

The Talon

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Barrington High School

December, 2012

Volume 51, Issue 1

New Library Sign-Up Better, But...

By Karl Aspelund
Talon Staff

Many older Barrington High School students associate study halls in the school library with crumpled paper passes, long lines, and feelings of frustration. This year, school librarian Mrs. Suzanne Costa decided to do away with that reputation.

The entire sign-up system for students during study halls was revamped. Thus, since the beginning of this year, BHS students now encounter organized lists of periods on the library's front desk, where students sign up for the next day's study period.

"The change was prompted by student dissatisfaction last year," Mrs. Costa said. Students often approached her about the difficulty of receiving passes from teachers, not to mention their frustration when the library was full after they had planned to use it.

Many students recall this frustration well. Senior Molly Williams remembers having "to run to study and worry about the library being closed." Ellis Iacono, also a senior, concurs, noting the futility of having to return to study after waiting in a line for 15 minutes hoping to sign in.

Mrs. Costa tried hard to meet everyone's concerns. "I really wanted a new system where students felt welcome and could plan their study hall time more effectively," she said. The new system was a result of much discussion with students, faculty, and principal Mr. Joseph Hurley.

Mrs. Costa described the overall reaction to the new system as "very positive," saying that students can plan ahead and are assured spots in the library during their study halls.

Senior Cristina Dan voices the same sentiments, noting the system's better organization: "You don't have to run to the library in hopes of getting in or get a pass."

However, some students note certain flaws in the new system. Iacono says that the new system minimizes wasted time and believes it is very accommodating. However, he also notes that those "who get to school late and are very busy after school" feel they are at a disadvantage, as the list may already have been filled by the time they get to the library.

Senior Faith Moses considers herself to be one of those people: "I tend to get to school late and then rush to

the library to find the sign-ups already closed." She adds that the system "is not fair to students who don't have time in the morning" or to those who must rush somewhere after school.

Others object to the fact that one must sign up beforehand to use the library. Senior Olivia August notes that some are not sure whether they will need to go to the library for their study, especially students who have study halls later in the school day. She explains that "if a student gets an assignment during the school day requiring library resources, they won't be able to use the library."

In this way, notes senior Julia Aspelund, "the new sign-up system limits accessibility to school resources, though unintentionally." Some students are thus unable to accomplish their work, a problem that also existed with the old library sign-up system.

Yet there is hope: the library could combine the old and new sign-up systems, an idea promoted by many students.

"If there is a remaining vacancy in a specific study period, the library should accommodate," says Iacono. Aspelund and Williams both agree,

saying that students should be allowed to fill empty spots if they signed up early or not. Moses says that a combined system would fix the inefficiencies of the old system and many of the problems with the new system.

Mrs. Costa encourages such discussion. "The new system is a pilot, a work in progress," she says. "I am always open to any student suggestions for changes to the library sign-up system." She asks that all students try the new system and speak to her about any suggestions for improvements.

So far, the student feedback has been very beneficial. As a matter of fact, after much feedback was received, the library sought to accommodate those who arrive later to school by opening up sign-ups after school. Such changes will continue as students voice further concerns.

Mrs. Costa also welcomes feedback on the library's book collection, databases, eBooks, and technology. "The BHS library is a special place for learning," she says.

"We want every student and teacher to be comfortable and productive learners in our library."

Mr. Daft On Duty

By Molly Leary
Talon Staff

This year at Barrington High School, you may have noticed someone new patrolling the halls. This man is no stranger, but new Assistant Principal Mr. Edward Daft. Last year, he was the interim superintendent of the East Providence School District, but now he is a Barrington Eagle.

"I received a great warm welcome," said Mr. Daft about his new professional address, "It has been a smooth transition and it is wonderful to work with such a great team of Mrs. Varone and Mr. Hurley."

Mr. Daft had other administrative roles before interim superintendent.

