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POW WOW

BRENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

BRENTWOOD NY 11717

MAY 2010

VOLUME 41

ISSUE 6

Brentwood Budget 2010: PASS!!

by Yasmeen Mohammad

On Tuesday, May 18th, districts across Long Island, through Nassau and Suffolk County, held the annual budget votes and board elections. Here in Brentwood, our budget passed with a vote of 2,095 to 1,061. In terms of the Board Elections, current president George Talley is currently ahead of challenger Kaliah Greene by one point, with the tally being 1,581 to 1,580 and with affidavit ballots still to be counted. Incumbent Lorraine Pace fell to Helen Moss, in the final vote of 1,647 to 1,548. The proposition for transportation policy modifications also passed, with the community siding in favor of 1,698 to 948.

The Brentwood Union Free School District is the largest district in New York State. Our current principal, Mr. Thomas O'Brien was awarded New York State Principal of the year for 2009. In athletics, our soccer team and softball team have been named State Champions. The Brentwood High School Green Machine was State Champion in 2007,



and moved up in its division this previous year, and still continues to succeed year after year. The Brentwood High School Science Olympiads team has placed in the regional finals for almost 25 years straight, and has gone on to remain successful at the annual New York State competitions. The AFJ ROTC drill team competes and continues to dominate other teams from around the region. In the media, we are all aware that Brentwood may not necessarily always be displayed in a positive manner. However, the successes and benefits that Brentwood has to offer clearly outline the negative aspects that a small percentage of the population causes for our school. This year our chances for success continue because our budget has passed and will remain intact for the upcoming 2010-2011 school year.

2008 introduced the beginning of one of the worst financial crises in the United States since the Great Depression. In New York State, economic dilemmas plagued the wallets of millions of residents, and threatened the financial stability of schools nationwide. Brentwood is indeed one of these schools as it is run with 80% of its funding from the government. In 2010, the realization that the sports, music, classes, teachers, and activities that we all love so much were in grave danger of being eliminated was scary. Matt Falconi, a member of the Green Machine, and varsity swim and track team said, "I know I'm graduating soon, but I can say I was up last night waiting to hear if it passed; I couldn't sleep... It was haunting my dreams! Well, not really, but I'm so glad it passed. It's all about the kids!" The five week summer music program is still intact, and while five-day has not officially been announced, there will definitely be a Green Machine Marching Band season in 2010. Green Machine drum major Jackie Langella said, "It's wonderful that the budget passed, because Green Machine means so much to so many people. It allows students to be the best they can be, compete, and take pride in what they do. Go Green Machine!" While they may be on a slightly tighter budget, sports will also be around for the upcoming season. When asked about his reaction to the budget, varsity football coach Mr. Dillelo commented, "Well, I'm very happy to be the head coach for next year. It'll be a challenge for me, and of course all the new players. I'm just glad the budget was passed, and that the kids get to continue doing what they love to do." Besides sports, students

can rest easily knowing that the fate of their clubs has now been decided. Jennifer Wong, a flute player here in Brentwood, is also a member of Science Olympiads, Mentathalon, and the BU Engineering and Design team. "I'm ecstatic that the budget passed. Science Olympiads is like my second home, I couldn't imagine what I'd do if it was gone."

Most importantly, with the passing of this budget, we see the safety of most of our teachers' jobs and the guarantee of their return next year. There are, unfortunately, still 60 teachers being excessed. If the NYS budget is resolved and money comes back to Brentwood from the State, these teachers will also return next year.



"I'm ecstatic that the residents of Brentwood value the quality of their children's education, and that they all banded together to make sure the budget was passed," commented Band Instructor Mrs. Helbock. The work of the community in helping to support the passing of this budget was awe-inspiring. Students passed out flyers, made phone calls, and encouraged family and friends to vote. Teachers throughout our district, however, are those who deserve the standing ovation of every last student. In April of 2009, the decision to cut hundreds of teachers was brought into question, and the dedicated, hardworking teachers of Brentwood High School simply would not have it. Brentwood's 1,400 teachers, almost unanimously decided not only to take pay freezes next year, but also agreed to \$900 individual pay cuts to be repaid without interest when they resign or retire. In the classroom, teachers stressed the importance of each individual vote and the impending complications that could arise had the budget failed. Ross social studies teacher Mrs. Gallo was one of these teachers, highlighting the importance of the school budget, and how it applies to what is important to each and every one of us, from our music, to our sports, to all of our extra-curricular activities. "Well, I'm happy I have a job next year, and I'm happy the stress is over. It could have been so much worse had the budget not passed. I'm happy for the students. I'm happy for everyone... I'm just really happy overall with the passing of this budget!"

Go out and thank your teachers, thank the school board, and thank all parents and friends who voted. Each individual did in fact make a difference, and because of the dedication and hard work of Brentwood - the programs, activities, and many of the teachers that mean so much to us, are free to remain intact for yet another year. Now let's hope that the State also provides the funding to make us whole.



Since the date of publication, the results of the board race have been updated as follows: incumbents Mr. George Talley and Ms. Lorraine Pace were re-elected. The budget passed 2,153 Yes to 1,068 No.



Pow Wow
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Dear Readers,

I personally would like to give a shout-out to all of the teachers for volunteering and agreeing to the pay freeze plan. By doing this, you have said hundreds of jobs and some of the student-run activities won't have to be cut. This is very surprising for me. (I tend to criticize teachers a lot.) Throughout my high school career, I've had the privilege and the pleasure of meeting amazing, passionate teachers, and the most adequate, insincere teachers. I find this sort of declaration very noble and admirable.

