

Whalers' Watch

Winter 2016 /2017

Cyrus Peirce Middle School, Nantucket Island, Massachusetts

Issue #2

Got Whaler Pride?!?

by Maclaine Willett

What exactly is Whaler pride? It can't be defined. It isn't expected. It is developed within a team. Whaler pride means to be united. It is the glue of Nantucket Island, it's what keeps us together. I know you have my back, and I have yours, that is Whaler pride.

I had the privilege of interviewing Chris Maury, the athletic director. I asked him what Whaler pride means to him. According to Mr. Maury, "Whaler pride has to do with being part of the island and being part of the school. Whether it is academic or athletic, it is being part of the community and Nantucket as a whole. Being part of the school and the island."

I also had the pleasure of interviewing two of the cheerleaders here at NHS, and three field hockey players.



From left to right: Co-captains Nick Correia, Travis Demby, Cory Ryder and JT Gamberoni

"It is just supporting your school no matter what the outcome is. To always have a good attitude and care enough about the athletics to keep your grades up."

- K'sha Bloise

Jazzmin Butler feels that, "Whaler pride is showing your pride throughout all of the games and during school. It is all about sportsmanship."

"I think Whaler pride is the unity of the community during specific events. It stems through the high school, however it's not limited to students at the high school. It is continued through generations. It is within the tight-knit community." - KD Tornovich

Isabell Beal thinks that Whaler pride is "Good sportsmanship, and supporting your team. Trying your best all the time."



Cheerleaders Bryanna Bailey, Jazzmin Butler, and K'sha Bloise

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National Election

by Silas Moore

There are many opinions on the election, on who you support and why. The House of Representatives has two major parties, Democratic and Republican. Republican representatives are conservative, which means that they want to make a richer economy so people can help themselves. Democratic representatives support helping people by using the tax money they receive to donate to others.

The Electoral College

Each state has a certain amount of representatives based on their population. So, it is possible for a candidate to get the popular vote and still lose the election. The state of Texas has a large population of about 27 million

people, therefore it has 36 representatives. States like Vermont and New Hampshire will have fewer representatives. Vermont has a population of about 630,000 and only has one representative. When a candidate wins a state, it means that more people voted for that candidate, so the representatives turn to that candidate. In the end, the candidate with more electoral votes wins.

The 2016 Standings

During the recent election, Donald Trump received 306 electoral votes and Hillary Clinton received 232. Trump triumphed over states like Texas and multiple states up the middle of the USA. Clinton got the East and West coast states.

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CPS Election

by Maddie Iller

The CPS Election took place months ago, so most of you probably haven't heard a word since. The committee is trying their best to communicate to the CPS students and teachers. If you are not aware, this is Mrs. Coffin's first year taking control of the election as student advisor. This has been a great twist for this year's election. With the help and support of Dr. Cohen and the candidates, Mrs. Coffin strives for a great year for the elected officers.

This year there were several changes in the election. The obvious one was that there are now two co-presidents: one 7th and one 8th grader. Shanell Whyte



From left to right: Secretary Kat Buccino (6th), Co-President, Sarah Hanlon (7th), Treasurer Olivia Fee (6th), Vice President Garner Ray (7th), Co-President Shannell Whyte (8th)

and Sara Hanlon do a great job bringing the group together and making the meetings run smoothly. This is Mrs. Coffin's first year taking control of the election. With the help and support of the candidates and Dr. Cohen, Mrs. Coffin has done a more than perfect job advising the election.

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Current Whaler student athletes pose for a picture after their interviews.

Got Whaler Pride?!? *Continued from Page 1*

And finally, Darcy Foulkes expressed a common sentiment, "Beating the Vineyard!"

Next time you walk through the school parking lot, look around you. Notice all of the cars parked in that lot. The majority of these cars most likely have one thing in common. The "W" stuck to the back windshield. Or the "Whaler Pride" magnet stuck to the back bumper. It isn't a huge statement, but it shows something about the community. To make this small gesture, it shows that you have Whaler pride and you support the teams. Just like wearing team or school apparel, you are representing Nantucket and the Whalers.

Another example of Whaler pride is the fans. The stands at every Friday night football games are filled with loud, excited Whalers. It may be freezing, but do you think that stops Nantucketers? There are some parents, or just fans, that get to the game an hour early just to get their favorite seat, the seat they sit in every single game!

Some people don't miss any home games. During any sports event on Nantucket, the stands are almost all filled, and everyone is screaming and jumping up and down.

The difference between Whalers fans and other fans is Whaler fans are dedicated. We will sit in the rain, snow, heat, anything, just to see our Whalers play. For example, the stands were filled at the cold Whaler football game in the playoffs on November 4, 2016, the farthest Nantucket football has made it since 1998. This was a big accomplishment. And a big game.

Our next face off - Seekonk. In the huddle, the Whalers scream to hype everyone up. They chant, get into a line, sprint into the gates, right into the Whaler football sign.

They warm up, and the game begins. It is the end of the first quarter, we haven't heard that cannon blow. Seekonk: 7, and Nantucket: 0. After the boys fought through the second quarter, both teams maintain their defense throughout the second quarter, leaving it at Seekonk: 7, Nantucket: 0.

The clock continued to move, the third quarter. This was intense. Nantucket then finally scored. That cannon boomed and all the fans jumped up and screamed. Unfortunately, we didn't score the extra point. So, it was Seekonk 7, Nantucket 6. Angry that we scored, Seekonk followed our touchdown with one of their own.

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National Election

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Although Trump won, Clinton got about two million more popular votes than Trump.

Now, people say that Trump won the election, but this may change. The people of the electoral college don't vote until December 19th, where they'll vote for president and vice president. Then in January, the House of Representatives decide who the president will be by vote. Therefore, the vote could still change and Hillary Clinton could be elected.

Mr. Carney, 8th grade social studies teacher at CPS, explained, "The Founding Fathers didn't trust the will of the people, and wanted to make sure that had they had more of a say over America's impulses."

Wyoming residents are represented a lot more because they have a low population, so each vote counts more. Similarly, residents of New York have are represented a lot less because they have a higher population.



2016 Presidential Candidates Donald Trump and Hillary Rodham Clinton shaking hands before their debate.

Photo Courtesy of YouTube

CPS Election

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Cyrus Peirce 2016-2017 Student Council

This is the first year that the 6th grade has taken part in the election and they now do more than just vote. Olivia Fee, Katie Hall and Cat Buccino are the first 6th grade candidates in CPS. Dr. Cohen is happy with the changes made, and hopes to make this year an even better year than last for the Officer council.

What is the reason we have a student council? What do they even do?

CPS has a council to represent us, the students. They work and meet with administration, the council (made of teachers and parents) and Dr. Cohen.

They work together to create fun events and fundraise.

Why do we have two co-presidents this year?

Dr. Cohen requested that we have two co-presidents- one 7th and one 8th grader. The 7th grade president will take a two year term. It may take a few meetings after the election for the new presidents to get used to their position. So, they decided that it would be useful to have the same president to start meetings and to start right away when school starts. Next year, a new 7th grader will have a chance to run and become president.

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In the Halls of CPS

by Mimi Belanger

Teachers in the Halls of CPS

Do you think it is fair that students are not allowed to have their phones during any part of the day?



"I think it's fair because communication shouldn't be on a phone during lunch."

Mrs. Lombardi, 7th grade English



"We use them in science a lot so now we don't have the abilities that we used to, but I also think it's a good thing."

Mrs. Mailloux, 6th grade Science



"It's fair that the rule is for everyone not just some people."

Mr. Lucas, 6th grade Social Studies



"Yes, because many of them will use their phones."

Mr. Sortevik, 7th grade History



"Yes, it will distract them."