He was the Assistant Principal of East Providence High School. EPHS and BHS may be in different towns; however, they have similarities as well as differences.

"Barrington has a great culture here, but kids are the same and we are dealing with similar issues," he said. "I have noticed however, that the kids here are more stressed and pressured from academics and big projects like the Senior Project," said Mr. Daft.

While working in a high school, one might wonder how Mr. Daft's own high school experience went. He summed up his high school experience with one word, "fantastic." Mr. Daft was very involved with his high school. "The See Mr. Daft, Page 2

Sandy Delivers A Little Something for Everyone

By Cameron Hummel
Talon Staff

Hurricane Sandy trampled states across the East Coast including New Jersey and Pennsylvania leaving millions without power. In Barrington, the damage was much less severe but for some it left much more wreckage than anticipated.

More than 116,000 Rhode Island homes were left without power during the course of the storm. In Barrington, many of those outages didn't last for more than a few hours. But some residents are still feeling the repercussions from that day.

Sophomore Tyler Allen has been commuting to school from a hotel in Warwick since the storm because of flooding that left his house under two feet of water. A once five-minute drive to Barrington High School can now take Allen more than 20 minutes.

"All of my textbooks got de-

stroyed and all of my furniture is ruined" says Allen. "It was horrible and a big waste of money."

In other cases, power was never even lost. Sophomore Drew Richardson lives less than a block away from Allen. He did not lose power and his home did not flood. Richardson, as well as many others, believes that the storm was overrated.

But maybe the hype was to the advantage of the unlucky few who were affected by the storm. "It wasn't as bad as they said it would be in Barrington," says Junior Noah Shea. Shea lost power for a day and half during the storm.

"Having the power out was tough," explains Shea. "It makes everything harder." He said that although the power did make things like cooking harder, they were well prepared with extra food, batteries, and candles.

Unfortunately, Rhode Island

See Sandy, Page 4



Gooool!
Junior midfielder Jozef Jennings and the Boys Varsity Soccer Team capped off a winning season with the State Div. 1 Title. Jennings along with junior Denali Sexton and seniors Matt Roberts and Andrew Jones were named to the All-Tournament Team. Making the win all the sweeter, the Eagles defeated rival La Salle 3-2.



Running Eagles Girls State Cross Country Champs! (from l-r) Coach John Barnes, Juliann Portelli, Emma McMillan, Mary Kate Coogan, Fiona Paine, Abby Livingston, Alice Burgess, Maddie Soutter, Megan Verner-Crist. (Photos courtesy of the Barrington Times)

Opinion

The Talon

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Deadline Dilemma

This fall, walking through the hallways of Barrington High School, the tension is palpable as students are afflicted with feelings of constant anxiety.

Freshmen are finding their way, sophomores are being challenged, and juniors are getting their first taste of AP courses. Annually, seniors juggle it all: heavy course loads, college applications, and most importantly at BHS: their senior projects.

Originally, October 30th marked the Senior Project due date for five source information sheets, an interview, a revised thesis, and a preliminary outline. Despite the extension of the deadline due to the arrival of hurricane Sandy, conflict has arisen about the proximity of this Senior Project deadline to November 1st. This notorious date has loomed over seniors since long before the start of the school year, marking the deadline for the majority of college early decision or early action applications.

The Senior Project Steering Committee has worked hard to make the calendar more responsive to the majority of students, and the new schedule has been both forgiving and flexible. However, we feel as though college deadlines have been unfairly undervalued in the committee's decision making process.

As a whole, the senior class was upset at the propinquity of the deadlines, evidenced by constant complaints of stress, lack of sleep, and what many feel to be the insensitive nature of due date placement. Stress rose to a level at which some students may have had to have chosen between turning in this particular portion of their senior project in a timely fashion and adhering to college application deadlines; and we all know which one most of them picked. Additionally, the collision of these two deadlines was not the first or the last example of this dilemma, as both October 16th and November 15th also conflict with many early admission deadlines.

