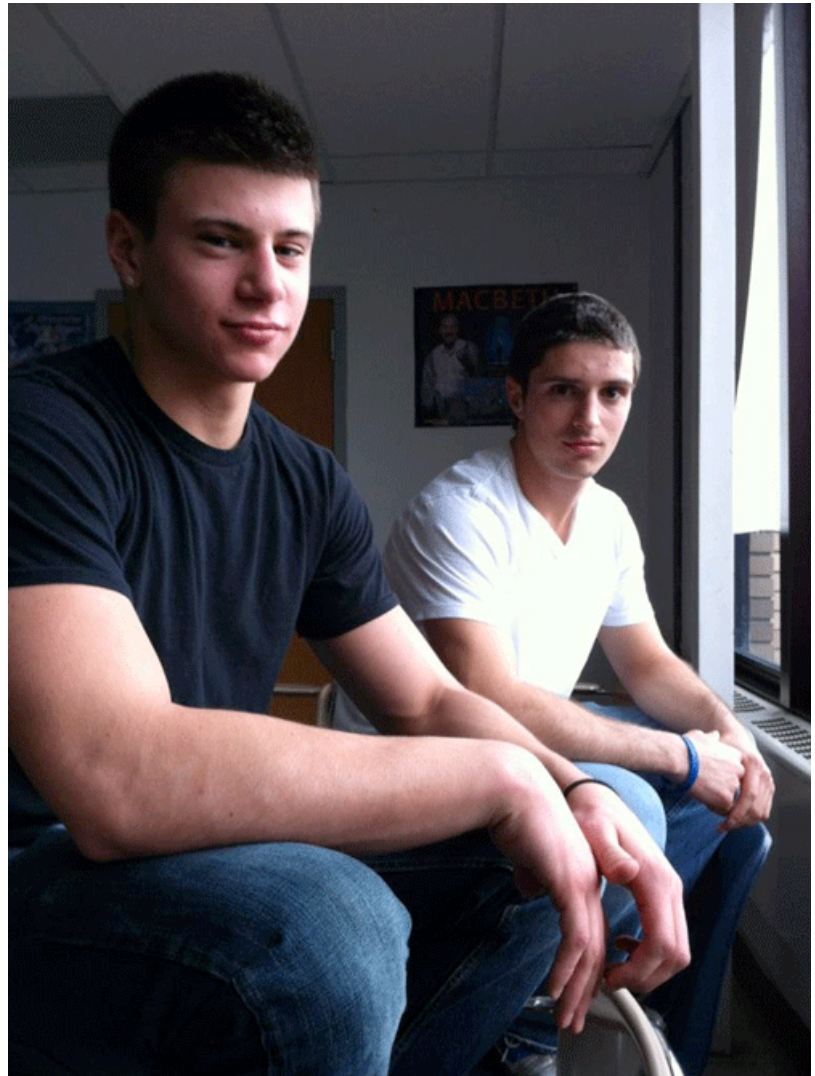
Concussions have recently become a big problem in the sports world. In professional, collegiate, and high school levels, precautions have been taken. However, high school athletes and students in general have the greatest risk of receiving them.

Teens are also more likely to take longer to recover from a concussion then adults are. A concussion can happen when someone gets a head injury and the brain bruises or the brain receives some nerve damage.

According to the C.D.C. (Center for Disease Control), between 2001-2009 children ages 5-18 years increased 62% to a total of 2.6 million sports-related emergency room visits annually. Out of this, 6.5% or 173,285 people went in with traumatic brain injuries including concussions.

Concussions are not only dangerous at the time but also in the long run. When someone receives a concussion a lot of brain damage can occur and it's more noticeable in later years.

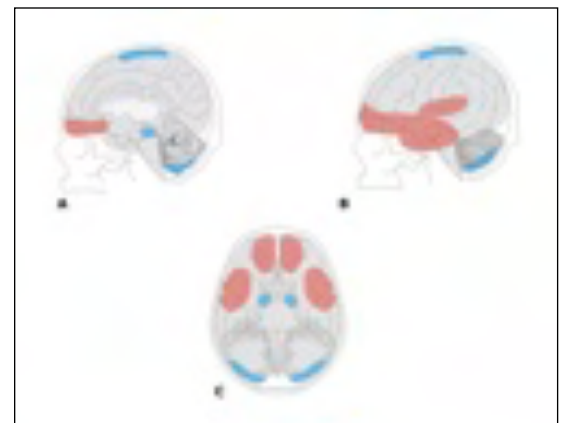
These long term effects consist of memory loss and depression. In addition, you're more likely to develop Alzheimer's if you've suffered more than three concussions.



"Emergency department visits for concussion in kids aged 8 to 13 playing organized sports doubled, and the number of visits increased by more than 200 percent in older teens."

(<http://www.silive.com/sports/index>)

This diagram shows where concussions normally occur (red) and where concussions occur occasionally (blue), thus revealing areas damaged most often.