Mrs. Scarlett, 8th grade LBLD teacher

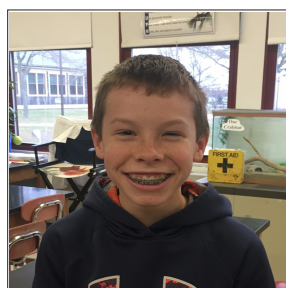
Students in the Halls of CPS

Do you like the new CPS rule of having no phones during the school day?



"No, I hate it because it's easier for our parents who are trying to contact us on our phones. We can't know what they need to tell us."

Carley Hinson, 8th grader



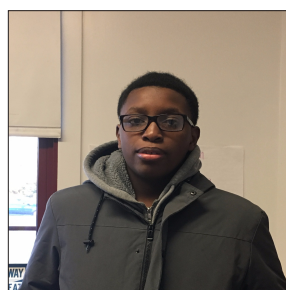
"I think that people should be able to have it in their backpack so they can call their parents in case they have to stay after for help."

Garner Ray, 7th grader



"I think that the no phones in school rule is OK, because lots of people were getting distracted in class by them and not doing the right thing with them. However, I think we should be able to use them at lunch if it is monitored."

Amanda Mack, 8th grader



"No, because kids should be able to use their phone for their rights."

JJ Bennett, 7th grader



"I think that the new cell phone rule is good. There really is not a reason to have phones in school. We should be paying attention to school, not phones. We can do that after school."

Natalie Mack, 6th grader



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Want your voice to be heard in the next edition of *Whalers' Watch*?

Send your letters to the editors to either tornovish_kd@npsk.org or hickmanre@npsk.org. All letters will be reviewed and published at the discretion of the editors of the *Whalers' Watch*.

What's new at CPS???

Who is the New Girl in the Office?

by Arielle Holmes

Have you heard that Cyrus Peirce Middle School has a new assistant principal? It is true! Her name is Mrs. Johnson and she is so excited to be working at Cyrus Peirce Middle School this year.

Mrs. Johnson was born in New York. She has one brother and one stepsister. When she was little she wanted to be a teacher, and I guess her dream came true! For college, she went to SUNY, Geneseo College, and Webb University. In her free time, Mrs. Johnson loves to be outside. She moved to Nantucket in August from North Carolina, and says Nantucket is beautiful. Mrs. Johnson also says "why not!" to living here, as she liked the idea of a smaller school district. She says that there were about 100 other schools where she lived- talk about a change! Before Cyrus Peirce, she worked at another school for 19 years. She taught second, third, and fifth grade.

She also worked as an academic administrator.

Her favorite part of the day is going into classrooms and seeing what the students are learning and talking about. Her favorite thing to do in the morning is to say "good morning" to all the students as they come into school. At lunchtime, she likes to work lunch duty. Mrs. Johnson also works with teachers and students throughout the day. When she leaves work she spends time with her kids. She brings them to the Nantucket Boys and Girls Club or goes on walks with them. Mrs. Johnson also helps them with their homework and reads with them.

All of these things simply represent how amazing she is! Mrs. Johnson has a very impressive background, is very nice and caring, and is a great fit for this school. I hope you will all welcome Mrs. Johnson! Don't forget to do the right thing!



Mrs. Johnson monitoring lunch in CPS cafeteria.

Questions Regarding New Sixth Grade

Wing: Answered

by Angelica Oviedo-Fermin

Last year, when most current seventh graders were sixth graders, ground was broken and construction on the new wing began.

There were many questions about this "new wing". Yet, what many people were thinking is was the new wing for sixth graders only?! The sixth graders (at the time) knew they would not use the wing. This meant that only the incoming fifth graders would get to use it! To answer these questions, Dr. Cohen and some others addressed some common questions.

When asked what the purpose for the new wing was he revealed that the "student population is

growing," and that there are currently around 320 CPS students with even more coming.

Dr. Cohen elaborated that with the new wing, there are "more classrooms," as we didn't have enough space for all the teachers in CPS before.

The next question about the new wing: Was built for the future students?

"Yes, and the new wing created space for the language teachers in the eighth grade hallway," explains Dr. Cohen.

The language teachers' classrooms were previously in the high school.

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What is this new class called PBL?

by Yvie Scarlett

PBL is a new course this year that was started for 7th and 8th graders. This course is during 7th grade English and 8th grade math. The class is currently called PBL (Project Based Learning). If you take this class as a 7th grader you will stay in this class for your 7th and 8th grade years.

I interviewed the two teachers who currently teach this class.

Mrs. Crowley, 8th grade math, and Mrs. Lombardi, 7th grade English, explained what they thought about this newly created class.

Mrs. Lombardi states, "I think it's important for all students to be able to connect the standards that we teach to the real world problems."

Mrs. Crowley agrees, "To be honest, I think it would be great to see the program extend to other grades as well."

Mrs. Lombardi and Mrs. Crowley were inspired to develop

PBL after they saw Michael Klein, a teacher from High Tech School in California.

"Mrs. Crowley and I were at a technology conference and we heard a keynote speaker named Michael Klein. His whole school was project based in every class. So we tried to think of how we could take what he was saying about project based learning and make it work for our school."

The two decided to create this class upon their return from the conference.

Mrs. Lombardi explained the process, "First we had to get the idea in our heads about how it would work with the schedule....because I teach 7th grade English and Mrs. Crowley teaches 8th grade math."

After working that out they, Mrs. Crowley added, "presented it to Dr. Cohen. From there, we met with Mr. Cozort, CPS staff and, finally,

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Sports



The Rebuilding of the Lady Whaler Soccer Team

by Gillian Antonietti

The Nantucket Girls Varsity soccer season has come to a sad end with a record of 7-7-2. Although they didn't make it through to the playoffs, they worked hard to get through this rough season.

This year, the girls team had a new soccer coach, Phil Taylor. After his first season of coaching this team, I had the opportunity to ask Coach Taylor what his overall thoughts were on this season.

Coach Taylor said, "This season was a fantastic challenge that I gladly accepted. We had a phenomenal group of young ladies. I really enjoyed evaluating the program and putting into place



Photo courtesy of Laurie Richards

some important building blocks that I see as vital to a successful program. As a group, this was my first year with this team; however, I have coached some of the players in other programs (Nantucket Student Soccer) previously. One big challenge was coaching the

older group who had not been playing soccer as consistently as the younger girls. This meant they had missed vital skills development that I needed to put in place along with tactical learning.

[One of the] most memorable

moments was seeing a young player become a very effective player for the varsity team. This meant the future is bright and that all the work we have put into the youth programs is coming to fruition."

When asked what his most memorable game was, Taylor replied, "The Falmouth Academy home victory, when we beat one of the best teams. We scored an early goal and held on in terrible wind with our goalkeeper helping us to victory with many, many great saves." Taylor has been coaching for 12 years and enjoys watching kids improve.

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Got Whaler Pride? *continued from page 2*

Luckily, our defense blocked their extra point try. But, the Whalers weren't going to leave it at 6-13. Soon after, we brought in another touchdown, and scored the extra point. It was tied, 13-13. It was a tight race, and wasn't getting any easier.

With hopes of taking a lead, we entered the fourth quarter. Both teams had been working exceedingly hard, so therefore, nobody scored again. The game went into overtime.

This is where it was the most fierce. If you looked through the stands, you could see many of the Nantucket fans nervously waiting for us to finally score. Sadly, that wasn't what happened, and Seekonk pulled in another touchdown.

That is where the game ended, the Whalers failed to get another touchdown by the end of overtime, and the game ended at 13-19, Seekonk. But, those boys played as hard as they possibly could, making for a great game.

Even though we lost, and it was a very upsetting game, all of the fans stayed to congratulate the team as they walked off. The cheerleaders chanted "We are proud of you!" Everyone told the players how well they did. What you didn't see was players yelling, getting angry at each other, and you didn't see any fans angry at the players. We all were reminded of how hard they worked. That is Whaler pride.