Moreover, due to the tension resulting from these conflicting deadlines, students are forced to rush what is considered to be the culmination of their high school career. The Senior Project stresses passion, challenging oneself, and proficiency in vital English skills. Essentially, 250 plus individuals, all at pivotal points in their young lives, feel as though the system is working against them rather than with them. This sentiment can cause a poor attitude when it comes to completing Senior Project. It is unfortunate that many students are too resentful of the schedule to truly enjoy what they are doing.

So if you recently saw a senior with bags under his or her eyes, racing to the printer or on the verge of tears, a probable cause was two colliding due dates, both of which have great importance for and implications on his or her future.

We want to have time to work to the best of our ability on both of these crucial assignments. We want to enjoy what we are doing. As more due dates and application deadlines approach rapidly and in great proximity to one another, we find ourselves wondering if a second look needs to be taken at these specific deadlines to simplify and improve the process in years to come.

Straight from the Heart



We commend the Barrington School Committee and district administrators on their recent decision to dedicate the high school auditorium in honor of former Barrington High School Principal John Gray (pictured above in 2009) who passed away in September.

A former English teacher, Mr. Gray was always a great supporter of *The Talon* and promoting student voice at BHS. It is fitting that the auditorium--a place where the arts flourish, voices carry, and where so many students and parents met John Gray for the first time during freshman orientation--will soon bear his name.

Ralph Caruso--former BHS English teacher and longtime *Talon* advisor as well as the new boys varsity baseball coach--described Mr. Gray as a great communicator who supported his staff in every way possible. "He would do anything in his power to make your classroom a better place, a true place of learning," Mr. Caruso told the Barrington Times.

We couldn't agree more.

Got something to say? Want to respond? talon@bpsmail.org

Naviance: Growing Pains

BHS is the first public school to use the "all in one" college program, joining many private schools throughout New England

By Megan Duffy
Talon Staff

As college application deadlines inch closer and closer for seniors, many worry that all their paperwork will not be sent off to the schools of their choice. And this year, due to the implementa-

The Class of 2013 is the first class to apply to college using Naviance, while last year's seniors only supplied their college information to the program. With the class of 2012's SAT scores, GPA and college profile all loaded into the system, seniors are able to look at their odds of being accepted into the school of their choice.

tion of Naviance, a new program meant to streamline the college process, these stress levels are on the increase for the Class of 2013.

Naviance allows transcripts and teacher recommendation letters to line up with the Common Application, allowing all forms to be more organized. Despite hopes of increasing efficiency, students' stress levels seemed to only increase.

The Class of 2013 will be the first class to apply to college using Naviance, while last year's seniors only supplied their college information to the program. With the class of 2012's SAT scores, GPA, and college profile, seniors are able to look at their odds of being accepted into a school.

"I have found the scatter grams very helpful while looking at a college profile," states Barrington High School senior, Leslie Hawla. Hawla enjoys being able to see where she stands in the college criteria.

In addition to this feature, Naviance offers students many ways to simplify their college process, but in doing so, the website poses many problems as well.

"It's actually really hard to use as a website and I could barely find what I needed when trying to [write] my resume. The whole set up and categorization is really awful," says senior Ben Modica. Prior to beginning of their senior year, members of the Class of 2013 had to submit a resume of all their extracurricular activities as Modica did; however, he was not the only who had trouble maneuvering around the site.

"Naviance has been a difficult program to use because for many stu-

dents, a lot of features were misleading. The type of application (Early Action/Decision or Regular Decision) didn't always transfer correctly from the Common Applications," explains senior Lauren Farrell.

Farrell also explains that it was not just students who struggled with Naviance, but teachers faced obstacles as well.

"Teachers had to individually send Letters of Recommendation to each school, which made it difficult and inconvenient to add additional schools throughout the process."

While going through the dif-

iculty of the site, many question why Barrington High School made the switch to Naviance instead of just utilizing the Common Application.