Juniors Pick Up Win at Funball Game

By: Isaiah Pettway

"I had a lot of fun; I liked pegging the juniors but I'm pretty mad we lost."
- Anthony Pavese, Senior



"I had fun winning against the Seniors."
- Damon Jackson, Junior



The PBIS program at Highland High School put together a big funball game with the Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors. The game was put together by the teachers to reward the students who have no in school nor out of school suspension. As the Juniors got pumped, they had a mindset to get the seniors back for the Powder Puff

game as the seniors beat them 21-0. The juniors wanted their turn.

The grades had decided that they should all wear a certain color. The freshmen decided to wear gray, the sophomores wore the color white, juniors wore the color blue and the seniors wore black.

In the first round, the freshmen faced the sophomores. Surprisingly the sophomores came through and took down the freshmen, just like that.

they were in the championship game against either the juniors or the seniors.

The second match was between the juniors and the seniors. It was a very intense match. It came down to the wire when it was tied at the last second. Students were arguing in the judge's face. They said the final decision was the juniors! Then they proceeded to knock the seniors out of the championship.

Finally, the last round was with the juniors and sophomores. The juniors came out confident and won the dodgeball tournament.

Junior Gavin McCann described, "Dominating the seniors was pretty fun!"



VS



Seniors Crush Juniors with 21-0 Win Powder Puff



Alex Garcia, Victoria Pratts, Jenna Moretti, Carly Bilchak, Steph Byrne, Amanda Franz and Courtney Pineiro celebrate.

Every year, the junior and senior girls play against each other in a competitive annual football game called Powder Puff. Every year the seniors are amped up to play against the juniors, because the seniors want to show that the juniors have nothing on them. The juniors are amped up for the same reason.

During the morning of the game, a playful tension built up between the two as posters were hung up by both classes cheering each team on. Clearly everyone was psyched for this game.

Game night, Friday night, was cold and dark; everyone represented their class and also tried to have fun.

It was 7:30 at night and the game started off with the seniors having the ball at the mid field.

Stephanie Byrne was the senior quarterback and she was really good at the first and second halves of the game, throwing three touchdowns - two of them to Courtney Piniero - and another to Alex Garcia.

The seniors' offensive line was tough with Tiffany Scarchilli and Quayeshawna Smith.

While the juniors offense was good, it could not handle the senior line, and allowed the seniors to score. The juniors played well, but couldn't finish the game out with a win.

After the game, junior Leslie Chardon said "We played to the best of our abilities. It was an intense game against the seniors."

After the game senior Alex Garcia says "We played really well. It was an easy victory!"

Right: Matt Hart coaches senior girls to victory.



Senior Courtney Piniero added, "A big reason why we did well was because, we worked on a lot of things in practice and we also had a very athletic team too".

After the game, students chilled out and warmed up at the annual Highland Husky bonfire.

By: Jarrett DiStasi



Seniors taking a victory picture after their Powder Puff 2011 win.

Congrats to them on the win. We'll get it next year!"

~Leslie Chardon



After the intense Powder Puff game, students relaxed around the annual bonfire.

BOYS JV/VARSITY BASKETBALL

By Kelly Murphy

The Highland Boys Varsity Basketball is looking to come back and recover from their losing season last year. This is very possible with their determination and talent. The boys will return three seniors, two of which Coach Milliman will lean on to help lead the team captains Charlie Merget and Anthony Pavese.

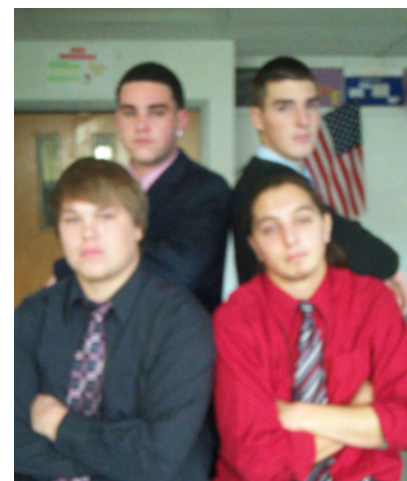
The boys have a hard schedule ahead but are ready to fight their way through. This year's team is a group of juniors and seniors looking to make their way to sectional play. Senior Captain Charlie Merget says that the bond is close between them since most of the kids returning have played together in summer leagues.

The team is already ahead since most of the boys have some past varsity experience. They do a good amount of running and conditioning to prepare.

The team kicked off their season with a scrimmage against Goshen and games against Saugerties and Wallkill. Despite the losses to both there were some pieces that worked as well. Certain individuals played exceptionally well - like Charlie Merget's game against Saugerties where he got his first double of the season with 15 points and 11 rebounds, certainly setting an example for the younger team mates.

The boys will continue to work hard in practice to hopefully come back and get their first win of the season.