So, how about the budget? I'm so glad it passed!!! It appears that only 10 school districts on Long Island failed to pass their budgets. Among them was Garden City (I guess money is more to them than children's education) and West Hempstead. Also, what's the deal with having small districts such as West Babylon and Sachem North (or was it East?). Why not combine Wyandanch with Dix Hills or Deer Park? Or combine West Babylon with... (drum roll, please) Babylon???? Maybe then school budgets would be less stressful to face. It's wonderful to see how smoothly Long Island runs.

Anyway, here are some questions that just happened to pop in my head: What do you think of restricting gun control? Why are conservatives so uptight? Why are liberals so relaxed? Why is there still no woman president? Why is prom so expensive? Why is the National Rifle Association so stoic and cold? Why do models tend to be anorexic? Why are some teacher unions are unjust? Why are we still in a recession? How come nobody cares about the oil spill polluting the ocean? Why is reading Shakespeare so hard? Why do tests exist? Why is our society so flawed and influential? Why is the American education so poor compared to other nations? How come universal healthcare doesn't exist? Why do people love war? Why are people so insecure? Why are people scared of their government? Why do our voices tend to be oppressed and silenced? Why doesn't anyone want to hear the real, actual truth?

That's all. Thanks for listening.

Your Co-Editors-in-Chief,
 Denise Rivera & Elisabeth Scheffel

In our last official issue for the year, we'd like to say a special thanks to all of our hard-working and dedicated staff writers!

Hope Amos - Laura Argueta - Merissa Bhimsingh - Jasmin Curtiss -
 Stacey Forte - Cheerona Hamilton - Jordan Lurie - Emma Maldonado
 Ada Mbogu - Yasmeen Mohammad - Maryam Rabbani - Leigh-Ann
 Ramsey - Denise Rivera - Mahin Tariq - Esperanza Viera - Vivian
 Vuong - Aleruchi Wosu - Kaitlyn Boland - Jocelyn Martinez - Sam
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"In The Heights"...And the Super Wal-Mart.

by Yasmeen Mohammad

On March 21st and 22nd, the Brentwood High School Music Department's top ensembles departed for their annual trip, and things definitely didn't go as planned - to say the least. Composed of the High School's Symphonic Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, and Select Choir, the musical bunch of about 100 was ready for the much anticipated trip. The day began in the middle of a warm afternoon in front of the DiPietro learning Center. After a brief period of panic, while no buses could be found, the group finally loaded and boarded the bus, and took off for New York City. At the Rodgers Theatre on 46th street, the group piled in, took their seats, and watched a brilliantly humorous show, entitled "In the Heights." Starring Corbin Bleu, the show followed the lives of three people, living in the Dominican-American area of Washington Heights; the bi-lingual humor, story line, and music appealed immensely to Brentwood High's ensembles. The following day, after a relaxing stay at a New Jersey hotel, (at least for the 5 or 6 teachers and students that actually slept), the ensembles headed upstate to Ithaca College, specifically to the music hall of the school. Although each group was on a different itinerary, the same general activities were performed by the orchestra, band, and choir alike. The groups took a campus tour, performed for the ensemble directors at the school and participated in a workshop, watched a rehearsal, and underwent sectionals with the student section leaders of the school. For a select few, it was an extra insight into where they'd already decided to attend in the fall. For some, it was the paving way to the decisions they will make in their senior year. For most, it was a beneficial experience in which musicality was critiqued and ensembles were bettered as a whole.

It was on the way home when things began to get even more interesting. Everything seemed to be running smoothly, until bus one decided to break down. The bus didn't break down just anywhere - nope, it broke down in the middle of nowhere, Pennsylvania. Of course, bus two obviously had to remain behind. Again, in the middle of nowhere, the fog was incredibly thick and there were no street lights. The faint of heart expected otherworldly beings to emerge from the mist, the tired became increasingly more annoyed, and the rest decided to blast music until issues were resolved. Once it was decided that two busloads full of adolescents couldn't be left by the side of the road, it was decided that the working bus would drop everyone off at a local rest stop, or restaurant, then collect the rest until a new bus could be sent. McDonalds? Wouldn't take us. Wendy's? Wouldn't take us. Burger King? Wouldn't take us. Super Wal-Mart? Heck yes.

So, at around 11 pm, about 60 people were unloaded off a bus and packed into a 24 hour Super Wal-Mart. Students pranced around in their new matching Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle boxers and indulged on expired 50% off cupcakes. The hour or so spent there was short-lived and the other bus was eventually fixed. Everyone piled back into the bus and BOTH buses continued their way back to New York.

The ensembles finally arrived back at the school at roughly 3am, about 5 hours off schedule. This year's Ithaca trip was one that will not soon be forgotten. The memories created on this trip were remarkable. Seniors will remember this forever, and juniors and sophomores have that much more to look forward to next year - although it'll have one heck of a legacy to live up to.



The End of an Era: Science Olympiads 2010



by Yasmeen Mohammad

The 2009-2010 Science Olympiads season... is over. Since over the course of six months, Mr. Fritz's classroom becomes a second home for most, the end of the Science Olympiads competition season marks a low point in many students' year. On March 19th and 20th, the team headed upstate to West Point Military Academy for its final competition, the New York State Science Olympiads State Competition, and competed against the top teams in the entire state. Two months ago, at the regional competition, BHS's SciOly team dominated at the regional competition, bringing home well over ten medals, securing them, above 45 other teams, a spot in the State Competition.