"Naviance is currently utilized by private schools in New England and we had parents as well as the school who conducted research on the program and found the site to be beneficial. We are the first public school to use the program," states Guidance Department Director Toni Corry.

Despite seniors' struggles with the program, guidance believes that Naviance certainly is the best option for the college process.

"Naviance services all aspects of learning, colleges, and goal setting, all in one. It allows us to bring it into one product," states Mrs. Corry.

Although guidance believes that Naviance is assisting students in the college process, some students are still hesitant.

"[Naviance] increased my stress level because [it's] on you and it has added a whole new step to the process and made things more confusing," explains Modica.

"There are more steps involved since [Naviance] is linked to the Common Application. We are learning the program and trying to move it along," explains Mrs. Corry.

Being the first to do something is never the best. Applying to college and being a guinea pig to a new program does not help to alleviate stress. Hopefully, Naviance kinks will be worked out for the upcoming classes and will benefit the class of 2013 in the long run.

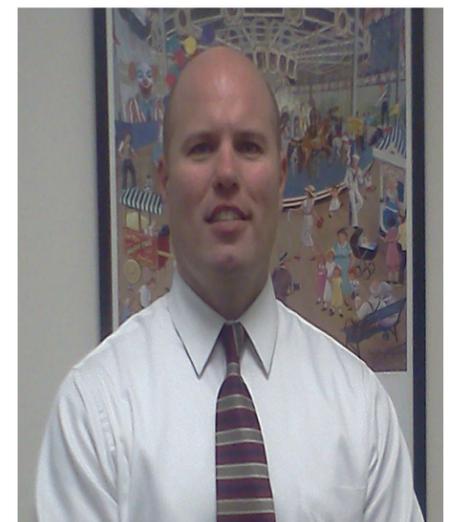
As Mrs. Corry reminds us: "We are all in this together."

Mr. Daft cont. from page 1

more involved you are, the more you get," Daft said. He clearly illustrated this, as he was a member of the football team along with the National Honor Society. Daft also took part in creating the yearbook.

Here at BHS we have a mission statement and are very proud of it. When asked what his vision was for BHS, Mr. Daft replied, "My vision is for all kids to be successful. For the kids to be socially, emotionally, and academically challenged."

The BHS community is excited to have Mr. Daft working here. Next time you see him, do not hesitate to say hello, as he is also excited to be here. He enjoys working with kids and "working with a community that values education."



Mr. Edward Daft

Ideas & Activities

AP, Or Not AP?

By Allegra Reich
Talon Staff

Selecting courses at the beginning of the year is a stressful time for many. Is ceramics better than playwriting? Will taking trigonometry and pre-calc at the same time be too stressful? However, often times, the most crucial decision one can make involve Advanced Placement classes. Because they are so different compared to standard classes, students must think carefully before just signing up for a so-called “college level courses.”

“The student who completes AP courses and the end of year AP exam is sending a powerful message to colleges and universities that this student is ready for college,” according to *Cabrillo Unified School District News*, an online newsletter published by the Cabrillo California school district. AP courses are designed and updated every year to reflect exactly what is being taught in leading college/university courses. After completing an AP course, students receive an external evaluation (the AP exam) which is scored by college faculty from around the world who verify that the student has mastered college-level studies, according to the newsletter.

For certain colleges, AP course grades are weighted. For example, a student who gets an A in an AP course is given 5 credits compared to a student who gets an A in a standard course receives only 4 credits. This is how a lot of students achieve better than a 4.0 GPA, which in high school, is un-weighted. Although honors and AP courses are more difficult and complex than standard high school courses; the content discussed in these courses extends far beyond the standard curriculum.

Taking an AP course is a good way to get used to the workload in college. “Students who have prepared for and taken the AP Exams adapt more easily to taking college essay exams, and are especially skilled in introducing a thesis and a well developed argument” states Robert Blackey, Professor of History CSU, San Bernardino.