The fans aren't the only ones with Whaler pride. In fact, it is the players who have the most Whaler pride. These athletes love to play in front of all the Nantucket fans and show off the hard work they've put in. It is a great feeling to step on the field, smell the grass, or step on the court and look up at the lights and down at the floor knowing that at this moment you are representing Nantucket. This feeling where you know you are representing your town is pretty incredible.

As an elementary school or

middle school student, watching the NHS students, you wish to be like them. You look up to them, and admire the way the teams work as one unit. The way they pour their heart out on that field or court. The way that they defend their teammates, help each other, and put the Whalers first. This is pride and love for your teammates.

I was fortunate enough to ask the captains of the 2016 football team what Whaler pride means to them, and how it is demonstrated on their football team. (see quotes to the right).

Following this team throughout their season helped me really recognize how unique and special Whaler pride actually is. Not only the football team, but all of the sports teams, all of the students here have Whaler pride. It's about love, respect, and family. Whaler Pride!



What is Whaler Pride?

"It is all about family. I've been playing with these guys since the second grade...we have each others' backs, we get each other."
-Cory Ryder

"The crowd, they come support us every game. I mean, it is really just having each other's backs."
-Travis Demby

"It's mutual respect and love for our school and island. It's about closeness and family."
-JT Gamberoni

"The coaches and their dedication. They take their time to make us better. To make this family stronger."
-Nick Correia



Skating Into the 2017 Season

by Abby Jones



DJ Watkins poses for a picture during the Whalers' hockey practice.

The 2017 Whalers Ice Hockey team is a group of very close young men pursuing their hockey dreams. This group of young men did a splendid job last winter. They made it very far in the state playdown.

The seniors on the Whalers this year are Ethan Fey, Garrett Kelsey, Natty Davidson, Max Duce, and Simon Johnson. These boys have played since they were young and have always been on the same team. DJ Watkins, a newcomer to the ice this year, has stepped up to be the Whalers' head coach. He always knew he wanted to coach. "I knew I could

only play for so long, so coaching was the next best way to stay involved," says Watkins.

Last year, Coach Watkins was fortunate enough to be an assistant coach to then Whalers' Varsity Coach Jack Moran. This past summer, when Moran decided to step down as head coach, he realized that "becoming a head coach could be possible soon."

Coach Watkins is a police officer for the Nantucket Police Department. He has played hockey all of his life and is excited for this opportunity and believes he can bring the Whalers to a victory.

Watkins was a versatile player for the Seahawks, playing all three forward positions: center, left wing and right wing. He went on to say how lucky he was to play with incredibly talented teammates.

At the end of the interview, Coach Watkins explained, "My prediction is that the Nantucket Whalers hockey team is going to work hard everyday to get better. I believe we will be much better on the last day of the season than we are today. I can only hope that our season ends on the Boston Garden ice with our team holding

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Get a "Kick" Out of Nantucket Varsity Boys Soccer

by Bella Cutone

Playing on a boys varsity soccer team is definitely not the easiest thing in the world. Throughout the boys season they did incredibly well, whether it was winning by 8 points or scoring a goal in the first minute of overtime. The Boys Varsity team ended the season with a record of 20-1-1.

During this fall season, the boys were able to make it to the South League Finals for the second year in a row, but unfortunately lost to Cohasset, leaving the final score 5-0. Even though the boys had to end their season with a tough loss, they still played outstandingly well, never leaving their fans bored watching. I was given the opportunity to speak to a few people who are intimate with the team, Head Coach Rich Brannigan, Captains Andrew Dawson and Simon Johnson. I also was able to speak with a student who is very close with the team and extremely passionate about soccer, Waverly

Brannigan. While talking with Rich Brannigan I gained much information on what the team means to him and his experience with them. As a coach Rich thinks the best way of coaching for this specific team is using positive reinforcement, "Everyone makes mistakes, you don't want to dwell on your mistakes, you learn from mistakes." This technique obviously works, and is shown by the team making into the South League Finals two years in a row. This led to the second question asked; what does this team mean to you? He stated that he would always remember the team as hard working, continuously making helpful sacrifices, keeping positivity, and setting goals, and later work to achieve them. He believes, "They never gave up and played to the best of their abilities after losing our starting goalkeeper, and using Brandon Menjivar, we kept winning games."

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Falling into Sports

by Emerson Milne

Want to play on a school sport team next fall? Well, here's how this year went. There's a total of five fall teams: girls soccer, boys soccer, field hockey, swim and cross country. Even though the sport teams might not have had the most wins this year, the teams have some pretty exciting news.

Cross country was a brand new sport to CPS and NHS this fall, so it was considered a club sport. The team did not have as many races as they hoped due to it being at club level. The athletic department did not keep a record of this sport because of it being a new sport. Their first season was a success because of their coaches Gary and Phil Allen.

The boys soccer team definitely had a good season. They won seven games and only lost two games. Their coach, Luke Daniels, and assistant coach, Kiao, definitely led their team to victory.

The field hockey team made history by winning their first game in two years! To make it

even better, they won two games!

Girls soccer had a pretty good season, winning five games and tying two. This team was coached by Brian King and Doug LeBrecht.

The swim team competes throughout the winter. They have only had one Dolphin meet and they won. Additionally, swimmers have participated in individual meets.

If you join any of these teams, I am sure you will have a great time. Even if your team doesn't win every game, you will enjoy just being part of a team.



The CPS Girls Soccer Team

Skating Into the 2017 *continued from page 6*

I also got to interview Mr. Chris Maury, Athletic Director for Nantucket High School. This is the first year that eighth graders are allowed to practice for the Whalers. There are many mixed emotions from the community but Mr. Chris Maury explains how the young boys will be on the team next year so it is getting them prepared for the next season on the team. There is also two boys that have the opportunity to play in the games with the Whalers and are a big part of the team. Mr. Maury noted, I think that the eighth graders being on the team is extremely beneficial. But we still need to make sure that they are protected. I also think that they

will help us a lot. They will not just benefit the team, but this opportunity will benefit the boys as well."



Members of the Whaler Hockey team battling for the puck at practice.

Rebuilding... *continued from page 5*

Not only did Coach Taylor have to adjust to his new team, the girls had to adjust to a new coach. They all said that because they had the same coach for so many years they knew this year would be different in terms of coaching and the skill this coach teaches. I had the opportunity to interview the three captains of this team, Emily Ballinger, Caroline Richards, and Katherine Pittman.

The oldest captain is Emily Ballinger. Emily is a senior and has been playing on this team for 3 years. Emily started playing as a freshman playing on both JV and Varsity and has moved up from there. Emily plays Center Mid and has scored a total of 3 goals this

season. I got the opportunity to sit and talk with her. According to Emily, "The most memorable part of this season was watching the team grow into something new having lost 11 seniors last year. My favorite game was home against Barnstable. I thought we all handled ourselves really well. It definitely took some getting used to, switching from Jorge, but we all transitioned well. Overall, I thought this year went well. After losing so many vital players last year it was more of a transitional season, working with new players, coaches, and techniques."

Their second captain is Katherine Pittman. Katherine has been on this team for 3 years playing the position forward/striker. I asked Katherine what she thought about this season overall and what her favorite game was. Katherine stated "I did not know what to expect going into this past season but it was very exciting. Losing 9 seniors we were a very young team but it will allow us to grow together in the future. Every year my favorite game is against the Vineyard. Even though we lost this year I love the rivalry and the excitement. I cannot wait for next year!" Katherine has scored many goals throughout this season, but does not remember the exact amount. *Continued on page 8*

From Slide-Tackling to Scoring

by Quinn LeBrecht

The Junior Varsity girls soccer team had a pretty unforgettable season, from slide-tackling offenders to dumping goals into the back of the net. Three players reminisce on an impeccable season. Three of our own CPS students played up for the NHS JV soccer team this fall. Their journey began late-August and lasted until late October, including pre-season and practice every day.

Gillian Antonietti, number 37 at midfield and defense, says she had an "amazing season that was filled with exciting twist and turns." All good things must come to an end, especially when the season is over. She says the work and fitness was a lot more than the past season, but the payoff was totally worth it.