After weeks and weeks of fund-raising, the team barely scraped together enough to get upstate and so they departed. The truth of the competition is, when you bring over fifty teams who

also did exceptionally well at their regional competition, things can get extremely competitive. Regardless of what place you achieve at this competition, each participant still has much to be proud of due to the amount of commitment and hard work put into the team. Brentwood saw much success in the number of medals received, with Zaki Lindo placing 2nd in Sumo Bots, Daniel Calderon, Shabir Hamin, and Zaki Lindo placing 3rd in Mission Possible, Norman Cao and Willie Dawkins placing 4th in Dynamic Planet, and Matt Mendez placing 5th in Sumo Bots.



Most of the students are now working toward the Boston University Engineering and Design Competition in Mid-May. The long, eventful Science Olympiads competing season has come to a close, but the fundraising time is going just as strong now as ever. With \$0 in the budget, the team is doing everything it can to be able to participate and compete the upcoming season. We want to thank any and all teachers who helped the team, whether it was through donation, support, or even letting the students out of class for competitions, and prep. We hope we can count on you for the upcoming year. The 2010-2011 season will be here before you know it, and the team will, just as always, be a force to be reckoned with.

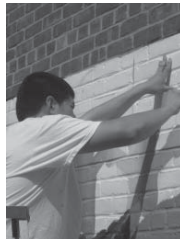


GRAFFITI MURAL



District Art Coordinator, Ms Lori Sopp, had the following to say about the Graffiti Cleanup Project that took place in Brentwood quite recently. "The Brentwood Art Department would like to congratulate Melinda Gomez, art teacher, and the Brentwood High School students for their recent execution of a Community Mural. In an effort to deter unwelcome graffiti, working in conjunction with the B.R.A.V.E. organization, these students and teacher have worked hard to provide positive artwork that will change the face of the Brentwood community, to a brighter and more positive one."

The mural's location is on a strip mall wall facing Jefferson Ave. off of Suffolk Ave. The mural's concept and design was developed by Brentwood High School students Diego Garcia, Keiry Hernandez and finalized into one drawing by Ms. Gomez. Mr Brian Smith was most helpful with the mural wall. The wall was then primed and the design was gridded out. Working together, the group was able to get a great deal accomplished!!



Congratulations on a job well done!

The entire community is grateful to the following students who helped out:

8th Grade

Britzney Zayas

10th Grade

Alyssa Zayas
Jennifer Sanchez
Milagro Pereira
Hudaa Umar
Maria Reyes
Jaitzaly Rodriguez
Giselle Alborno

11th Grade

Janice Crespo
Madedcha Rahat
Lesly Alvarez
Bryan Sookoo

12th Grade

Erik Gomez
Yanardana Giron



SAFETY IN MY HOMETOWN (ONE STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE)

by Julio E. Villarman

Living in Brentwood, I feel very safe. Nothing has really changed my views of my hometown. I walk to the library to learn and to relax. I feel protected because of the awareness and safety that this town promotes. I have heard of many shootings and deaths, and it hurts. I am afraid for, and sympathetic toward, their families.

Attending group meetings of B.R.A.V.E showed me that my town cares about the violence in Brentwood. I am glad that the adults want children and the future of this world to feel safe. The violence has not hit close to home for me, and I hope it never will. I would want every individual to stand up for his or her safety and change others' view of Brentwood.

Informing the students of Brentwood about the issues occurring around them can build their awareness. The students would feel safe in having knowledge of the danger zones and where they should not be. Brentwood is so keen on the safety of their students, they allow open sit-in meetings at either the Administration building or the Brentwood Public Library.

These notifications and these frequent meetings really show that Brentwood cares for every one's safety. On top of that, our schools help promote a sense of unity through clubs.

An example of one such club is the Student Council, and other clubs participating in keeping our town safe by spreading awareness and attending important meetings. The after-school activities and sports offer students safe places to go instead of just wandering the streets. These efforts make me feel safe in my hometown. I think you should continue to feel that way, too. Get involved!



Romance Language Poetry Contest



Three bilingual students of Brentwood High School won awards at the Romance Language Poetry Contest held at Hofstra University on April 21st.

Ana Jimenez, a sophomore, won the first prize in the category of poetry by a known poet. Ena Margarita, also a sophomore, won the third prize in the category of poetry by a known poet. Judith Andrade, a sophomore, won the third prize in original poetry. These students are members of the Spanish Poetry Club, which is coordinated by Ms. Trujillo. CONGRATULATIONS!!

First French Poetry Contest held at Brentwood High School



On Thursday, May 20th, Brentwood High School hosted the Annual French Poetry Contest - Le Concours de Poésie - of the Suffolk Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French.

Brentwood students acted as guides as well as contestants. Five other school districts participated in the event - Harborfields, Hauppauge, Patchogue-Medford, Walt Whitman, and Ward Melville. Over fifty students from all levels of French - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and AP - memorized and gave dramatic interpretations and recitations of poems from famous

French poets. Awards were presented in the Sonderling Auditorium. We are proud to announce that Brentwood students received five awards - Level 2 - Kendra Comejo ; Level 3 - Mario Arias ; Level 4 - Andrew Franco and Kelvin Torres ; Level 5 - Sherley Losse.

Congratulations to all!



Drill Domination

by Hope Amos

On March 6th, 2010, the AFJROTC Drill Team competed in their first drill competition of the year at Tottenville High School located in Staten Island. The team competed in nine events and successfully placed in five. Cadet Captain Roger Barba led two teams to victory, taking home a third place trophy for armed platoon and a second place trophy for color guard. Most impressive was Barba's astounding win in the competition's final event, "Knockout." The event included cadets from every school who came together to test their marching skills to see who was the last one standing in a sea of Marine cadets. Cadet Roger Barba came face to face with an equitable adversary as he stood alone as the only Air Force cadet left. However, Barba proved victorious, taking with him the first place trophy for knockout as the whole team rushed toward him to congratulate their Wing Commander.

