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# POW WOW

BRENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL BRENTWOOD NY 11717 MAY 2009 VOLUME 40 ISSUE VI

## AFJROTC ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

by Dr. H. Joseph Taylor, CMSgt, USAF

AFJROTC held their 32nd Annual Awards Banquet on Friday, May 2nd at the Hyatt Windwatch Hotel in Hauppauge, NY. The banquet is a culminating event to recognize outstanding students who have made significant contributions to the program, school, and community, while maintaining academic excellence. This year marked a milestone at the banquet with the pre-recorded announcement from Principal O'Brien that the Unit had been awarded "Distinguished Unit" from Head Quar-

ters AFJROTC. Excitement filled the room as the Honor Guard ceremonially marched the Unit's guidon to the center of the banquet room, where Chief Taylor affixed the Distinguished Unit streamer to the flag. This honor was last bestowed on the Unit in 1997 and marked a new era in the Unit's long history at Brentwood High School.

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## ROTC EXTREME GAMES

by Eileen Rivera

By far one of the most successful school events of the year, The Extreme Games was definitely a night of pride and joy for ROTC. With their main objective being unity within the student body - while spicing things up with a little competition - its turnout was much more than expected. "It was actually more than I had expected it to be," Group Commander Glenda Rivas explained. "We had a great turnout from the student body and it was a wonderful night, especially for the seniors."

Seniors, juniors, and sophomores were spectators and participants of this event, under the watchful eye of several Brentwood High School faculty members, including Chief Master Sergeant

Taylor and Master Sergeant Perez. "Any money fund raised at the event will be going towards the Corps," Rivas explained. "Any field trips or upcoming events hosted by the Corps will be benefited by the money raised at the Extreme Games."

The Extreme Games took place on March 30th in the Sonderling gym. It was a very competitive night for Brentwood High School's sports-oriented students. Not only did this night become one to remember, it also brought the student body together, promoting good teamwork and school spirit.

The winners were the following: Senior Jonathan Khoury came in 1st place, Junior Michael Venegas came in 2nd,

and Sophomore Amanda Sanchez came in 3rd. Although this event was expected to be just like any other ordinary "time of play," by the end of the night, all participants left content.

Future events are being organized and planned for the rest of the school year: The Spring Fling Dance, which will be held in June, (announcements on the exact date will be made) and the Keep Islip Clean program to clean both streets in front of Ross and Sonderling Centers in May.

Congratulations to all of the participants and volunteer staff on the night of the Extreme Games. Kudos to the ROTC leaders, as well as their cadets, for making this event a successful and an unforgettable one!



The Pow Wow has an EMAIL!!!!  
Write to [powwow@bufsd.org](mailto:powwow@bufsd.org) with comments, ads, contributions, or announcements!



# Pow Wow

## BRENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Brentwood, NY 11717  
Volume 40 Issue VI  
May 2009

# The Last (Regular) Issue of the Year

Dear Fellow Students at Brentwood High School:

Yeah, so basically, this school year is over. As of right now we're in the middle of AP exams and Regents prep. Those taking the AP exams, try not to pull your hair out! In a few days it will be all over, and we can finally enjoy our school year. (Just hoping summer comes FAST!!)

Shout-outs to all the seniors! You all have worked harder than you've ever worked before (or maybe not!). Now you're on to bigger and better things. All you have to remember is to keep smiling and remember the friends and family you have to support you (we are included in that group of friends and family!).

Juniors, just one more year to go! You can do it! This next year is going to be FANTASTIC! Some of us on the PowWow staff will be there with you to enjoy the best year ever! Sophomores, you have a few years, but you can at least find your way around the school without being ten minutes late to class :)! Be sure to help out your freshman-going-on-sophomore friends!

So, how about those geese? Those little goslings are the cutest things we have ever seen! They are in the Ross courtyard, under the careful watch of their goose parents (along with several teachers and passing students). We included a picture to show you just how adorable they are.

Let us end with the message we always give you: Keep smiling, and keep dreaming big. We will always be here for you (well, at least until we graduate!).

*Your Editors-in-Chief,  
Denise Rivera and Elisabeth Scheffel*



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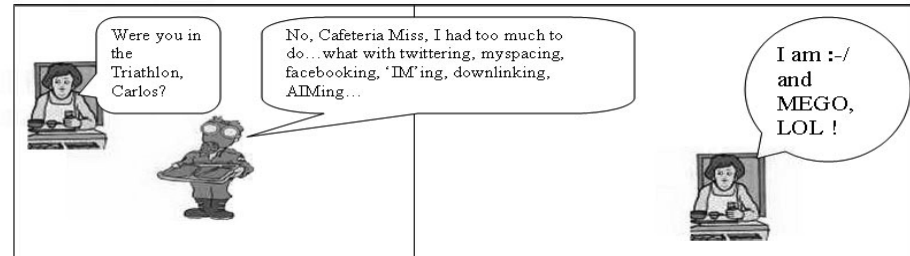
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### Cafeteria Cartos



## ATTENTION ALL LOYAL POW WOW READERS:

The Pow Wow is always looking for dedicated members! All are welcome to join and voice their ideas. We are looking for individuals interested in the layout process, poets, reporters, cartoonists, and anyone else who wants to contribute school news or views. We meet every Monday in room 1402 - the Sonderling Computer Lab!