Another player is Ruby Dupont, number 47 at midfield. Being the top scorer on the team, Ruby dumped 10 goals into the net. In her personal opinion she feels that she liked JV more than CPS. She played at a higher skill level and her technique vastly improved.

Waverly Brannigan (number 40), who plays the position of center/defensive midfield, also agreed that the season was enjoyable but definitely a challenge at first. Relating to Ruby, she also feels there were more benefits to playing up with high schoolers. They were constantly pushed to the limit and exceeded when they were on the field. Waverly says that this season tops the list of soccer seasons she has ever taken apart of. They were undefeated for more than half of their season.

They started their season off with pre-season in late-August. These practices lasted anywhere from 2-3 hours daily until school started, and they even practiced on the weekends. This practice schedule continued until school started and ended on Halloween. But once the weeks rolled by, it was their new normal to run a mile at practice.

They ended the season with

a remarkable 9 wins, 2 ties and 2 losses.

The adjustment of having to play with older, high school girls was tough but they learned lots of new skills and improved their playing ability. The trio states that they would do it all over again if they could and wouldn't change their soccer experience for anything.

These three were the top scorers of their team. They all got a fair amount of playing time and they definitely made the most of it on the field. Their season was one to remember and they will cherish those team memories forever.



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Photo courtesy of Laurie Richards

Kick... *Continued from Page 6*

Rich also talked a lot about how people had to step up and play in different situations than they were used to, and still did a great job. He viewed his team as a pretty good one, they made progress throughout the season and the team as a whole was very hardworking.

Rich also stated "As long as you are hardworking, you will go places." The highlight of the season for Rich was making it once again to the South League finals, "They've done it two years in row, mostly all of the boys were on Varsity last year and all they know is getting to the finals. It is a great experience for the future. He also said that it was "the greatest thing the team did this year."

After having the opportunity to interview with Head Coach, Rich Brannigan, I was given the chance to speak with the two captains of the team. Andrew Dawson and Simon Johnson have been on the Boys Varsity soccer team ever since they were freshman (for 4 years). Being on the team motivated the boys to show up to every practice and work their hardest and to the best of their abilities everyday. Their leadership carried the team throughout the season.

The captains believe that they had a pretty good season, but they feel the team itself could have done better in the finals. The boys were then asked what was their most memorable game of the season. This was a game that had everybody on the edge of their seats, the game against Sacred Heart. It was the beginning of the playoffs, so nobody knew what would happen.

It was also an amazing game in general. The boys were down 2-0 at half, and then by the end of the game 3-3. Then, the game went into golden goal OT

(overtime). An added stress was that the team was missing their starting goalie, JP, and their senior captain who went out in the first 15 minutes.

It was incredible how the boys were able to pull themselves together after being down 2-0, and while missing two of their most important teammates.

This game was a highlight for many people, not just the team. Andrew and Simon are glad to end their time playing on varsity like this.

The last person I was able to gather her opinion about the team was Waverly Brannigan. Waverly is (head coach) Rich Brannigan's daughter. She has continuously shown her support throughout the season, by being there at every game, or cheering them on even in their hardest times. Her "love and passion for the team" creates an extended family, as she looks up to them as "older brothers."

Waverly is inspired by the team, which pushes her to try her hardest in anything. She has been able to get very close with the team over the years, with her dad as coach, which she loves. From her perspective she noticed throughout the season the team made a lot of progress and played their best. She will continue to look up to the team, use them as inspirations, and strive to one day play like them.

The Nantucket Boys Varsity Soccer team had a fantastic season and never let their fans down. The boys all played tremendously well, and to the best of their abilities in every game, which showed throughout the season. Not only did the team play well, but were inspirations to other players, who aim to gain the same skilled applied by the boys. Hopefully, next year the boys will "head" right to the top, once again.

Winter Sports Update*by Quinn LeBrecht & Gillian Antonietti*

The winter sports season has just hit, with plenty of sports for all grades. Starting off with CPS, there is basketball offered for both boys and girls.

Brian King coaches 26 players for the girls team. For the 25 CPS boys playing basketball, the head coach is Michael Cvetizh.

NHS has four winter sports available, including swimming, diving, basketball, and ice hockey.

The girls basketball team consists of 27 players under the guidance of head coach Lori Moran.

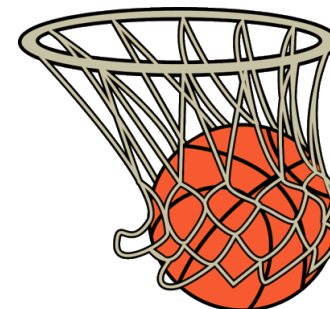
Boys basketball is led by Coach Willis Ferreira and is comprised of 25 boys.

Ice hockey may be only offered

for boys but, there are 27 participating with DJ Watkins as head coach.

Finally, with a total number of 60 students, swimming and diving takes the cake with the largest participation of high school students. The head coach is Jim Pignato.

Unless a team makes it to playoffs, the season ends middle to end of February.

**Rebuilding...** *Continued from Page 7*

The third captain was Caroline Richards. Caroline, has been on this team for two years. She mostly started playing on JV, but for the playoffs she had the opportunity to play for the Varsity team. Caroline expressed that her most memorable part of this season was "probably when we beat FA (Falmouth Academy), I felt like that was one of the best games we played and it made me happy that everyone put their all into that game." She went on to discuss Coach Taylor, "Having a new coach was interesting just because our last coach was such a big part of the team and who the team was. It was kind of confusing and hard to adjust at first, for Phil

too because he obviously was used to teaching boys. I felt towards the end we started to understand each other better, but I think we still have a lot to work on. Having Kris and Sabrina and Brett around was awesome, they added a lot to practices and games."

All three girls have worked together to keep this team working to their best ability. Having the opportunity to be captain for such an amazing team has done it's best for the girls. All three girls work their hardest everyday to improve in their soccer skills and have completely shown that by setting a good examples throughout the season for fellow teammates.

Photo courtesy of Laurie Richards





Arts and Living



A Very Merry Backstage Pass

by Margaret Culkins



"Elf The Musical Jr" was performed in December 2016.

Have you ever seen a Christmas play at CPS? Now, you can! This Christmas production is "Elf The Musical JR." There are 57 students participating in this play. It will be performed in the Nantucket High School auditorium. Every year, the school has many plays, but there has never been a holiday play.

"Elf the Musical, Jr." is about Buddy, a young orphan, who crawls into Santa's gift bag accidentally as Santa was on his way to the North Pole.

The little boy, doesn't know he is actually a human, until his big size and untalented toy making abilities cause him to face the truth.

With Santa's approval, Buddy set out on a journey to New York City to find his birth father and find out about his birth father.

Very bravely Buddy finds out that his father is on the naughty list and that his half brother doesn't believe in Santa. Buddy is on a mission to win over his new family and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas.

To find out what happens to Buddy on his great big journey watch the movie Elf.

Do you know the director of the Musical Elf? Laura Byrne, an indescribable lady, has been the

fine arts teacher at CPS for 12 years. She has directed eight productions, including "The Lion King."

"We need to work as a team, cast, together," Mrs. Byrne said as she greeted all the students before rehearsal.

I had a chance to see how the play was coming along before the actual production. The room was buzzing with joy as everybody was waiting for the rehearsal to start. Mrs. Byrne was patiently waiting for the last cast members to join and the cast to quiet down. The class starts with a group circle to get everybody settled and ready to rehearse.

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CPS Election

continued from page 2

What do you have to do to become a candidate?

To become a candidate, you first must have more confidence than most of the students who attend CPS. One has to give a speech to the whole CPS community; students, teachers, volunteers and even parents. However, before that, a form is taken home for you and your parents to agree that you will attend and help run each meeting. Candidates have to meet with Mrs. Coffin and write a one-two minute speech about why one should be a student officer. The candidates must execute a clear and strong campaign about how they would be the best fit for that job. It takes hard work and guts to even get the job of a CPS student body officer.