Junior student Max Mitchell, who is currently taking AP biology, agrees with this statement. He adds, “AP biology involves taking on a higher level of learning that is more descriptive and more analytical than definitive.” When asked if he would recommend it for preparedness for college courses, he responded with a definitive “Yes!”

Another junior student also taking AP biology and AP government (she wishes to remain anonymous) says, in regards to AP courses: “You are treated more like an adult in the classroom and the lab...the teachers allow you to be held accountable for your own actions and although the work load is much greater sometimes and may seem stressful, there is a greater sense of accomplishment...the feeling of independent success unlikely to be found in other classes.”

Meanwhile, Casey Machado, a junior not taking any APs says; “I should feel like I should be able to challenge myself without taking AP classes.” Meanwhile, AP government teacher, Mrs. Grieco says, “In AP classes, I try to challenge my students at the college level.

See AP, Page 4

Annie Got Her Gun And A Lot More



BHS Stagemasters production of the musical *Annie Get Your Gun* went off with a bang last month with senior Karl Aspelund (left) and Ana Proulx (right) in the starring roles. The club's next production will be *The Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow* in the spring. (Photos courtesy of the Barrington Times)

The Perks of Being A Wallflower

Read the Book!

By Alex Medeiros
Talon Staff

“And in that moment, I swear we were infinite,” a line that has teenagers all over the world drooling. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, by Stephen Chbosky, has been #1 on the New York Time's Best Sellers Children's Paperback Book list for twenty-one weeks now. But what is it that teens all over the world are raving about?

It's probably the fact that almost anyone can relate to the experiences described in the story. Readers also invest much interest in the story's main character, Charlie.

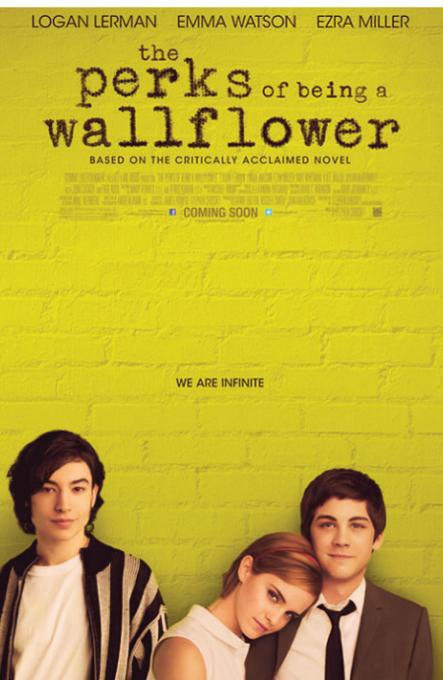
At first, Charlie seems to be the cliché freshman who is lonely and anxious about high school. However he's quite the opposite of an ordinary freshman. First of all, his best friend just killed himself and his brother has just left for college, so it's safe to say that he's not really looking forward to the solitude of high school. The reader learns this through the letters he sends to an unknown recipient.

This is his story, told in the epistolary style. As a matter of fact, only what Charlie wishes to tell is revealed in these letters. Don't fret, though... Charlie has a lot to say.

It can be said that the best feature of the whole story is the language and voice that the author uses to convey Charlie's character. His attitude and his confused view of life draw readers in, as they hope that he will figure things out, see the world a little more clearly, and make friends.

Readers can strongly relate to Charlie's relationships, as well as his character. Starting high school can be hard, as all freshmen know. How many of you befriended upperclassmen upon entering BHS? Most of us, right? They're helpful, understanding, and sometimes listen more than those your own age.

Patrick and Sam are seniors, crazy seniors. They don't particularly care what other people think of them. Patrick is hilarious. The things he says really makes you laugh, or cry, or even both. One of the most memorable things he says is, “You see things. You keep quiet about them. And you understand.



See the Movie!

By Katie Odjakjian
Talon Staff

Based on the best-selling novel by Steven Chbosky, the movie adaptation of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* is a very successful take on the inspirational coming-of-age story.