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## Know When Your Computer is

### Sick

by Elisabeth Scheffel

On April 1, 2009, a virus was launched in order to gain control of all Windows XP and Windows Vista computers. The creator, or creators, is unknown, but the Conficker virus targeted 10 million computers.

The Conficker virus was first discovered in October 2008. It is also referred to as "Downadup" or "Kido". This computer disease has found many ways to attack computers. Any link or downloadable application could contain the disgusting worm.

Elinor Mills wrote an article about the fake antivirus software. A program called "Spyware Protect 2009," which contains the Conficker virus, promises to clean up the computer for \$49.95. According to an article by Natalie Weinstein, the virus attacked more than 700 computers at the University of Utah. Your computer could be next!

There are several ways to tell if someone has the Conficker virus on his or her computer. First of all, he would not be able to access the Microsoft website or any anti-virus website, but will be able to access any other website. There is an eye chart on the following website: [http://www.confickerworkinggroup.org/infection\\_test/cfeyechart.html](http://www.confickerworkinggroup.org/infection_test/cfeyechart.html). This website has information about how to tell if the computer has a Conficker virus and how to get rid of it.

To avoid this deadly virus, update your antivirus programs periodically. Do not click on any links from unknown senders. Do not download any unknown applications. Most importantly, do NOT install "Spyware Protect 2009." Using these safety precautions can protect your computer as well as your friend's computers.

## Computer School?

by Eileen Rivera

The majority of our Brentwood educators have been using the school computers more than usual. They may be using a new program not only to take attendance, but it could also be used to track down the students of Brentwood High School. This may seem like some really bad news for those "unknown" cutters lingering around Brentwood High School.

This so-called tracker is also known as E-school. The program, which has been installed on all computers since February 2009, will soon become the sole operating system for Brentwood programming, attendance, and staff. It is used for

taking attendance, reporting grades, programming classes, recording transcripts and generating labels. It is also used by administrators for discipline issues or problems.

So far, the only main issue that the program has encountered is the customization of it all. Computer Consultant, Mrs. Trish Brockbank, believes that this is due to the length of time it takes for school's customization process. Only time will tell whether the benefits of this program will outweigh the negatives in the future.

"The potential is that it will give us information immediately so we can locate students when

we need them. We will also be able to know more about the student immediately through the immediate access to information." Ms. Brockbank thinks that the program has yet to meet the expectations many staff members had for it, but believes it will be successful.

"Those who are comfortable with the technology adjust much better. Those who are not are still struggling a little. Eventually, everyone will be on the same page and the system will hopefully run smoothly." Of course, as with every change, patience is a virtue. Time will tell whether the potential of the program, will meet reality.

## The French Club's Bon Voyage

by Kendra Cornejo



a delicious lunch at the Manhattan French restaurant, Pigalle, on Saturday, April 25.

The museum was so much fun! Some of the celebrity poses were outrageous! There were many wax figures, ranging from the Beatles to Miley Cyrus. Anyone who has been there knows how real some of the figures look. There was a wax figure of a woman taking a picture,



and some people actually stopped to see if she was real! There was also a wax figure of President Barack Obama, but anyone who wanted to take a picture with him had to pay

a fee. People also wanted to take a picture with the famous Jonas Brothers.



Madame Tussaud's also offers a 4-D show. This show is similar to a 3-D show, but it allows the audience to feel and smell everything that the characters are experiencing. The show was cute; it definitely left a smile on everyone's face. The French restaurant, known as Pigalle, was only a couple of blocks away from the museum. According to Madame Savage, the menu had many typical French dishes.

French people eat more than snails! The fact remains that different does not make it disgusting. The food was very exquisite.

It's safe to say, the trip was a lot of fun! Trying new things is what the French Club is all about. Anyone interested in learning about a rich culture should join the French Club. It is open to everyone, and not just French speakers.



Bonjour! Has anyone heard about the amazing Cercle Français (the French Club) at Brentwood High School? Aside from throwing delicious crêpe parties, watching cool movies, and learning new things, the French Club also goes on field trips. This year, Madame Herbs organized a trip to Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum, and, with the help of Madame Savage, they were able to treat the club to

## Financial Aid 101

by Denise Rivera

Before you decide to turn the page, you should think about the importance of learning more about financial aid. We have all heard about it and it is a favorite topic for guidance counselors who insist we apply. Being aware isn't enough, it never hurts to find out more.

Financial aid provides college-bound students with financial assistance that makes higher education financially possible. More than \$143 billion is available. How does the money get distributed? It is determined by the federal government or individual colleges/universities. The federal government and financial aid offices of colleges use formulas that analyze your family's financial circumstances, such as income, assets, and family size, and compare them proportionally with other families' financial circumstances and the cost of tuition. If you know that you have a high income, that doesn't mean you are overqualified. College financial aid administrators often take into account not only income, but also other expenses such as family members in college, medical expenses, and other factors.

There are four main types of financial aid that are offered: grants, scholarships, loans, and work study. If you are awarded a grant and/or scholarship, that means that you don't have to worry about paying it back; the money is all yours. You must pay back loans with interest, but the majority of them give you the option to pay them back after you graduate from college. Work aid is a federal program that provides students with part-time employment or work-study programs to help meet their financial needs and gives them work experience while serving their campuses and surrounding communities. They finance their education while continuing their education. They don't require repayment, as you are working for the money, but you must be somebody who can balance your time and not procrastinate in your studies.