Second Lieutenant Desmond Wilson took the third place trophy for armed trick, an equally difficult event

due to the spinning of rifles that requires plenty of training, discipline, and precision. Against all odds, the team worked together to accomplish what the other competing schools could not. Fighting to beat the clock, the team practiced until it was their turn to demonstrate their incredible talent and charisma to the crowd of observing competitors.

The team's first place trophy was awarded to Drill Team NCOIC Cadet Senior Master Sergeant Hope Amos' unarmed trick team. The team consisted of all females who worked up until the last minute to perfect their routine. Their creativity, drive, confidence, and determination were all apparent through their powerful performance, leaving everyone in awe.

Together, they blew the other teams out of the competition and proved why Brentwood High School's Drill Team is a force to be reckoned with.



AFJROTC Banquet

by Yasmeen Mohammad

The annual AFJROTC banquet was held on May 14th at the Hyatt Regency Windwatch in Happaugue. A night of celebration, congratulations, and goodbyes, this year's banquet was surely etched in the memories of all. The night began with the introduction of the graduating seniors. Each senior was introduced, with his/her college and respective major announced, and they entered the ballroom walking to their selected song. They were then given their graduation medal, and then they would salute each end of the room, as well as Chief Taylor, before taking their seat. A sentimental moment for each senior, this signified their advancement from the program and into their futures.

along with Hope Amos and her unarmed trick team. Under the direction of TSgt Burgess, these Drill Team performances blew the crowd away.



On this night, seniors also made the official transition from cadets to alumni. Former graduates of the program attended the banquet and were asked to come forward. Seniors were called up as well. The two groups then converged, alumni handed over honorary pins, thus signifying the official transition from cadets into an alumni. The Armed trick team, under the leadership of Desmond Wilson, performed



The new key staff for the 2010-2011 school year was also installed. Cadets Elizabeth Flores, Alexander Hayden, Hope Amos, and Kevin Gonzalez were all honored and awarded with their new jobs. The highlight of the night however came with this announcement from Mr. Thomas P. O'Brien, "Good evening ladies and gentlemen, I want to offer a couple of brief Friday congratulations..." For the second year in a row, the Brentwood High School 773 Fighting Falcons had received the prestigious distinguished unit award. Throughout the evening, awards were handed out, dinner was enjoyed, and the guest speaker inspired cadets in the audience. The night closed with roughly two hours of dancing and this year's AFJROTC banquet was surely one that will not be forgotten.



NY-773 CONGRATULATIONS!

by CMSgt Taylor & Yasmeen Mohammad

The Air Force Academy Preparatory school is a two year program designed to prepare students for the Air Force Academy. Located in Colorado, this school will help students prepare for a career as an officer in the United States Military. Cadet Dustin Barbecho is the first student accepted to this program that has received a nomination and recommendation from this unit. Dustin will be attending the academy on a full scholarship in the fall. Cadets Alexander Haydn and Martin Viera were selected to attend the Air Force Technology and honors camp in Oklahoma University in July.

specifically the top half percent of 110,000 cadets, based on academics, leadership, and the recommendation of your

selected by the American Legion Post 1006 to attend Boys State this summer in Albany. Students will have the opportunity to attend leadership workshops and participate in a government course designed to develop a working knowledge of the structure of the political organization as it exists in New York State. AFJ ROTC as a whole is one of the most successful, distinguishable aspects of Brentwood High School. The program itself was even awarded Distinguished Unit 2010, for the second year in a row. The cadets of the program however, are what truly make it the success story that it is. Another final congratulations to the students listed, and we hope you continue to make ROTC proud.

The Air Force Honors camp is designed to introduce the best students in AFJROTC to medical, scientific, and technology career fields. The camp will include hands-on curriculum activities, visits to operational Air Force Units, research labs, historical sites, aerospace industries, and a light aircraft incentive flight. All transportation, lodging and meals will be provided at no cost to the student. 405 units from across the nation nominated a total of 913 cadets. Only the top cadets from across the country were selected,

Senior Aerospace Science Instructor. AFJROTC also congratulates Ricardo Barba, Luis Sergovia, Jawad Ali, and David Murphy for being

dents listed, and we hope you continue to make ROTC proud.



The Special Olympics are a Hit at Brentwood High School - Let the Games Begin!

by Vivian Vuong

Sun streaks beaming through rich clouds, you could just feel summer coming on. The Special Olympics was held on May 2nd, people filtered from all over Long Island. Any school district on the island interested in hosting such a prestigious event had to put in a bid and this year, the Brentwood Indians, were lucky enough to host this very special occasion on our high school campus.

The Special Olympics have no age limit, so you can just imagine how many people came on that Sunday to participate.

Each contestant received a fluorescent lime green t-shirt, with a number marker on the back. Brentwood staff and students were determined to make this legit.



The torch to open the ceremony was lit and then came the Green Machine, performing one of their well-practiced ensembles, it was clear that the day was successful at this point. The Special athletes competed in swimming races, long jumps, and running laps around the track.

The genuine happiness from these special athletes caught the attention of the many volunteers. Over 50 clubs set up booths at the Olympic Village, located between the girl's softball field and Ross tennis courts.

Brentwood's very own radio station livened up the gaps of silence as the athletes were competing. Just as the actual events were ending, into the village came the Special Athletes. Each booth sponsored by the Brentwood clubs was radiating with innovative ideas. Face

painting, temporary tattoos, hoola-hoop contests, frame making, the list went on and on...