The topic of making a book into a movie has become an increasingly controversial one, but this is a very good example of the job being done right.

Usually when a book makes the transition to the big screen, the author helps as a screenwriter. However, the producers for this project let Chbosky's role expand into the film's director as well. Although risky, the movie was great for those who read the book and others who weren't previously familiar with the story.

Besides the amazing plot, the movie also provided a star-studded cast. Logan Lerman (who plays Charlie), Emma Watson (Sam), and Ezra Miller (Patrick) all provide an honest and believable chemistry that helps keep the theme of friendship very prominent throughout.

Many may recognize Watson from the *Harry Potter* series, but critics agree that her acting skills extend way beyond Hermione.

The script is very similar and at times identical to the book, which made it a bit predictable at times, but overall satisfying for readers. Witty lines add the perfect amount of humor to an otherwise dramatic tale of hope, loss, and learning to love.

All in all, the screenplay's attitude did a very good job of reflecting the mindset of many intelligent but eccentric teens, making it very relatable and enjoyable for high school students.

Adults may not relate to the film, but the story is still a heartwarming one that anyone can enjoy. I would definitely give it five stars.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower is 103 minutes long and rated PG-13. It is set to be released on DVD on February 12, 2013.

It can be said that the best feature of the whole story is the language and voice that the author uses to convey Charlie's character. His attitude and his confused view of life draw readers in, as they hope that he will figure things out, see the world a little clearer, and make friends.

You're a wallflower.”

Sam is Patrick's gorgeous step-sister and Charlie knows it. In fact he has a real passionate love for Sam, a love that isn't shy to develop during his high school career. So a romance builds and the reader feels a love for him and his will to have her. But love can be unfair; after all, “we accept the love we think we deserve.”

It's understood that Charlie's life is far from perfect and conflicts with his dead Aunt Helen have contributed to that. It's not only his peers who help

See Perks, Page 4

Sports

Girls Cross-Country Team Runs To The Top

By Tim Scott
Talon Staff

Dedication is one of the biggest determinants of success. Running five kilometers every day, performing well in large meets, and developing a strong bond with fellow teammates takes dedication to a whole new level.

After taking home the Rhode Island State Championship in 2011, the Girls Cross-Country team's season finally ended in the New England regionals where, although they finished in third place, only the top two teams advanced to nationals. Still, this year alone, the Girls won the Suburban Division, Class A, and Rhode Island State Championships. In addition, the Girls finished in fourth place in the Great American Classic in North Carolina.

Most recently, the Lady Eagles performed extremely well at the New England Championships. The team finished in first place, defeating some of the best teams in the region.

The development of the Girls Cross Country team did not occur overnight. Coach Ann Marie Marino has led

the Eagles to two consecutive Rhode Island championships, and has also developed the best runners in the state. In total, Marino has guided the Eagles to three state championships (the first came in 1994), eleven Class Championships, and 10 Division Championships. Recently, Marino was honored with the Service to Cross Country award from Brown University.

Another factor to Barrington's success is the talent and abundance of the athletes. This year, Barrington had 5 runners in the Top 11, including the State Champion, freshman Emma McMillan. In her first year with the Barrington Cross Country team, McMillan has won a variety of honors. Earlier in October, McMillan won the Freshman State Championship at Burrillville High School. Then, she took home the top prize in the Class Championships at Ponaganset, edging out the competition in 18 minutes and 36 seconds.