During your senior year of high school, guidance counselors will not only help you with college applications, but also advise you to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application form. You can begin on January 1st and the deadline varies depending on

for which financial aid you apply. If you apply for State Student Financial Aid, the deadline was May 10th this year. If you apply for Federal State Student Financial Aid, it is from June to July. It is strongly recommended that you look at your college's financial aid calendar in order to see their deadlines in applying for aid.

Unfortunately, we are still overcoming a critical recession in the United States. Loan programs such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have already declared bankruptcy. Between the recession and the rising cost of college, more families than ever are filing the forms this year. As of February 15, the Department of Education had already received 2,213,408 forms. That is 20% more than those who applied last year. However, college-bound students aren't the only ones who are facing these kinds of problems. Colleges are raising their tuition and cutting down their budgets. Recently, The University of Cincinnati wiped out scholarships for three men's sports: track, cross-country and swimming. Stanford University eradicated its fencing team, the University of Massachusetts

dropped its ski teams, and Kutztown University eliminated its men's soccer and swimming teams.

Not all is lost just yet. President Obama plans to create a new American Opportunity Tax Credit worth \$4,000, in exchange for community service. It will cover two-thirds of the cost of tuition at the average public college or university and make community college tuition completely free for most students. President Obama's plan will simplify the financial aid process by eliminating the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and its complicated calculations; aid will be based on a much simpler, yet equally accurate formula so that students can predict their eligibility well in advance. Hopefully, once these reforms take place, paying for education won't be an insurmountable obstacle.

**For more info on financial aid:**  
<http://www.collegeboard.com>  
<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>

# Brentwood's First Annual Triathlon

## 30 STUDENTS PARTICIPATED!!

**12th graders**  
 Jocelyn Torres  
 Bryan Rodriguez  
 Xiomara Moran- *1st female in 12th*  
 Santiago Valero- *2nd overall finisher! 1st male in 12th*  
 Edward Valle  
 Samatha Rubi  
 Kwami Badu  
 Andres Martine

**11th graders**  
 Kerri Murray- *1st female in 11th*  
 Steven Marino- *1st male in 11th*  
 Ashley Martinez  
 Melani Lewis  
 Lisa Quinn

**10th graders**  
 Michele Rueb  
 Catherine Cubias- *1st female in 10th*  
 Saul Eucedo- *1st male in 10th*



## ROTC Banquet (cont'd from front cover)

The excitement of the evening was far from over with a second pre-recorded announcement from Mr. O'Brien that TSgt (Sarge) Arthur Burgess had been awarded "Outstanding AFJROTC Instructor of the Year" from Head Quarters AFJROTC. A total of 1,900 instructors are eligible to compete for this award. Nominations are thoroughly reviewed and rated by a three-member board consisting of two Head Quarter Officers and

one Non-Commissioned Officer. Winners are determined based on the "whole person" concept rating to include the Senior Aerospace Science Instructors comments on the nominee's annual evaluation, and the accomplishment of the Unit's Goals. Mr. George Talley, the President of the Board of Education presented the award to TSgt Burgess among a standing ovation of cheering students and parents that rushed to the center of the banquet

room to engulf TSgt Burgess in a mob of adulation.

The formal portion of the Banquet concluded with the graduating seniors induction into the elite group of AFJROTC Alumni by pledging their continued commitment towards the success of the program, and to adhering to the time tested and honored values of the corps.



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# Heard In The Halls

by Maria Sgroi

## IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT BRENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL WHAT WOULD IT BE?



Name: Anya Beharry  
Grade: 11th

*"One thing that I would change would be the school events. I would like more school events to go on as planned rather than having them cancelled."*



Name: Carolyn Martinez  
Grade: 12th

*"I think it would be the attendance policy. Teachers shouldn't have to worry about the kids that don't want to be in class."*



Name: Monique Alfonzo  
Grade: 10th

*"I would want cell phones in the hallway, lunch, and study hall. I mean, why can't we have that?"*



Name: Allie Archaga  
Grade: 11th

*"I would make the school an open campus. Kids leave as it is anyway and making it an open campus would at least warn parents."*



Name: Michael Yannetti  
Grade: 12th

*"Less students in the halls and wider hall ways. They should also emphasize how you need to apply to college a lot sooner."*

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT BEING A BRENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT?



Name: Christine Cabrera  
Grade: 11th

*"I enjoy most of the interesting teachers. The teachers I have actually take time to make sure I can do the material, while being strict yet fun."*



Name: Jennifer Iraheta  
Grade: 12th

*"The diversity. Everyone is different, but in some ways, we all share similarities."*



Name: Ashley Dunn  
Grade: 12th

*"As a Brentwood High School student, I grew up well-rounded. Although there are some issues like ignorance, there is a lot more good than bad in Brentwood."*



Name : Bessy Rios  
Grade: 10th

*"Brentwood High School gives you more opportunities to do what you want and they have a lot of programs."*



Name: Kevin Amaya  
Grade: 10th

*"My favorite part of being a Brentwood High School student is being part of a very diverse community who will accept me for who I am."*