What happens inside the meetings? Mrs. Coffin attends every meeting to make sure it runs smoothly. The co-presidents work together to run the meetings.

The treasurer meets with Mrs. Coffin to oversee the finances, while the vice president shares new ideas with the council.

Everyone works together, including the Advisory Captains, to share ideas, plan and create fun projects and events in CPS.

What do they plan for the future?

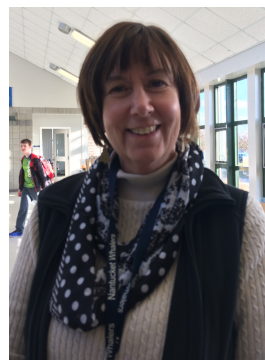
The Student Council is hosting two dances over the next couple of months. One carnival dance for the 7th and 8th grade was held in December and one dance in January for the 6th grade.

The money collected from the dances and other fundraisers add to each classes' account for high school events, such as prom and graduation. (That might change your mind in going to the dances or not.)

The Council hopes to have more dances, a talent show, movie nights and a great semi-formal dance at the end of the year. After earning \$240 from Halloween

Candy Grams, they plan to have more successful fundraisers; like additional candy grams this year. They plan to hold more fun events over the next 6 months of the school year.

Think about participating to contribute to a fun and successful year!



Mrs. Dauna Coffin,
Student Council Advisor



A typical CPS school lunch.

School Lunch, From a Student's Perspective

By Alex Johnson and Jack Wilson

School cafeterias are a place where kids can finally take a break from their classes and be able to socialize with their friends. Yet, students don't have enough time to socialize or eat their food in the time given. Lunch lines should be way more organized and our lunch block should be extended to 45 minutes instead of 30 minutes.

Here are some thoughts from 8th grader Kanyon Gale. Gale stated, "The lunch block should have more time and that they should have more lines or maybe another place to get food."

If they were to extend the lunch block, the students will be able to perform better academically and socially. Such is proven by Dr. Julie Schwartzbard, as she states "Many studies show the negative effects that hunger has on school-aged children.

Continued on Page 10

...Backstage Pass *Continued from Page 9*

The cast works together with the director, for example when Mrs. Byrne says "hold please," the cast replies with, "thank you hold."

All of a sudden, the play starts in the North Pole with a greeting song and dance. Buddy entered right in the middle of the song, and this is where the show picked up right away. Although it is only rehearsal, the play already is looking great.

The choreography was amazing in the first song. I was pleasantly surprised that each cast member on the stage had a very loud voice, and the cast worked well together.

They were very efficient in their blocking and lines already.

The background members on the stage were not just standing still in the Macy's scene as if they had no meaning, they each were acting like real shoppers.

It was very creative how the cast members exiting the stage moved the props themselves. This made the transition from scene to scene more organized. There was not a whole lot of running around on stage or back stage helpers on set during the play.

The emotion in the actors' voices conveyed what the character was feeling without actually telling the audience.

The show picked up when the actors or actresses picked their voices up as if they were almost yelling. It made the show seem



Madeleine Ruley (7) on the left waiting for her time on stage.

"I love having the star role in the Musical Elf," said Justin Bloise who plays Buddy. He has many favorite songs and choreography parts in the musical, but the one above all is the "Story of Buddy." Justin's favorite scene is when his real father, Walter Hobbs, yells at him and tells him to leave his life.

Justin loves his part because he gets to sing a lot and is always on stage. Justin remarked, as he tapped and moved about, "Some of my favorite parts are singing in front of lots of people and dressing up in my one and only elf costume."

Continued on Page 15

more alive. What an introduction to the production before an actual performance. I can't believe the progress the cast made.

New Class-PBL

Continued from Page 4

the NPS School Committee, and were granted permission to pilot the class this school year. After permission was granted, we presented to parents and students who were given an opt in for this year's class."

The first project the class was doing was called "The Team Name Campaign." Students were in groups of three to five and created a survey about what the public thought a logo, slogan, and team name should have. Once each group had one hundred people take their survey they analyzed the data and used it to create a logo, name, and slogan that the general public would like.



Marsh Hickman, Anna Hudzik and Quincy Sullivan stand in front of their group's presentation.

Then, they made a poster or slide to present. One group's name, logo and slogan will be chosen to be the name of the class.

The groups all have a fair chance. The groups presented to the entire PBL class in the LGI, and each student voted.

On December 13, the class did an exhibition. The CPS cafeteria was set up like a science fair. At 6:00PM, the panel of judges came in. The judges went around to each group and listened to their campaign. Then they asked each group questions.

At 7:00PM, the doors were opened to the public. The room flooded with people the second the door was opened. Everyone who came in got a ticket. They went around and looked at everyone's campaigns. Once they had looked at them they cast a vote by putting their ticket into the container with the name of the team they thought was the best on it. One team was chosen by the judges. Which one was it?

School Lunch, From a Student's Perspective

Continued from Page 9

and young adults. Hunger is tied directly to low blood sugar which quickly leads to fatigue and low energy levels — and all wreak havoc on your ability to focus," according to Schwartzbard's article in *BetterMind.com*.

If you have 45 minutes to eat and talk with your friends, and maybe take a break from the stressful and hard assignments during the morning classes, you will be all rested up, full of food and ready for action in your classes. The 30 minute block becomes 20 minutes because you have to wait in the long lunch line.



CPS students eating their lunch in the NHS cafeteria.

Schools should extend the lunch blocks all throughout the country. Lunch should be extended to 45 minutes.

The school's lunch is so disorganized that we waste almost 15 minutes waiting in line for food. We could easily fix this problem by making multiple lunch lines and by making more places to get your food.

We should do this because some kids don't even have time to finish their food but if they start making multiple lunch lines, students will be able to finish their food and have enough time to talk with their friends. If our school does this we will have a much better lunch block. Doing this will help us have more organized lunch lines and the students will have a better lunch period.

In conclusion, if we were to make our lunch block longer and have organized lunch lines, then the students will have a happier lunch with more time to eat and chat with their friends.

The Real Question is: Should CPS have uniforms?

by Aslyn Ray

The question of whether or not we should have uniforms was going around last school year, and many many people have their opinions on wearing uniforms. There are some pros and cons about this subject.

I took some time to speak with members of our school community to get their perspective on this controversial issue. A CPS teacher, who wished to remain anonymous, states, "I think it's really cool when people wear the same thing, but look different; it shows equality and difference between people's." Many people have said the same thing and agree with what this teacher has to say.



Examples of school uniforms, courtesy of Lands' End.

One member of our school community really stood out to me by what she had to say. Mrs. Johnson, our vice principal, states: "I'm torn. I do think that uniforms will help solve and improve student behavior, but we don't have a Target, which is the main

place where families would get uniforms, which makes it difficult. I have seen that uniforms do improve student behavior, but it may not be a fix. I like how people can express themselves through clothes because being in middle school once I know what it's like.

It shouldn't be a short term thing because I don't want to have parents invest on uniforms then 2 years later it be cancelled." It would be frustrating having to spend \$100 or more on your kids uniform one year then the next year have different uniforms or no uniforms at all. In fact the uniforms at Lands End costs: \$190 for Boys pants, polo, tie, shoes, belt and blazer; \$229 for Girls skirt, polo, blazer, shoes, and belt. It is cheaper to buy a outfit at H&M because they almost cost half as less. An outfit there costs: \$78 for womens jeans, T-shirt, shoes, and bracelet; \$75 for Mens jeans, T-shirt, shoes, and belt.

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Attendance more important than grades?

by Lily Hunter

Honor roll is a system that is used to push students to the best of their ability. For many years, to get rewarded for grades at CPS. You had to have an overall average of 90% or better, and nothing lower than an 85% in any class.

The reward for having good grades was getting "The Card," which allowed students discounts to local places on the island, such as a public skate coupon at Nantucket Ice rink.