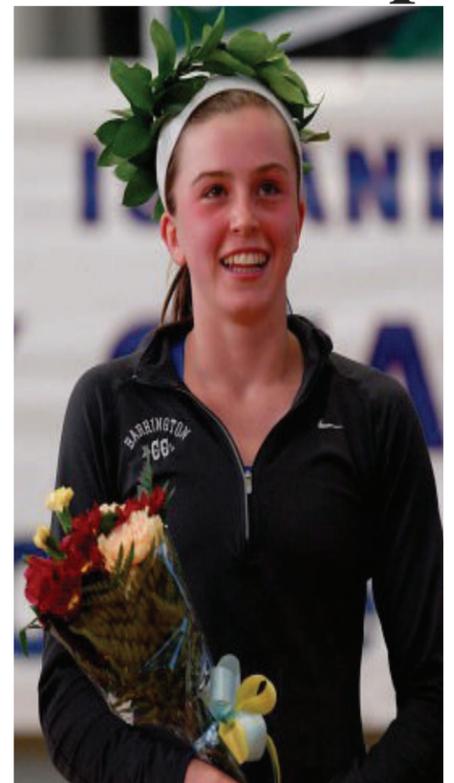
McMillan continued her breakout performance with an incredible performance in the State Championship race on November 4. Finishing with a time of

18 minutes and 22 seconds, McMillan became the first freshman since 1995 to become the Individual State Champion.

In addition to McMillan, Barrington has other major contributors that have led to the success of their team. Megan Verner-Crist, Julianna Portelli, and Fiona Paine all finished in the Top 10. Junior Abby Livingston, a two-time All Stater who battled the flu during the race, finished in 12th. Alice Burgess and Mary Kate Coogan also raced well for Barrington in the State race.

In the New England Championships in Cumberland, Maine, the Lady Eagles sported some dominating performances. McMillan finished in third place, with a time of 19 minutes and 7 seconds. Livingston finished 15th, and the trio of Portelli, Paine, and Verner-Crist all finished in the top 50.

Along with their accolades in Rhode Island, the Girls honed their craft in North Carolina on September 29. The Girls finished fourth nationally, ranking behind some of the top programs in the country. McMillan finished 32nd in the country, while Livingston finished 36th.



Emma McMillan outran the competition at the 2012 State Championship Race. (Barrington Times Photo)

Crew Gains Popularity

By Alex Hummel
Talon Staff

The London Summer Olympics brought attention to some otherwise rarely talked about competitions.

Many Americans, familiar and content with well-known sports such as soccer, swimming, gymnastics and track, may have been surprised when tuning in and seeing things such as skeet shooting and ping-pong, among other activities.

While some of this is simply due to America's ignorance and lack of participation in particular sports (i.e. men's field hockey, a game incredibly popular in Europe), some of the activities are more readily available to students than most would think.

Barrington, along with other coastal communities, has recently seen an outburst of popularity in the sport known as crew.

Crew is formally defined as a sport that requires rowers from a single to 8 person boat to work cooperatively together in order to pull the boat across a body of water. While the sport may be seemingly simple and possibly boring, it proves to be the opposite for many students at BHS.

A majority of the BHS community, are involved in crew and are members of the East Bay Rowing team, a new group based out of Walker Farm on Wampanoag Trail. Located 2 minutes from the high school, many students appreciate the opportunity to do a sport outside of school. Close proximity allows them to connect with new people without a large amount of travel or difference in schedule from a normal BHS sport.

"There is barely any travel time involved in our program", says Junior Ainsley Freeman. "Because the travel time is not as consuming as some other crew programs, schoolwork is as easy to manage as it is with a typical school sport."

Even if involved in a team slightly farther away, most people seem to believe the distance is worthwhile and that the meager effect of travel time is worth the opportunity to meet others.

"It doesn't seem to affect me too much," said Junior Laura Rand, currently

a part of the Narragansett Boat Club elite youth scullers. "I definitely think it was worth it, because I've made some great friends and good connections with rowers and organizations".

Rowing has clearly had a positive effect on several students, but for people outside of the sport, the competitions and events remain unfamiliar, possibly a reason that the sport has not caught on sooner.

In short, teams varying in size from half a dozen to as many as 30 kids travel all over New England for competitions known as regattas. Although usually very early in the morning, most students describe these competitions as enjoyable and exciting, something they look forward to.