# AP Drawing: Art Stars



Artist: Juan Sigcha



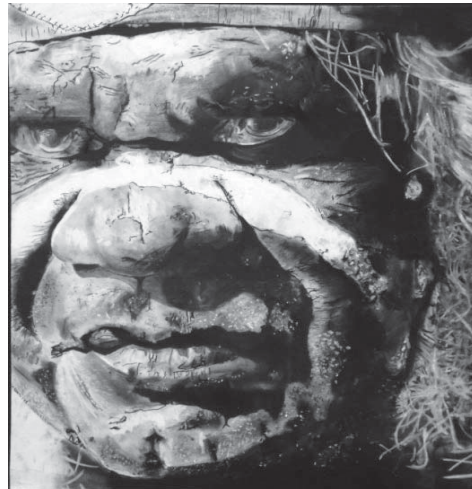
Artist: Adrianna Tibke



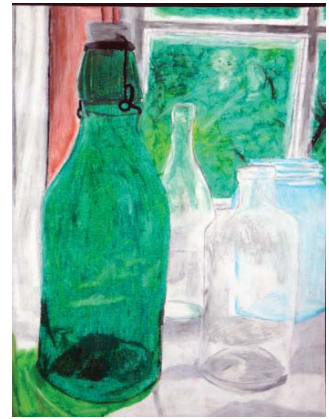
Artist: Nicole Boylan



Artist: Bryan Henry



Artist: Denzel Daniels



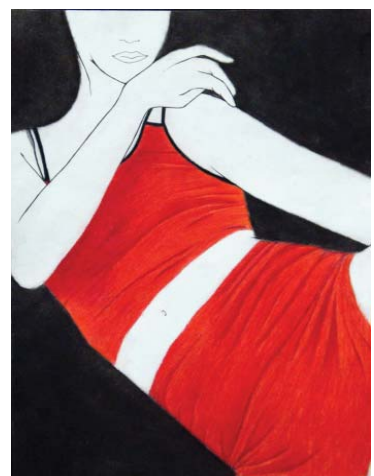
Artist: Cynthia Casas



Artist: Yvonne Perez



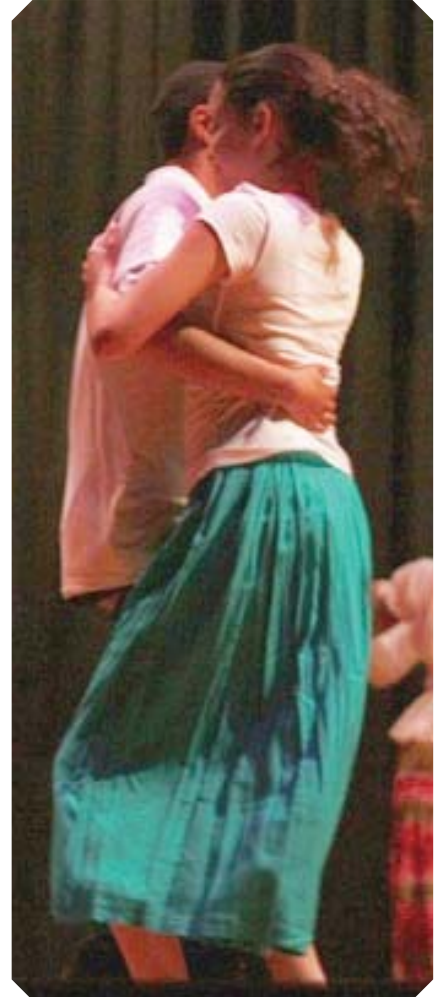
Artist: Jose Zelaya



Artist: Maggie Nguyen

# International Night!

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# TUFF N' Catted

by Esther Defournoy



Because I am a simple person I thought I'd keep it simple this time and I thought it would be fun to make up a poem for spring fashion on the spot...

Spring Spring Spring  
I'm not stressed out about this fashion thing  
because I know what's in store  
nice patterns, gorgeous accessories and flowing material galore.  
So if you're out there feeling like "wow these boots aren't nice  
dress the outfit up with some stylish ice."



days cute, colorful, rain boots and a light fun jacket with a layered tank underneath.  
CATTED: Chinese slippers that are like from 8th grade that are white but actually yellow..... that's gross. Or a wrinkly sun dress or nasty wood earrings... this isn't pulling off an earthy look; it's scary.



The Cool & Casual Look is all about being cool, confident, and effortlessly stylish. The key to achieving this easy-going look is to choose items that have a vintage feel to them and layer them.

TUFF: Try something like a layered shirt with khaki pants or male capris, only if it flatters you.  
CATTED: High water jeans. Dickies's shorts and pants or unnecessary sunglasses that have a PH on the side that stands for "Phrada," which by the way is a bootlegged version of Prada. Vans are fun, too.

Wow, that wasn't hard. With spring in our hearts, we're off to a brand new start - ooh. I'm on a roll (snort)!

Get in touch with earth. This spring, open up your inner girly-girl with some feminine fashions. This look is all about feminine patterns, sunny colors, and earth tones.

TUFF: Nice flowing gowns with a pair of cute sandals like gladiator, or for rainy

## MOVIE REVIEW

by Gilberto Martinez

### Dragonball: Evolution



Remember back in the early 2000's when the Cartoon Network aired that show with the golden haired, giant monkey and the famous Kamehameha? Well, it finally takes a step into the big screen, and there's one word that describes it all: insipid.