By late afternoon, those who were too stubborn for sun block received the lovely gift of a sun burn. Nonetheless, the day was worth its time and efforts for everyone involved and once again, Brentwood had an amazing day of which to be proud!



Why Put an End to Adoption??

by Mahin Tariq



Children, from infants to teenagers have a variety of needs and concerns. Parents are helpful when it comes to addressing them. However, there are many children around the world who are unfortunate and don't have parents for a variety of reasons. They either have passed away or have left their kids. There are many children, including babies, that go through adoption.

Countries around the world have fortunately established homes for children who have nowhere else to go. This helps the children have food, shelter, and often even an education to help them grow. Just because one doesn't have parents, doesn't mean he/she can't live a life he/she want. They are adopted by families who are looking for a child of their own. They give them the love any parent would give their child.

Some countries like Russia have put a stop to adoption out of the country with other countries such as with America. They want to keep their own Russian children in their own country and keep them safe. They believe that a country with already such a low population shouldn't surrender the ones they have.

I think adoption should be considered throughout the whole world for the purpose of experiencing different cultures. If a family in one country wants to adopt a child in a different country, they should have the chance. It helps unite the world and it helps the countries economically as well as lessening problems and tensions.

In Ghana, Africa, they have put a stop to adoption completely. Now the kids have to stay in one place in an orphanage. They won't have a chance to experience a life with family, go to school, or even have a place they could call home. No chance to call someone Mom or Dad, have someone to look up to and have their love and support with whatever good or bad experiences that they have.

Adoption through different countries helps keep a balance throughout the world, politically, culturally, and economically. According to *Adoption.com*, the highest rate since 1999 was in 2004 with a total of 22,990 adoptions and in 2009, 12,753 children were adopted in the United States.



The cost for adoption can range from anywhere between \$5,000 - \$40,000. Many people can afford to adopt a child right away, but some might need to raise money somehow or apply for a loan. There are disadvantages to adoption, too. Some are minor but in some cases they are major problems and so adoption agencies take special caution in giving the children to families for adoption. Potential parents need to be screened. There are bad people in the world. But aside from all that and with the special care and caution the adoption agencies take, it's an important part of this world.

Adoption requires a lot of responsibility and needs a lot of planning. You need to think of how to maintain what's good and improve many things in your life. It's a big step which leads you to adjust your lifestyle to make it work.

Contrary to adopting a child, many people put their own kids up for adoption for many different reasons. Reasons such as, too much pressure on the parents or they're not ready to take such responsibility. Children who are abandoned get sent to an orphanage and the process begins for other young or old couples to come and find a child with whom they can share their love. Why limit

the potential homes of these needy children?

Adoption occurs in many countries around the world. Different laws, people, and environments create obstacles within each country; some safer than others and some much more dangerous than others. International Adoption helps to put children that are born in a country that is not as safe, into a country that is much safer. There is much to consider when you have thoughts about adoption, especially when you see a face you can't resist!

"It hurts to love someone and not be loved in return, but what is the most painful is to love someone and never find the courage to let the person know how you feel."



WORLD HUNGER

by Jocelyn Martinez

Do you ever wonder what would happen if you didn't have any food on your

table everyday? There are millions of people world wide who starve for days, weeks, months. There are many poor countries around the world and it is a terrible aspect of our humanity. According to thinkquest.com, every year 15 million children die of hunger and 3 billion people in the world today struggle to survive on US \$2 a day. Well, you know how your parents tell you to eat all your food because there are people that have nothing to eat? Unbelievably, it's true. Of all the countries in the world these top 10 are the poorest Zimbabwe, Congo, Burundi, Liberia, Guinea-Bissau, Somalia, Central African Republic, Eritrea, Niger, and Sierra Leone says



Hunger knows no friend but it's feeder.

aneki.com. These countries suffer with not enough food or water for their citizens and that is the main cause of starvation deaths all around the world.

It is not fair that some citizens suffer because their government refuses to help their own people. "The governments are refusing to accept their own failure," states articlebase.com. The government should do whatever they can in their power to help their own people not suffer or die. There are reasons why the government cannot support their own country's hunger problems. In some countries, there is almost no food because of dry land and other aspects of the climate, according to worldhunger.org. The weather is important because food is growing throughout the year and without adequate food production people are at risk of dying. There are farmers around the

world who grow food for their countries or sell their products with different countries. Sometimes people are so desperate to eat they begin to resort to crime, and steal or even kill.

If the governments care about this issue, they should step up and do something about it. It is important that countries that are poor should be helped or things can get even worse. This is a major issue today, even in countries with money. When the governments have money how do they spend the money? 30% goes to human resources, 11% goes to the general government, 36% goes to the military (warresisters.org).

There are people all over who help and volunteer to make a difference in the world. If you think you can't make a difference, you're wrong. To prevent



If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one.



hunger in your own community you can volunteer at a soup kitchen or food bank, give money to worthy, hunger related organizations, or contribute to canned food drives. World hunger won't stop because there is an economic crisis all over the world. No one should starve and it's a tragedy if one child goes hungry. To survive we need to feed the world. It doesn't matter where you live, you can make a difference in your community, and around the world, now!!!!

Crossing the Line: Immigration

by Jordan Lorie

In the early 20th Century, Ellis Island – one of the United States busiest immigration stations – experienced a diaspora of folks seeking a better life. Being a country built on immigrants, American philosophy welcomed them in with open arms. In exchange for their citizenship, the immigrants assimilated and became proud members of American society. However, times have changed... maybe for the worse.