CPS no longer distributes "The Card" based on students' grades. Peter Cohen, CPS Principal, states, "We decided to take a break from honor roll while teachers are looking at own their own grading practices and trying to come up with a system for the whole school...the students didn't like how other students could get rewarded for showing up and not doing work."

Nonetheless, they did not get rid of "The Card," rather, it is now based on attendance.

To get a student's view, I interviewed Carley Hinson and

Erica Maharjan on what they think about this situation. Hinson declares her dislike for the change, as "it's not fair to people who have to travel for sports because they will never get honor roll." Maharjan agrees, because "some people miss class because they have a personal problem, and they won't get any awards based on their grades."

Both students are not very happy about how CPS got rid of the grade-based "Card". I agree that it's not that difficult to just show up to school. As well as I think that it's not a very good message to send to students that they can get rewarded for just going to school.

As you can tell students are not satisfied with the way Dr. Cohen has gotten rid of "The Card" for being based on grades.

Overall, getting rewarded for grades was a system that was used to motivate students to the best of their abilities. Now there is no longer motivation for the students in the academic fields.

See Editors' Note on Page 16

Questions Regarding the New Sixth Grade Wing: Answered

Continued from Page 4

Then after talking to Dr. Cohen I stopped by the new wing to ask Mrs. Avery, the sixth grade math teacher, what she thinks of the addition. When asked to compare her old classroom to her new one she said:

"Well, as you can see this classroom has seven whiteboards, so in math class it can be really awesome to have that many whiteboards. I also really like the new projector that we have. It's way better than the Smartboard I had last year. It works better and I can do more with it, so that's been very exciting. However, it also makes me nervous because everything is shiny and new so I feel like I have to be really careful and not make messes and scuff it up."

I noticed the chairs were new, like the ones in Mrs. Lombardi's classroom. Do all classrooms have these?

"Yes, every new classroom has the chairs with wheels which takes a little bit of getting used to. And

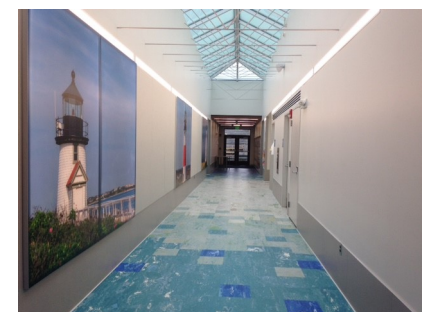
then we've got these new desks that can be configured in many different ways which also takes some getting used to."

Did you get to choose your classroom or were they chosen beforehand?

"They were chosen beforehand, but none of us have any complaints, they're all pretty much the same inside. Were just really happy to have a classroom!"

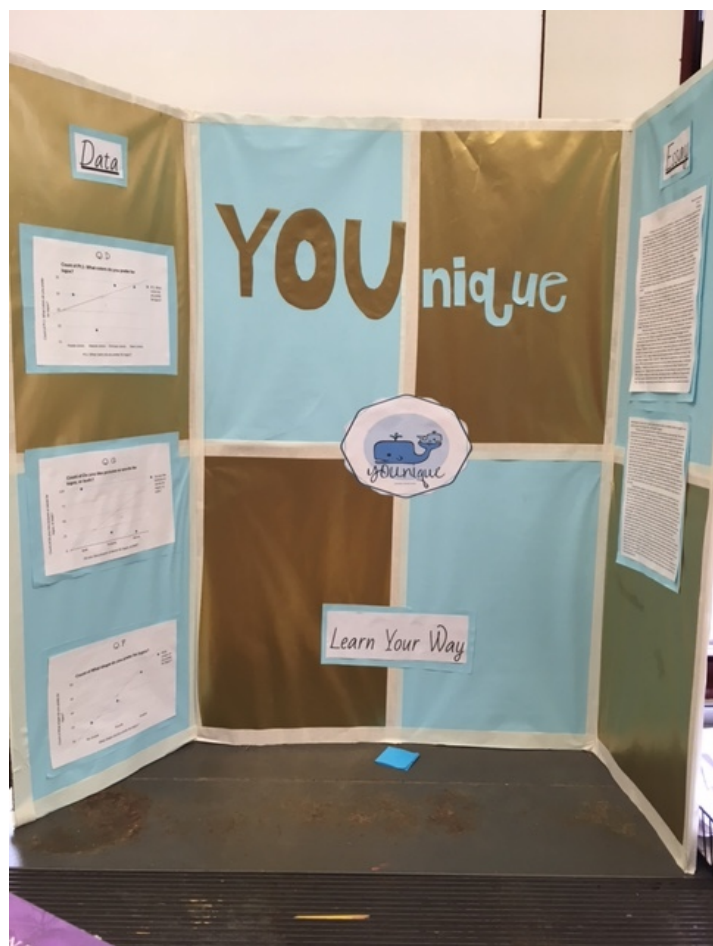
How many classrooms are in this wing?

Well six, Mrs. Mailloux was the only one that didn't move around the corner, but that's so she could have a real science lab. She's right along side her science colleagues."



The Main Hallway in the new Sixth Grade Wing

Continued on Page 12



*PBL class - the new name!
Younique's winning presentation*

New Sixth Grade Wing...

Continued from Page 11

What do you think is the reason for building the new wing?

“So we would have room for all of the students. It was really crowded. And not just here, it was crowded, as you probably remember, at NES. The elementary school is very crowded so coming up we're getting larger and larger classes. We needed the room.”

The lockers look much different than the ones from last year, what about them? “They're about the same. Unfortunately, they don't have the built in combo locks so that's been kind of an issue. Kids drop them or lose them, but we're managing.”

What do you think of the new colors and the hallways? “I like the colors in my room. I like the contrast and I like the ceiling because it muffles the noise a little bit which is nice.”

So what is your least favorite thing about the new wing? Mr. Lucas explained, “I'm so far away from my esteemed colleagues in seventh and eighth grade, but the truth is I really miss my comfy yellow chair. But it was really getting gross so it was time, I chose not to bring it with me.”

Then I asked Ian Williams, a sixth grader, what he thought of the sixth grade wing. “I think it's very nice, and it's better than the old addition that we had when we had to move from class to class, and to the auditorium and stuff like that. I like the new lockers and everything really.”

He was referring to the first few weeks of school when the wing wasn't quite finished. The sixth graders were all over the place, in the auditorium, on the stage in the LGI, and all around the school.

I asked Ian which was the nicest looking classroom? “I personally think Mrs. Beale's is

because I think it's like the largest, and sort of the best out of most of them in the new addition.”

After talking to Williams, I spoke with Mrs. Madden, the new 6th grade ELA teacher.

Considering she had seen the wing unfinished, I asked her: What does she think of the finished version?

“I think that it's beautiful. I love the way that the floors look and the counter tops. My favorite part about it is that we have five whiteboards so I can have one for each of the things I need it for, and I also can let the kids kind of have fun with one of them. I also really like the different ways I can put the chairs and the tables, and the amazing technology that we have with the hovercam and the smartboard. I just think that the space just works really nice for all the things I use it for.”

What's your least favorite thing about this wing?

“My least favorite thing? I guess there are a couple things, so the chairs were my least favorite thing at first because they are very difficult. They allow the kids to roll around a lot. Sometimes we have a lot of energetic kids, and they don't stop. Another is that we do feel sometimes that we are very secluded from the rest of the building, and I don't get to see my colleagues as much.”

The benefits? “Everything is new and clean! I love the way that the shades kind of block out the outside, but still let in light there is enough space for everybody.”

From the floor pattern to the ceiling windows that let the light in, the addition is impressive. Be sure to check the wing out if you haven't been. It is... outstanding!



One of the new classrooms located in the Sixth Grade Wing



Hallway adjoining to the main building

From Textbooks to Chrome Books

By Audrey Harrington

In the past few years, Chromebooks have been introduced to Cyrus Peirce Middle School by our principal, Dr. Cohen, so that students can have a better learning experience.