Dragonball: Evolution is a badly written film with horrible dialogue, lackluster action, and a sense of fun that is nowhere to be found. The advertisement gives a feeling of excitement and evokes memories of the time when one wishes he or she was capable of becoming a Super Saiyan.

The film follows a boy name Goku (Justin Chatwin), who carries his grandfather's dying request to find Master Roshi (Chow Yun-Fat), and locate all seven of the powerful Dragon Balls before the evil Lord Piccolo (James Marster), does whose intentions are to use them

to take over the world.

The problem with the film, however, is the script. First off, the dialogue was unbelievably bad in this movie. Near the beginning of the movie, Goku is training to fight by his grandpa while balancing on two ropes. The back and forth exchange of dialogue is the director's attempt to sound cool, but the actors delivered it so poorly that it's cheesy and downright "corny".

Dragon Ball Evolution would better off considered as a Disney movie. The original series were well known for their fast pace violence, something Disney would never let slide. So if you're into Disney and looking for a movie that's nothing, but awkward, this movie is for you. As for the fans who remember other characters such as Trunks, Brolly and even The Nimbus, stay as far away from this movie as possible and unbelievably Dragon Ball: Evolution is just one movie, out of three.

### Street Fighter: Legend of Chun Li

This movie is NOT an "all action, no plot" kind of movie. Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun Li is an action/adventure flick about a young girl named Chun Li (Kristin Kreuk), who practices Chopin in the morning and gets Wu Shu lessons from her father (Edmund Chen) in the afternoon.

One tragic evening, a group of thugs abducted Mr. Li. Chun Li was too small to fight the intruders. All she could do was watch as her father was dragged into a car and driven right out of her life.

This movie is based on the famous video game "Street Fighter," that was first released on August 30, 1987. This isn't the first Street Fighter live action movie. The first "Street Fighter" movie was released in 1994. It wasn't anything special, besides the fact that it was the first live, action, street fighter film. The Legend of Chun Li takes an approach that is more modern, incorporating weapons, the use of never before seen technology, but still manages to have somewhat decent fighting scenes. The movie focuses more on the plot than action. If you're a die hard fan, this movie wouldn't before you. There is no Ken, Ryu or Hadouken in the film.

Unfortunately, the movie is nothing special, but let's hope the next live action Street Fighter film is something worth waiting for.



## TWITTER ME TIMBERS

by Gilberto Martinez

It's seems like getting in contact with anyone, anywhere, keeps getting easier and easier. We have new cell phones with the latest technology, computers that can manage an entire house, and then there are online communities. These massive societies are where the big money is. Advertising companies pay huge amounts of money, just so they can put their logo on to the website. Online societies such as MySpace and Facebook, and other communities that are less commercialized such as Tagged and HiFive, are all competing against each other in order to be considered the best. There's another online society on the race to become the best, Twitter.



ReadThePow Wow  
less than 5 seconds ago from web

Twitter is a free social networking that enables users to "follow" certain people, such as friends, musicians and politicians. Twitter also introduces micro-blogging; this service enables its users to send and read other users' updates known as tweets. Tweets are text-based posts of up to 140 characters in length which are displayed on the user's profile page and delivered to other users who have subscribed to them, known as followers. Senders can restrict delivery to those in their circle of friends or by default allow anybody to access them. Users can send and receive tweets via the Twitter website, Short Message Service (SMS), or other applications such as those on the Iphone or the T-mobile G1. The service is free to use over the Internet, but using SMS may incur phone service provider fees.

If you are already a user of MySpace, Facebook, or Twitter then you are well aware of cyber-stalking. Twitter has a feature called "Find People," from there you are capable of finding anyone on Twitter. By simply typing a word, you are able to find everyone with a certain word on their profile on Twitter. Twitter also has a feature that enables the user to block their profile from strangers and allow a circle of friends to view they're tweets.

The websites offer a lot for the people who want to be in contact with old friends, and offers a lot more for people who want to make new friends, and is often one of the best places to keep up with your favorite musicians. Overall, Twitter at least answers the common and mundane question "What are you doing?" - even when you don't really want to know!

# The Future Is Here

by Cleona Smith

When you think of the future, what comes to mind? Flying cars, aliens, us inhabiting other planets? That future sounds like a plot from a crappy sci-fi made for TV movie. I doubt that in five-years we will be having McDonalds with extraterrestrials from mars, and I'm pretty sure that we won't be taking field trips to the planet Zee-nu. So what is there really in the future to look forward to?

What about Robots? Yes, walking, talking, thinking, feeling Robots. Robots that look so realistic that you would think they were human, too. I know you feel as if I'm describing something completely impossible but in actuality this is very much possible (at least to Japanese scientists). This is the immediate future, not flying cars, not aliens, but robots. Japan has always had a love affair with these mechanical creatures, it's a love affair that has been going on for over 300 years. So of course Japan would be the first country to take such a huge technological leap. They already have "uber" cell phones and fashion that's ahead of the world by four years, now this? I'm a huge fan of all of this and I guess robots will be another thing that Japan does better than every other country. I already stated that they don't fear robots. I guess I forgot to mention



walking, glaring, pretty kind that starve themselves for fashion. Well, I am proud to say that women can finally

that in Japan they really don't fear making Robots one with their society, after all they do have robots working in factories, hospitals and offices (didn't know that, did you?). So what more could they possibly want.