The term “blending in” no longer seems to concern the immigrants of today. Rather than going through the proper channels, many people enter this country illegally. This unending flow has now actually become a drain on the American economy.

Legal immigrants are basically entitled to the same rights as citizens although they cannot vote or hold political office. About 40% of immigrants become citizens through a process called naturalization. In order to become naturalized, immigrants must reside in the U.S. for five years. Most must demonstrate a decent proficiency in English and general knowledge of U.S. history and government. I believe one of the primary motives for legal immigrants to become citizens is that they qualify to assist their relatives immigration. They think that if they can enter this country, so can their relatives, and for free, too.

The United States has recently experienced a rate of immigration that in numbers is close to the level of immigration that occurred at the turn of the last century. Combined legal and illegal immigration is estimated to be well over two million per year. Foreign-born persons now constitute over 10% of the population for the first time since the 1930s. In California and New York, over 25% of the population is foreign-born and the ratio is over 10% in many other states. A countless number of illegal immigrants continue to enter and stay in the country. This increase in the total illegal immigrant population has been dramatic over the last 15 years. A report issued in 2008 based on Census data estimates that *undocumented* immigrants constitute almost 40% of all foreign-born residents, and recent Department of Labor statistics show that *undocumented* migrants constitute well over one-half of all agricultural workers.

Of course, there are pros to having *legal* immigrants in the country. Legal immigrants are preferred over natives because they provide low-cost labor to businesses. Immigrants are more sought after for doing work that

is hazardous or requires intense labor. It is true that immigrants provide a pool of consumers for a variety of goods and services. In addition, *legal* immigrants also contribute to the national economy by paying sales taxes, real estate taxes, insurance, and meet other financial responsibilities.

The various types of legal immigration include:

Employment-based preference



is a category that permits a limited number of individuals who possess job skills which are in demand by the economy. This group is dominated by persons with computer and engineering skills.

Family preference is a category that permits individuals to sponsor a limited number of relatives (adult children of U.S. citizens, spouses and children of immigrants, and siblings of citizens).

Immediate Relatives of U.S. Citizens is a category that permits citizens to sponsor an unlimited number of minor children, spouses, and parents. This has been the largest category.

Diversity is a category authorized by recent legislation which authorizes a limited number of individuals to immigrate based on past under-representation in the immigrant population.

Refugees are admitted on a limited basis based on political and humanitarian reasons.

These are all positive aspects of a healthy immigrant community surviving and thriving in this country. But my reason for examining the issues involving immigration is to point out what I have learned researching *illegal* immigration's impact on our country.

It is a common myth that unemployment in Mexico causes immigration. A Pew Hispanic Center study found that something like 95% of illegal workers left a *paying* job in Mexico. The drive behind the migration is wage differential. A Mexican worker can make in the US in a week what he/she can make in a month in Mexico. That's why there only remains a workforce of 16% in Mexico. And, why not? What incentive does the Mexican government have to help stem this tide when annually remittances averaging \$22 billion are sent back to Mexico? Mexico's citizens enjoy all of that money from non-tax paying relatives abroad which represents close to 30 percent of total income for urban Mexican households and at least 50 percent

for rural households, according to official figures. Mind you, this is all on our dime during a time of crippling, double-digit unemployment domestically!

The practice of hiring illegals has driven down U.S. wages, so... let's turn off the “jobs magnet!” Enforce Labor laws; use the E-Verify system (the government's Social Security number checker) and provide a National I.D.! Toughen restrictions so employers cannot exploit immigrant workers.

It is also no secret that sometimes people come to this country solely to have a baby. As recent statistics for a border state like Arizona shockingly show, compared to other ethnicities -- Hispanic or Latina teens continued to have a significantly greater rate of pregnancy. Nearly 64 percent of all teen pregnancies (ages 15-19) in Arizona during 2008 occurred among Hispanic or Latina females even though this group comprised only 33 percent of Arizona's teen female population -- and it's on the rise! This is occurring while teen pregnancy rates for non-Hispanics have dropped significantly -- even as much as 50% in some states.

The 14th Amendment -- which was enacted to protect freed slaves -- has to be changed.



Just because an illegal alien has “Anchor Babies” here does not mean that they should automatically be given the full benefits of hard-won American citizenship.

We also have to find ways to curtail the practice of bringing extended family over where the folks here main-line cash directly to their personal “Coyote” (human-trafficker) in their country.

Recently, Arizona's Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, known for his aggressive anti-illegal immigrant programs, told FoxNews that the people of Arizona are ‘...fed up...’ with violence and the ‘...flood of illegal immigrants...’ in their state. But he, too, predicted the state legislation would prompt Washington to act. “They want something done about it. Congress and the federal government have

done nothing,” Arpaio said. “But I predict that Congress will do something now.”

So, on April 23, 2010, Arizona Republican Gov. Jan Brewer signed into law a bill that supporters said would finally take the handcuffs off of police to allow them to enforce the law in dealing with illegal immigration in Arizona, the nation's busiest gateway for human and drug smuggling from Mexico -- and home to an estimated 500,000 illegal immigrants. The immigration bill will make it a state crime to be in the country illegally and would require migrants to produce papers verifying their status.

Arizona Sen. Thayer Verschoor, (R-Gilbert) said state action was necessary. “We've had an abdication of our federal government's responsibility to enforce immigration laws here, protect our borders, protect us from the criminals that are crossing our borders, who are killing our citizens, who are robbing their homes, invading their homes,” he said.