Dr. Cohen revealed, "When I got here as principal I was also in a graduate school program trying to get my graduate degree. It's about moving schools from just having computer labs to having their own computers. Once I got here we started to buy more Chromebooks because they were less expensive. At first we tried out with seventh grade team, and then the six grade team, then the whole school."

As the Chromebooks were

introduced to our school, people have had different opinions about them. I had the chance to talk to a few students as well as Dr. Cohen and ask them about their opinions on Chromebooks and how the program got started.

When Chromebooks were first introduced to both the elementary school and middle school, people were very excited to be working on something other than paper.

Recently, we have been given our own Chromebooks to keep throughout middle school and high school. Before having Chromebooks for ourselves, we had Chromebooks on portable carts that we could use.

Dr. Cohen had been looking

into getting Chromebooks for everyone. He announced, "There was already money in the budget for technology so I took a look at what we had in the budget for Chromebooks and we had enough to buy some. Now every year we

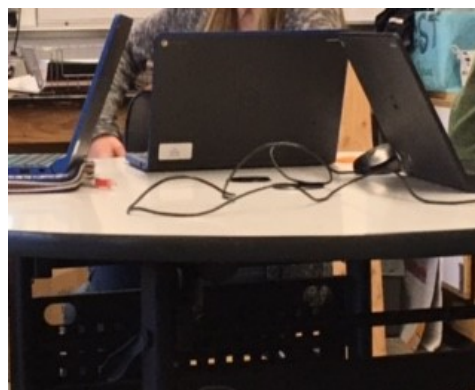


Photo by Audrey Harrington

A Common Sight in CPS:
Students working on Chrome Books

just have to buy them for sixth graders."

Dr. Cohen had been looking into getting Chromebooks for everyone. He announced, "There was already money in the budget for technology so I took a look at what we had in the budget for Chromebooks and we had enough to buy some. Now every year we just have to buy them for sixth graders."

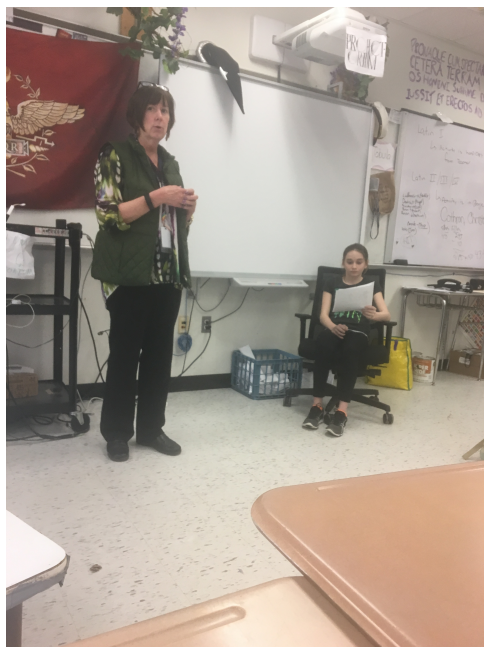
When it came to student opinions of getting their own, the thoughts differed greatly. Caroline Harding said, "I was happy because we didn't have to use the chrome books on the carts anymore, and I could take it home." *continued on page 14*

Looking For Some After School Entertainment?

By Emma Davis

Looking for some after school entertainment? If you are, one of CPS's many after school activities or clubs might just do the trick. Here at CPS, our staff has put together many different activities for anyone to enjoy. All you have to do is sign up, and of course, show up. These activities and clubs include Book Club with Mrs. Mailloux, Chess Club with Mrs. Avery, Yearbook with Mrs. Egan and Mrs. Sullivan, Y.E.L.L. with Student Council with Mrs. Coffin and many more. (Refer to the bulletin board in the seventh grade hall, or schedule below for a list of all the activities and further info)

Here are just three of the many clubs that are open to anyone. First, there is Yearbook. Yearbook meets every Monday, in Mrs. Egan's room, right after school from 2:20 to about 3:30. It is a group of people that work together to make this school year's year book. You decide how to format it, arrange pictures to fit the paper, and you can even draw designs and headings. It's also really



Mrs. Coffin, Advisor, and Sarah Hanlon, co-President, at a Student Council meeting.

fulfilling to look back in the yearbook and think, "I made this," or "I drew that." Overall, yearbook is a good club for you if you are looking to design this year's yearbook, and have fun!

Another activity that is open to everyone is Y.E.L.L. (Youth Empowered Lasting Leadership). Y.E.L.L. meets biweekly on Wednesdays, in the CPS health room/dance studio after school.

Y.E.L.L. is where students learn to become "Peer Leader" and great role models. Students hang out with other classmates, eat free pizza, and listen to our community's leaders talk about leadership. Even if you have never been a part of Y.E.L.L. before, if it sounds fun to you, you might just have to check it out.

For the last activity, there is Student Council. Student Council doesn't really have a set schedule for when and where the meetings are, but they are mostly after school. The frequency of the meetings depends on the events they have coming up, and what they need to do to plan them. School Council sounds like an awesome group to partake in, and if you are interested you should speak to Mrs. Coffin.

This group is great for anyone who wants to have a say in the choices made for our school, and make our school better. Student Council may decide on things as big as getting recycling bins for every classroom, or little things like deciding on the

theme for the next school dance. Overall, Student Council would be great to be a part of; It's always nice to have a say in something that's affecting you and your school.

After school activities aren't just for fun. They look really good on college applications, but you can also learn a lot from them. I recently interviewed some high schoolers and asked them if they did any after school activities. Most of them did, and they had some pretty interesting reasons why. First, I interviewed some cheerleaders; K'sha Bloise, Jazzmin Butler, and Bryanna Bailey. All three of them actually partake in Diversity Club. They said that they do this because it is very amusing, they learn a lot about accepting people's differences, and that it looks good on college applications.

Then, I asked Karen Murtaugh, and she is in quite a few clubs. Karen is in Veritas, Photography Club, and Spanish Club. Karen says, "It is enjoyable to partake in

Continued on Page 14

From Textbooks to Chrome Books *Continued from Page 13*

Many students were very happy about this, but some didn't care. Two other students, Amanda Mack and Reese Burns, both agree that it was interesting but they weren't too excited. "I didn't really care that much but I thought it was cool that we'd have something else to work on." Burns said. As we used them more, they sometimes got "annoying" because of all the work it took to bring them to the classes. Now that we have our own computers it is much easier for students to access them in school, and take them home.

Even though the chromebooks are easier to use now, there are still things people aren't fond of. For most people, certain websites are blocked.

It is reasonable for websites with games on them to be blocked, however, there are websites that are helpful to students that have been blocked. That is something that some students would like to change. "I would change the fact that certain things are blocked," Harding said. Students have also come to school with uncharged chromebooks, chromebooks that are on the verge of dying, and chromebooks that only work when they are plugged in. In the past, students have had problems with how sustainable the computers are. The chromebooks aren't the most sturdy and the blue lining can easily be torn off causing more damage to it. Mack and Burns both say that

sustainability is a problem and they would both change how durable they are.

Since having made the transition from paper to chromebooks, students have said that they enjoy working on the chromebooks over paper. Harding agrees, she says, "I like that it's easier to work on them. You can work at your own pace." She also says how much easier it is when students can "work at their own pace." Using chromebooks has made it easier for students to get work done, especially since if you mess up you can press delete and start all over, without pencil marks. Dr. has seen some improvements in how students are working as well, but does not think they have made a big difference.

When asked if they have made a difference he admitted, "Not yet. I think that they might someday but teachers are still getting used to how to use them and I don't think they've made a difference." It is also easier to keep things organized and write things down. Carrying chromebooks has been much easier for students because they don't have to carry around papers or books.

Continued on Page 15



Charging station for loaners.

After School... *continued from page 13*

activities outside of the classroom."