How about models? Yes models, the

eat because Robots will soon take their jobs. Introducing HRP-4C, the 5ft tall, 98-pound, robotic model. She has a face of a girl that you would see in anime (Japanese cartoon), big eyes that seem innocent, and a smile that seems sincere. If you didn't know any better you would swear she was a girl pretending to be mechanical but no, she's mechanical pretending to be human. If you think that is weird, then you just might scream with shock at the robot baby who can actually feel, talk, and walk if asked to. He goes by the name of CB2. He was made by Japanese scientists Minoru Asada and Hiroshi Ishiguro. He is the future of androids (more human like robots). He has the mental capacity of a 2-year-old, and he can even learn (I guess babies will become obsolete). I wonder if Japan will ever calm down on their full blown obsession with Robots. It's on thing to make robots for entertainment purposes, but it's another thing to want to assimilate them into society. There are many people who are frightened by the fact that one day robots will be more than just machines. After all who wants the plot of IRobot and the Matrix becoming a reality?

# Prom 2009...A Night To Remember

by Wendy Melendez

This is the night to go out, party with your friends, a night to enjoy and have fun. Prom will be one of the most memorable nights in your life. With such a great night, comes great responsibilities. Yet some people act irresponsible on this night and take actions that they will later regret. It all starts with a formal school dance in an elegant hotel. Everyone dresses up in fancy attire and approach the hotel in big party buses, limousines, or nice cars. Once they arrive to the hotel, they are to present their ticket and identification, then they have a whole night to enjoy the music played, the food served, and most importantly the company of their fellow classmates. This sounds fun and safe, but some students use this night to act irresponsible and foolish.

Prom is one of the nights that most underage drinking occurs. Although some students may not be driving on this night because of the vehicle they have rented, it is still not right. It is not only illegal to drink and drive but it is also illegal for adolescents younger than the age of 21 to consume any alcoholic beverage; most people seem to underestimate this law. Drinking is not the only temptation a person will be facing this night. The use of illegal drugs is another major factor that causes regret for some students. With the availability of these illegal substances, teenagers may have a change of character. These changes may not always be fun. Some people act violent under the use of illegal substances. Someone who is naturally calm on a normal basis may be the person who will start problems on this night. Prom night is an event where there are more possibilities for violence to occur because people are in a more chaotic atmosphere where anything unexpected can happen, but it doesn't have to be.

Another thing that can happen on prom night is that you are left behind. You should stay within the group of people you are with the whole night. If, for some reason, not everyone wants to go to the same place after prom, then you should always keep in mind that you should not go any place on your own. Always be with a crowd of people



you know. Do not speak to people you do not know because people can interpret actions differently. If you decide to go on your own to a place with a few people, then everyone should have a place and time to meet up.

Besides from getting lost, you can always lose your things. If you do not want to lose things then you have to keep a good eye on your items or ask someone to look after your things. However, the best bet is to take care of your own things because people cannot be looking out for other people's belongings. A thing that ladies can do is carry around a clutch, small hand bag, or wristlet, this way you can carry it around no matter what you are doing. In these bags, it would be good not to carry around things that are of too much value. This is another reason why these bags are also good because it only fits your necessities like a debit card, prom ticket, identification, band-aids, tide to go, and a hair tie.

A necessity to bring along is a debit card instead of cash because it is a lot easier to handle and keep track of. Band aids, because those cute stylish shoes you will wear are bound to end up hurting by the end of the night. Identification so if for some reason you lose your handbag and someone finds it, they will know whom they can return it to. Another good precaution to take this night is not to drink anything that is not sealed. Anyone can do anything to an open drink, it is better to be safe than sorry. If you leave your open drink out and come back, it is better to spend a few dollars and just buy a new drink.

Let's always keep in mind that prom is your special night. It is the night to celebrate the success of your High School education with your fellow classmates. This is the last chance to act like a high school student before stepping out into the real world. Class of '09, let's not take advantage of this night but act responsible, make the best of it, and enjoy the night.

# Milkin' Them Dry

by Cleona Smith

When it comes to Disney, they like to milk their artists dry for all they're worth. There sadly have only been a few artists who have stopped it from happening or escaped it all together. Those few stand bright in Hollywood, their Disney experiences remaining very much a part of the past.

So what about the ones who don't escape, what happens to them? They unfortunately get milked dry of any bit of talent that they might possess. It happened to the Cheetah Girls, it happened to some of the cast of High School Musical. I bet you're wondering, where are they now? Well their singing and dancing their little hearts out to only a tune that Father Disney would know. I wonder who will follow in their footsteps? How about Hannah Montana? It's just a matter of time before the easily impressionable youth of today realize the lack of musical talent that she possesses. When will that time come?

Now who else could possibly be on the future chopping block of Disney kids who get thrown away like yesterday's trash, maybe The Jonas Brothers? After all they do fit the criteria. They are popular right now, everyone knows who they are, people seem to talk about them too much. With this high amount of

popularity, too much exposure sometimes can be a bad thing. Sadly, no one told them this because they decided to have their own show. Instead of starting a show and launching a music career, they decided to launch a music career and then get a TV show.