A lot of people do not know about tactics that have unfairly delayed reforms due to years of

murder rate has already gone up to 250 per month! This number



exceeds many of the world's other dangerous crime capitals such as South Africa's Cape Town, Moscow, Baghdad, and Papua New Guinea's capital Port Moresby. The sources of this incomprehensible blood-just are the rival drug cartels, most notably the Juarez Cartel.

The question arises, what is President Obama doing about all of this? He is the leader of the free world after all. There should be at least *some* plan. The current Administration (for the most part) believes that our broken immigration system can only be fixed by putting politics aside and offering a complete solution that secures our borders and ports, enforces our laws, and reaffirms our heritage as a nation of immigrants. They believe our immigration policy should be driven by our best judgment of what is in the economic interest of the United States and what is in the best interest of the American worker. The President recognizes that an orderly, controlled border and an immigration system designed to meet our economic needs are important pillars of a healthy and robust economy.

That's all well and good, but how effective is the federal enforcement policy going to be? And if you'll forgive my cynicism at my young age -- Why are we electing people to Congress who are in cahoots with those with special interests that delay reforms so they can guarantee votes for that political party? That is certainly not representative government...

The bottom line is that U.S. citizens have a constitutional right to expect our laws to be enforced. Illegal is not a race, it's a crime...

We've reached critical mass. This is a structural crisis -- *everyone* agrees the system is broken and we need massive reforms -- no matter which “side-of-the-fence” you are on!

For more information, check out these websites:

-Balancedpolitics.org
-Socyberty.com
-Legalcybertrips.com
-Pbs.org

And as we all know, another problem that also migrates here is violence. Drug dealers, junkies, and radicals enter America and tear it apart. Take the city of Juarez for instance; it could be **the world's most violent city!** In 2009, over 1,800 people were killed; and that's just in one year! And, as of 2010, Juarez's

Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End

by Mahin Tariq

Jerry Bruckheimer and Terry Rossio have outdone themselves once again with the third movie of the Pirates of the Caribbean series. A twisted story, with exciting characters and a surprise every five minutes, *At World's End* has Will Turner, Elizabeth Swan and Captain Barbossa on an adventure again, sailing through the oceans. However, this time, it's to rescue their close and seemingly disloyal friend, Captain Jack Sparrow, from Davy Jones's Locker. I really liked this movie. I could see it over and over again. I liked the way it was put together and how the story and the characters flowed throughout the movie. Rarely is a sequel as good as the original movie. Often in sequels, the writers create a totally different story with the different setting, characters, and even actors.

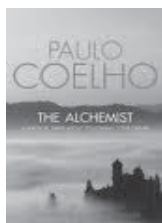


The actors played their roles well and with their individual personalities, it seemed like they had been playing that role for years.

The movie had its own music which created an effect for the movie that really kept your interest. After everything from *Dead Man's Chest* to this, *At World's End* did a really good job in keeping everything pretty much the same. My favorite character is Captain Jack Sparrow. He always keeps people laughing throughout the movie and Johnny Depp kept him real. If he continues to play the role of Captain Jack Sparrow, then I can't wait to see more of this brilliant series!

The Alchemist Paulo Coelho

by Jocelin Martinez



If you really don't know what you're interested in reading, you can pick up this book and you will never put it down. Did you ever have a dream where it was different from the rest? Have you ever wondered what would happen if you really did follow that specific dream?

The Alchemist is a magical story full of inspiration and finding your dreams. This book is based on dreams, trust, love, hope and finding yourself. This story is about a young shepherd named Santiago who dreams about finding treasure in Egyptian pyramids. He leaves his country to follow his dream and along the way he meets many spiritual messengers to help him on his journey. Santiago goes through many challenges, falls in love,

and finds the true meaning of life.

This book is spiritual and anyone interested can read it. It does not matter what age you are, or what background you have - this book crosses cultures and ideologies. From the moment you start reading, you won't want to put the book down. Through reading this book, you learn about new cultures, religion and new places. It will enhance your vocabulary. Throughout the story you will learn new perspectives that you never knew before. The author does a great job explaining his philosophy of life. I would rate this book 5 stars because reading this book taught me things about life that I really didn't pay attention to. Read this book for enjoyment or to use on the English Regents. If you haven't read this book than go ahead and pick yourself up a copy at your own public library or buy one for yourself at any book store. Trust me, it's a book you'll want to keep on your bookshelf for years to come.

THE SANDMAN: A Review

by Jordan Lurie

"Our dreams drench us in senses, and senses steps us again in dreams."

-Amos Bronson Alcott

Why do we dream? Or more importantly, what do our dreams mean? Are they mental reflections of ourselves? Do the strange beings that populate the dream world represent our likes and dislikes, our hopes, our fears? In 1989, a young man from Portchester England decided to find the answers. His result: creating one of the most beloved comic books of all time...**THE SANDMAN**.

The series tells the tale of Morpheus, the Lord of Dreams, and his many adventures in the mortal realm and the worlds of the beyond. Along the way, he rubs elbows with such famous people as William Shakespeare, Theodor Roosevelt and Mark Twain as well as meeting some of mythologies greatest figures: Orpheus, Calliope and Fiddler's Green. The reader also gets to meet The Endless - the rest of Morpheus' dysfunctional family. They include: Death, Destiny, Delirium, Despair, Desire, and Destruction.

About twenty or thirty years ago, the world of comics was rather bland. That's not to say that they were boring - they just didn't have any deep meaning. Amidst all of the Batmans, Supermans and Judge Dredds, three comics changed the game forever: Alan Moore's *Watchmen*, Frank Miller's *The Dark Night Returns*, and Neil Gaiman's **SANDMAN** series.