"The most enjoyable aspect has to be competitions," said Freshman Nick McGarry. "You get to travel to different areas of New England and compete against lots of different teams."

Fall regattas consist of longer races, usually anywhere from two to four miles. These differ from the shorter spring races because during the fall, teams are staggered and begin at different times. One crew may seem to finish "before" another; however they may prove to be slower when the times are later compared.

Events vary from a single individual, known as a zephyr, to two-, four-, and even eight- people events. Most crew members say that travel can be up to two hours, the entire day being around four to six hours, while time actually spent on the water competing is only usually 30 mins or less. Fall season lasts through September and October while the spring season is from April through June.

When asked what her favorite aspect of the sport is, freshman Avery Jackson concluded that it is "being able to get on the water after a long stressful day at school."

Sophomore Bella Gagliano agreed by adding "I also love being on the water all the time, the scenery around us when we row is amazing." Gagliano used to play field hockey, but says she switched to crew. "Once I started rowing, it was such a new and interesting thing. I looked forward to going to practice."

Sandy cont. from page 1

will not be the recipient of major relief. It will be up to the people of Rhode Island to help out with cases like Allen's, which require weeks if not months of restoration.

This is the kind restoration that states like New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania will all need. This part of the East Coast was hit especially hard by Sandy, which knocked out large power lines and even the subway system. A combined 5.7 million homes were powerless in these three states alone. 14+ foot storm surges and winds gusting to 90 mph battered New York while Gatlinburg, Tennessee was buried by 34 inches of snow. For the states that were hit the hardest, it will take weeks of long and expensive work to get things back to normal.

In the days following the storm

AP cont. from page 3

We create a 'college' in our classroom and conduct the course in that manner... as such, AP classes move at a faster pace and delve deeper into the subject matter than a regular course on the same topic. Both levels are rigorous and will be challenging; the AP level is for the student who wants to be challenged at the deeper level."

Perks cont. from page 3

him in the end find the true meaning of life and friendship, but also his English teacher.

Who doesn't have a favorite teacher, one they have a special connection with? Everyone, right? Charlie does, and his name is Bill.

Bill's Charlie's advanced English teacher and their friendship is based on the classics Bill assigns Charlie to read outside of class. Beginning with *To Kill a Mockingbird* and ending with *The Fountainhead*, Charlie reads them all and writes papers on them. The two of them also discuss the books and papers afterwards. This relationship allows for the reader to relate to Charlie, which adds to the charisma of the entire story.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower is not like any other book about high school. Not only does it explore the awkwardness and troubles of high school, but

it seemed like the whole nation was there to back up these troubled states. On Friday November 2nd, NBC as well as other stations aired the "Hurricane Sandy: Coming Together" concert. This event featured many celebrities who came to support the cause. Christina Aguilera, Steven Tyler, Bruce Springsteen, and Brian Williams were just a few of the celebrities that made appearances that night. More than \$23 million was raised during the event that will help with the relief.

Hurricane Sandy was a reminder to much of the East Coast, as well as a few Barrington residents, that it is hard to know how hard a storm will strike and it is always good to prepare for the worst.

If you are interested in donating or finding a way you can help the relief go to www.redcross.org/hurricane-sandy.

Although standard level classes can be GPA boosters; in the long run, AP level classes can help one prepare for college, and begin to get used to a more advanced level of work.

also the introversion, the philosophical look on life. This is more than has been seen in any other popular young adult book of the time.

With references to things of the 90s, this unusual novel has become quite popular with teenagers specifically around the ages of freshman and sophomores. This is especially due to the recently released adapted motion picture, directed also by Chbosky, featuring Logan Lerman (Charlie) and Emma Watson (Sam).

The time that we spend in high school is when we are most vulnerable and susceptible to external influences. The philosophies of life discovered between the pages of this incredibly special book leave readers wanting more and most close the book with an overall sense of being, a sense of infinity.