What can we expect from this? More exposure time, more merchandise, just straight up more talk of the Jonas brothers. What does this mean? Well it means more jokes at their expense and more people (like myself) insulting them for more than just their lack of musical ability. Now people can insult them for their lack of acting and how awkward they appear in front of the camera.

I wonder how long it will take Disney to realize that the easiest way for people to get tired of something is to give it to them over and over and over again. People want variety, people want to see something they have never seen before. Who knows, maybe one day Father Disney will produce a singer or actress who actually knows how to sing or act... wait that's too much wishful thinking. Maybe someone who can hold a note will do just fine. Until then we are stuck with Hannah Montana and the Jonas Brothers. I wonder when their spot light's bulb with go out? Only time and repetition will tell.



# SPORTS



## COACHES OF THE YEAR



Often, successful high school sports are identified by the success of hardworking teams. However, behind every successful team are passionate and hard working coaches. This year, Brentwood High School has been recognized for two of these coaches, Anthony Jimenez, of the boys varsity basketball team and Christine Riggio, of the girls varsity basketball team.

When asked how he expects to be treated as a coach he responded, "I feel that if you are honest with your players and demand the best from them, they will respect you as a person and as a coach." In turn, he states, "I believe I treat my players fairly. They may not always hear what they want to hear, but

they know I am going to be honest with them." This is the attitude that has secured Jimenez' title as Coach of the Year for 4 different years; 2004, 2005, 2008, and 2009.

Mr. Jimenez has been a coach for Brentwood High School for 13 years. However, many do not know that other than basketball, he was a coach for JV lacrosse for a year in the spring of 1998. His experiences as a coach have introduced him to a number of notable players. Although Jimenez looks for different qualities in every team player, he ultimately states, "I look for kids who have character."

Mr. Jimenez's success as a coach has been partially a result of the many coaches he has learned from. However, he states that it has been the coaches he spends his days with here, that have benefited him the most. He adds, "The Brentwood basketball program has had great coaches and their knowledge and work ethic has had the greatest impact on me."

One of these coaches is Brentwood's very own Christine Riggio, the second recipient of the "Coach of the Year" recognition. Riggio has been a coach of BHS basketball for 8 years, two of which she spent coaching middle school basketball. Other than basketball, she has also coached JV soccer for 4 years (2002-2005) and girls middle school track for 3 years (2003-2005).

She believes that it is dedication to your team and sport, hard work, discipline but most of all respect, that makes an accomplished coach. In turn, she expects to be treated with the utmost respect. However, she also believes that it is important to treat others the way you want to be treated. In this way, she crosses the barrier of just coach to mentor and friend to students and players alike.

In regards to her relationship with her team, she states, "I am a very caring person and treat my players as one of my own, each one of them is very special to me." This, and her demonstration of leadership, have been contributing factors to the recognition of excellence she has received in coaching the girls varsity basketball team.

Much like her fellow recipient, other high school coaches have motivated Riggio. When asked if there was a specific coach in either high school or college that has had the most impact on her, she answered, "Yes, Coach Harrison. He has been like a mentor for me; he has taught me so much about the game of basketball and about myself as a coach."



## Girls Lacrosse: Ready for the Challenge!

by Joan De Jesus

High school sports comprise a wide array of competitive teams that spend the entire year preparing them for success. However, oftentimes certain sports are overlooked, left in the shadow of more "popular" sports that are equally as challenging both physically and mentally. One such team is Brentwood's Girls Lacrosse.

They are a division I team and Coach Piropato is very passionate about her players and the sport. Each year the girl's lacrosse team works harder, practices harder, and plays harder. This is reflected in the team's overall performance in that each year the team shows more effort and gets better. This year with more seniors leaving and new players taking their place, the girls are ready for the challenge. Their overall goal is to "enter a game and be competitive from the first whistle to the horn at the end of the game."

The girls on the team are known for endurance and their comebacks within minutes of the game's end. During their game against Walt Whitman they were down 8-2 with 8 minutes in the first half and came back scoring five goals before half-time. Although they lost 19-14, the team played at their highest level, the coach remarked



"It was the best we've seen them play." According to Piropato schools like Copiague, Middle Country, Longwood and Patchogue/Medford are their biggest competition. One of these teams, Copiague, played the girls team Saturday, March 25 in an intense game. The end score was 14-5, an easy Brentwood victory.

Wendy Melendez, low defense, states that this season will be different from previous seasons because "we go over new plays and the team is self-motivated and determined to play to the best of our ability."

Ultimately, the team's success can be traced back to Ms. Piropato. She says, "Lacrosse has brought so much joy to my life as a coach - to watch each individual player get better each day makes me feel like I've been successful no matter what the final record is." This attitude, along with countless hours of hard work and dedication, has allowed the team to improve progressively.

This year with a new surge of competitive teammates and early victories, the girls lacrosse team is determined to advance in their division while making Brentwood athletics proud. So far, they have already beaten teams like Copiague and Longwood. Go out and support the girl's lacrosse team at their last game versus Lindenhurst on May 19th!