Come cheer on the Highland varsity boys against Rondout Valley on January 10, at home. Game time is 5:45.



Back: Jimmy Relyea, Charlie Merget.
Front: Shane Turner, Anthony Pavese

HIGHLAND BOYS JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL



Beau Forester, Ian Boddanowicz and John Murphv

The Highland Boys Junior Varsity basketball team consists of freshman and sophomores who are determined to have a good season. Many of the boys on the team have played together throughout the summer so the bond is strong and they play very well with each other. They work hard at practice and are very disciplined which is a main factor at improving

and growing as individuals and a team as the season goes on.

They boys kicked off their season with two losses.

Freshman John Murphy and Bo Forester say "We could have won, we just fell apart." So on that note hopefully the boys can keep their heads up, keep working hard and pick up a win in their upcoming games.

PENN STATE BENCHES PATERNO: FOUL PLAY?

by Ant Smith

Joe Paterno a three time Big 10 coach of the year.

Joe Paterno a two time National Champion.

Joe Paterno a loving husband and father of five with thirteen grandchildren.

Joe Paterno is an 84 year old man who was wrongfully blamed for keeping a secret that he knew about sexual abuse on the Penn State campus.

On November 2nd the Penn State defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky was charged with 40 counts of sex crimes against young males and then on November 5th Sandusky was arrested and charged with seven counts of involuntary deviant sexual intercourse with minors among other charges. Paterno, icon of college football history, was fired.

Paterno was allegedly informed of these events and he told the athletic director who decided not to report these incidents to the police. After these events transpired, other schools learned of sexual abuse in their facilities as if the Penn State scandal gave other men the courage to come forward with their own stories of sexual abuse by other coaches.

I believe that Joe Paterno was wrongfully blamed; he did fulfill his

legal obligations by telling the Athletic Director about what he knew, but this got swept under the carpet. That was not Paterno's fault, but the Athletic Director's, but Paterno got all the blame and ended up losing his job over it. Clearly, Paterno deserves to continue his legacy of an outstanding football coach and philanthropist.

Here in the high school, all opinions strongly supported Paterno's innocence.

Charlie Merget thoughts were "I don't like the way Penn State handled the situation. It was wrong to do that to such a legend of College Football."

Nonetheless, views around the Highland hallways varied about Joe Paterno.

Mr Mango added that "Joe Paterno was more of a powerful figure than the chancellor of Penn State and more powerful than the Governor of Pennsylvania."

Mr. Masson added that he "finds it very disturbing and sad that such horrible acts can be perpetrated and defended and covered up for that long."

"I don't think they should've fired him because he had one year left on his contract - they should've let him finish it off."

Noah Rudner, junior, added, "He told the school, which didn't do anything; so they should've been held responsible. Not him."



Little/AP

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

BY JOE LOPEZ



Coming off of a winning season of in which they won their third section championship in a row, the Lady Huskies are looking to build off last year's record. The girls are excited about the season.

Major players of the season are Senior Kelly Murphy, Alex Garcia, Victoria Pratts , Courtney Piniero, Jayna Parker, Alexa Decator, Itzel Castellanos and Stephanie Byrne, who was sidelined last year due to injury.

The girls think they will go just as far or even further than last year. This year's seniors are looking to push this team to do great things. "We try to keep practice at an up-tempo pace," explained Captain Kelly Murphy. "Even though many of us are close we try to push each other so that way when we get into games we are used to the tempo."

Coach Delmar and the Lady Huskies are feeling very confident with their team this year. Garcia stated, "We need to find a defense that works for us and keep our intensity up the whole game."

So far, they've racked up two wins and only one loss. The girls proved their dominance in their opening game against beating Saugerties 45-28 and then cleared FDR by three points. Their one loss against Wallkill was only by six points, even though they held the lead to half-time.

Cheer on the Lady Huskies against Rhinebeck at home on January 20th; game time is 6:30.

JV GIRLS BASKETBALL

BY JOE LOPEZ

Coming off a little bit of a disappointing season, the JV girls are looking to show improvement from last year.

They know Coach Groeter's system and what he expects so they are looking forward to give encouragement to his team. The girls are improving every single practice

The returning players to the team are Morgan

Nowak, Megan Orton, and Alyssa Defini. The girls started off the season with a loss to Saugerties by 7 points. While they lost this game, they showed an overall improvement by scoring higher than they have in the past.

Even though they started the season with a few losses, they are still staying positive in all aspects



Sam Mazzella, above, and Alyssa DeFini and Morgan Nowak, right.

and look to move on from the disappointing start.

Sam Mazzella stated "We need to break the press and we need to play better defense during the game"

Tyra Mojica, forward, stated, The things I like about our team is that we cheer for jv and varsity. We became really close this year."

She added, "I love my team!"

Cheer on the JV team against Rhinebeck at home on January 20th; game time is 4:30.