I talked to a few other high schoolers and they seemed to take part in many activities as well as enjoy them too.

Ultimately, after school activities are a great thing to be a part of, and you can be a part of them all throughout high school as well. After school activities allow you to express yourself, learn, have fun, and they look great on a college application.



Student Council meeting



Officer Thompson, YELL Advisor



Students working hard on the CPS Yearbook after school.

Maggie Sullivan, Yearbook Advisor & CPS/NHS Librarian



CPS Clubs

Club Name	Advisor	Day	Room	Time
Book Club	Mrs. Mailloux	Thursday	10	2:20pm
Chess Club	Mrs. Avery	Monday	32 (sixth grade wing)	After school until 3:30
Yearbook	Mrs. Egan & Mrs. Sullivan	Monday	Mrs. Egan's	After school until about 3:30
Surf Club	Mr. Psaradelis	Every other Thurs.	High school cafe	After school
Y.E.L.L.	Cassie Thompson, Caitlin Waddington, and Blaire Jannelle	Bi-weekly, on Wednesday	CPS health room/dance studio, plus off campus field trips	After school
Allies (Gay/Straight Alliance)	Mrs. Normand, Mrs. Kingston & Mrs. Trehwella	Every other Tuesday	10	2:30pm
Diversity Club	Mrs. Singleton, Mrs. Scarlett & Mrs. Normand	Monday	12	2:30pm
Peer Helpers	Mrs. Normand	Any	10	Both in and out of school You may attend this club by invitation
Mermaids & Mentors	Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Normand & Mrs. Reinemo	Wednesday	19	5:00pm
Student Council	Mrs. Coffin	Ongoing	Will vary	Will vary
Mathletes	Mr. Rice	Days will vary	205 (high school)	2:50
STEM	Mr. Psaradelis	Days will vary	Will vary	Will vary

... Chrome Books

continued from Page 14

Mack says, "I like that it's easier to write things down and it's not as much work to carry it around as papers or books." With all of these transitions to technology you have to wonder, if we could, would we go back to working on paper? Is it easier?

All three girls agree that working on the Chromebooks is much easier, but with certain things like math, they'd like to stick to paper.

Overall, Chromebooks have made a positive impact on how students learn, but Harding wondered what would we do if they took Chromebooks away?

To answer that, things would probably go back to the way they were before with pencils and paper. This might affect some students more than others, because using Chromebooks has been a great opportunity and there are so many different ways to learn.

She also wondered if in the future we will still be using Chromebooks.

"In the short term, yes. In the long term, I don't know," explains Dr. Cohen. "New technology comes out all the time and this is the best we can do. New companies are creating new products everyday so I'm hoping to give everyone new devices in future,"

For now, students are happy with their Chromebooks, and have adjusted to this new way of learning.

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Answer on Page 16

...Uniforms

continued from page 11



Amy McAveety, Gillian Antonietti (above), Jack Wilson and Alex Johnson (below), modeling a typical day's attire at CPS.



Amanda Mack, an 8th grader at CPS, does not think we should have uniforms. She thinks this because "...a lot of people like fashion and they spend a lot of time and money on it, and uniforms would kind of ruin that for them. Also, I personally would be more comfortable coming to school in my own clothes rather than a uniform."

Jenn Iller, a member of the School Committee, told me that they are meeting this week and that she is "positive that this upcoming meeting will be the first of many conversations surrounding this topic. We are making sure that there is a positive learning environment for the students at CPS."

Getting uniforms may be a big deal for some students. After interviewing people and doing some research, having uniforms right now is not a necessity. If CPS were to have uniforms, many students wouldn't be happy.

...Backstage Pass

continued from Page 10

Justin has been in two plays before "Elf", but this is his first time having a star role. He is so excited for the show and can't wait to see everyone in the audience. "I want to get to work and make this great," Justin said energetically.

The cast was just as prepared as Bloise. They were ready for the rehearsal, and it turned out great. Through their hard work, the entire of cast of "Elf Jr." created an extremely memorable and fun show!

Mrs. Byrne enjoyed directing the first ever Christmas themed play at CPS!

In her spare time, Byrne spends time with her son, who is also involved with plays. She has lots of experience with directing plays and this wonderful lady is the one and only Mrs. Byrne. Wow, is she amazing! Mrs. Byrne believes that emotion on stage is key!



Mrs. Laura Gallagher Byrne, Director of "Elf" and CPS Chorus & Drama Teacher



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Amy's Declassified School Survival Guide

By Amy McAveety



Dear Sixth Graders,

I know middle school might be overwhelming and stressful, but not to worry! I am here to make your middle school experience a little less worrisome. I'm Amy McAveety, an 8th grader at CPS. I'm going to be guiding you through the different types of advice I wish I had when I was experiencing my first year of middle school.

First things first, making friends. I know some people might have their "cliques" or "posses," but it doesn't hurt to talk to someone who might share the same interests as you. Don't be shy! Get to know someone new!

Coming from someone who experienced almost three whole years of middle school, it is extremely important to remember to be yourself. Do not let anyone tell you how to act or dress and DO NOT listen to the negativity.

If someone is making you sad or not being a good friend, it would be a good idea to make new friends who accept you for who you are and make you happy.

Also, do not change yourself for others! Never change yourself to fit in or be like everyone else, stand out and be unique.

Now, let's talk Instagram! An extremely important thing to remember not only in middle school, but for your entire life, always think before you say, post and/or send. Social media and texting can make it so easy these days to send something out that you don't mean, thinking it's fine or nobody will find out, but someone always does. Don't post anything you wouldn't want your principal or parent finding! Be

extremely careful with the internet, because once you post or send, there's no going back.

A great way to make friends and get involved in positive activities is sports! Sports are also a great way to stay healthy and active. CPS has a great selection of sports to choose from, such as soccer, field hockey, basketball, etc. Sports are a great way to spend your free time!

Don't ever be afraid to try something new! You've got to put yourself out there in order to find something you enjoy. If you're not happy with a certain sport you can always switch to a different one.

Last but not least, the most important part of middle school... learning! Middle school is a huge difference from elementary school. Going from staying in one class with the same kids all day long, to switching from class to class can be an overwhelming change. Trying your best to do well in school is extremely important!! Study hard and pay attention in class.

I would recommend not procrastinating, instead put school work in front of electronic time. Schedule your time, and don't get easily distracted.

Using your planner makes a huge difference! Make sure you write your homework down in your planner when it is assigned by a teacher and it makes it much easier to remember assignments and have them done/ turned in on time!

Don't stress too much about

don't do well on a test or homework assignment, it's not the end of the world! You can always try harder the next time.

One way to ensure that you won't fall behind, is X block. X block is an extra 30 minutes after school with a teacher that can really make a difference. If you're ever having trouble in class or with grades, ask for help! The teachers are here to help and guide you.

Overall, middle school isn't too bad and it holds a lot of different opportunities. So try your best, stay positive and don't stress!

-Amy McAveety



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2	6	8	5	1	9	7	4	3
4	9	3	8	7	6	5	1	2
5	7	1	2	4	3	8	6	9

Answer key for puzzle on page 15

From the Editors...

We would like to take this opportunity to mention a few things about this edition of *Whalers' Watch*.

The article "Attendance More Important Than Grades" (page 11) was written prior to the end of Trimester 1, when it was learned that CPS was going back to distributing the Card for grades.

The article "A Very Merry Backstage Pass" (page 9) was also written prior to the performances for the public.

The *Whalers' Watch* contributors would like to thank Nicole Harnishfeger, photographer for the *Inquirer & Mirror*, for taking time from her busy day to offer advice on inserting and editing photos. We hope we did a better job this time!

Our original hope was to publish this edition prior to the holiday vacation in December. Unfortunately, due to schedules and technical difficulties, it took a bit longer than expected. That being said, some of the articles may seem a bit "old news." Regardless, the students worked hard, and we hope you enjoy reading this edition!

KD Tornovich and Becky Hickman