## The Fight 'til the End!!

by Wendy Melendez

The boys lacrosse team has been preparing for this year's lacrosse season since winter, when they began intramurals. The hard work they put in shows how dedicated the teammates were and how much they were anticipating the season. The boys did most of their conditioning a week before the other spring sports began. By the time the season started, they were in shape and ready to go through plays, practice their stick work, and get used to playing with each other again.

This year the boys lacrosse team is coached by returning head coach Rotella. Erick Pacheco, Eddie Watson, Steve Calitson, Saul Vasquez, Dave Azmati, and Bryant Blake will be the returning players this year. Coach Rotella expects to have a team that works hard; plays all four quarters, and one that does not give up. Rotella's goal to reach is to make the playoffs this year. This goal can only be reached if Brentwood wins eight games. Coach Rotella does not choose specific captains to lead the game, instead he allows the seniors to lead the team.

Brentwood has played East Islip, Walt Whitman, Longwood, Hempstead, Northport, Southampton, and Greenport/ Southold/ Mattituck. Brentwood won their first two games against Greenport and Southampton. By the end



of the game Brentwood defeated Greenport with a final score of 10-8. Against Southampton, Brentwood also scored 10 goals and Southampton only scored 2 goals. Brentwood has been working hard, and once again they had another win and hopefully will win 8 games so that they will make it to the finals.

During one of Brentwood's closes games against Longwood, goalie Steve Calisto had 15 saves, Vaughn Sams scored 4 goals, Ed Watson, Erick Pacheco, and Mike Vanegas scored 2 goals each, Portal scored 1 goal, and Tom Rivers and Saul Vasquez scored 1 goal each. Although Brentwood tried hard, unfortunately, they did not have the win. Longwood was able to score 2 more goals making the final score 15-13. Within the last few games Brentwood has lost to teams like Half Hollow Hill 13-1, Walt Whitman 15-3, and East Islip 19-2. The closest game Brentwood has had was against North Babylon when they ended the game with the score of 9-6. Brentwood boys played their last game on May 9th against Sachem North, but Brentwood ended the season on a low note as they lost that game by with the final score 16-1. They finished the season with a record of 2-12 yet feel accomplished in their hard work and effort and look forward to future seasons as they learn and grow as a program.

# SPORTS



## Softball's Season of Success

by Maria Sgroi

The girls varsity softball team has been practicing and dedicating their time in order to achieve success. This hard work has definitely benefited them. As a result, they have a 13-3 record and have had a lot of success. There are three new varsity players this season, Brianna Harris, Ashley Garrett, and Larissa Torres. Ashley Garrett, a junior at BHS, states: "My responsibilities [as a softball player] are to be hardworking, come to practices and games, be motivated, stay focused when it's needed, be a team player, strive for the best, come prepared, make sure your academic goals are always high, stay in shape so you have room for improvement and of course, have fun doing it."

Our varsity softball team's biggest threat in the league is Ward Melville, and in the county, Bay Shore and West Babylon. This is the sixth year for the head coach, Brian Lynch, and the second year for assistant coach Joe LaCova. Coach LaCova tells his team to: "Stay focused and hungry. Play hard all the time, and don't take any team too lightly." Cynthia Casas, a senior at BHS, has played varsity softball for 3 years and states, "When you feel the team become one in a game, you cheer

and meet at home plate as the winning run crosses," which is her favorite part about being involved with softball. Nicole Flint, a BHS senior, pitched her 500th strike out vs. Bayshore for the first time in Brentwood history!

This year's softball team's goal is to win a state championship. They can achieve this goal with, "Hard work, playing consistently everyday, and staying focused

on the goal," says coach LaCova. How far will our BHS softball team go? This team has previously achieved two league championships. If they win a league championship this season it will be their third time in a row! Let's keep our fingers crossed for our Brentwood High School softball players and wish them tremendous luck with their post season aspirations!



## GOLF GREATNESS

by Elisabeth Scheffel

On a team where one's goal "is to participate, to learn, and to win as many matches as [they] can," who can lose? The Brentwood Girls Golf Team is coached by Donald Massman, a Phys Ed teacher at the Freshman Center. Mr. Massman has been coaching girls and boys golf for seven years. The team practices from Monday to Friday at the beginning of the season, and Monday to Thursday during mid-season.

What is so special about this team? They never give up! On the girls golf team

there are two juniors (Anya Beharry and Jazmil Galan), seven freshmen (Nadiangela Rodriguez, Evelin Velasquez, Andrea DiMaria, Mariel Taveras, Vanessa Majia, Maryann Rabbani, and Glenda Herrea) and one seventh grader (Gabby DiMaria). Only three girls had prior golf experience. This year, they broke their 57-match losing streak in a game

against Deer Park. It takes true dedication and courage to combine a group of girls of any different ages, grade levels, and skill levels, and meet with success.



## BATTER UP

by Gilberto Martines

With winter gone and spring in full effect, boys varsity baseball is in full swing. Currently, the team isn't doing too hot, with a record of 5-15 overall this season. "We have to make the simple plays and not make errors," commented Jason Spahn, the head coach of the boys baseball team.

Some of the team's strategies to improve the team's skills is by lifting, off season work outs, held two days a week from September until the season starts. During these workouts they are concentrating on improving their defense. As the season progresses, the team is working on leadership making the simple plays work out.

The team had their last game this week, against league rival Patchogue-Medford. Hopefully, their hard work and dedication will pay off and they will end the season on a high note!