What is so fantastic about each book is that (even though it is a work of fantasy) they are very realistic and down to Earth. Every character, human or not, is one in the same. We all share the same feelings of love, hate, and happiness. I think that's why it touched me so much. I didn't feel like a reader or some yearning voyeur peering into a fictional world. From volume one (*Preludes & Nocturnes*) all the way to volume eleven (*The Wake*) I was taken on a psychedelic ride through worlds that were both fantastical and frightening.

Gaiman's writing is different from most comic book writers. Instead of just a plethora of "POWS" and "BANGS", the reader is treated to a sumptuous style in the vein of such great authors as Clive Barker, Ray Bradbury and C.S. Lewis. Each line, each syllable, drips with a

mélange of comedy, tragedy and irony. Another plus is the fact that each volume has its own contained narrative, meaning that each story has a beginning and an ending. The books can be read in order or individually (for those people who just don't have time to get invested in the series).

Rather than reiterating the standard fantasy clichés, knights, witches, wizards etc, the author creates a world where not every fairytale gets a happy ending, and the prince doesn't always rescue the princess. He brings real world sensibilities to an otherwise fictional universe. For example the look of the Endless; these seven supreme beings represent humanity and its culture even though they themselves aren't human. Take for instance Desire, a sexless schemer who looks



like a combination of Annie Lennox and the album artwork of Patrick Nagel (see the cover of Duran Duran's 1983 album *Rio* and you'll know what I'm talking about).

Another example would be Delirium, a young girl who - as her name implies - can be quite delirious. She resembles a sort of folksy punk rocker with multi-colored hair and blue and green eyes. The

most commonly recognized source of inspiration for Delirium is that of Neil's personal friend and well-known musician Tori Amos. Granted, he'd later admit "Delirium was created before I met Tori, but they steal shamelessly from each other."

Finally we come to good ol' Morpheus; what a delightfully dark person he is. Just the sight of him would send a chill down anybody's spine, yet at the same time be quite alluring. Morpheus usually appears as a tall, thin man with bone-white skin, black hair, and two distant stars looking out from the shadows where his eyes should be. Most often they are silver or white, but when he becomes angered, they have been known to turn red.

I like that Morpheus isn't always the center of each

story and yet he turns up eventually. It's sort of like he's there spiritually rather than physically; and when he does appear... the world changes. He slinks into the panel like a midnight breeze and whispers sweet melodies and morose monologues. Even Morpheus' speech is distinctive. It is usually portrayed as white text in black wavy edged speech bubbles bordered in white: the text is capitalized normally in stark contrast to other characters' speeches.

The weird and wonderful world of **THE SANDMAN** comes to life thanks to the help of Michael Zulli, Jill Thompson, Sam Keith, Mike Dringenberg, and many others. The artwork has a very natural style to it. No color is overused and each panel looks crisp and clear. Even when the drawings start to become more complex the artists keep everything balance and leveled. When it comes to the covers of each volume, Neil enlists the help of surrealist (and mentally disturbed) painter Dave McKean.

Dave's style is... well... words can't really describe what it is. I'm not just saying that to be nice either; McKean created his own style. One can see where his inspirations come from: Salvador Dali, Edvard Munch and H.R. Giger (for when he's feeling a bit moody). He was also influenced by comic artists such as Alberto Breccia, José Antonio Muñoz and Lorenzo Mattotti. Using a combination of paint, clip and digital art, McKean creates covers that are very beautiful as well as being very grotesque. Since **SANDMAN**, Neil and Dave have collaborated on other books and even a few films.

Even after all this praise, there is still a downside to it. Some of Gaiman's writing can come off as being convoluted and self-indulgent. Not all of the stories come full circle either; volume nine, *The Kindly Ones*, suffers major. The artwork is shoddy and the story is both boring and just plain weird. Neil even helped his head scratching fans by writing an answers page in the back of the book. I guess they all can't be masterpieces. Don't be deterred my fellow readers, this series is not to be missed! It's more than a comic... it's an experience!



Are You Ready For The Heat?

by Ada Mbogu & Aleruchi Wosu

How to Survive Summer



****Bathing Suits, Flip Flops, Sunblock & a whole lot of fun.** Summer season is quickly approaching. Get ready to go to the beach, soak up the sun, and have the time of your life! To capture the season's hottest looks, follow these style-popping and illuminating trends.

Ladies:

Summer is almost here and 'tis the season to show off some skin (but not too much). Rompers are a MUST have this season. Whether you have a fun day at the beach, BBQ or a club late at night, Rompers are the definite MUST have this summer. Fedoras, beaded necklaces, bracelets and gladiators will spruce up any outfit. Add in a pair of funky shades to give you an ominous look. Colors are very important this season. From bright and eccentric to subtle and tamed, colors can add life to any kind of outfit you wear. Remember ladies, summertime is full of excitement and joyous experiences. Let your clothing and style symbolize that. Have Fun!

Fellas:

It's Time To Bring Sexy Back! You know the ladies are going to be rocking the hottest one-piece bathing suits. Now it's time for you guys to return the favor. Short sleeve button ups with board or cargo shorts are an eye-catching look. Mix it with a dapper and sexy appeal; this is a big hit with the ladies. Guys can also wear fedoras and flip flops, or some low-rise shoes or sneakers to add some flavor in their outfits. Remember fellas, less is more. Don't try and over do it; just be yourself and let your style and swag do all the talking. Enjoy!



Beat the Heat at Graduation



****Seniors!** Are you ready for graduation? Amidst the planning of going away parties, summer vacations & other fun experiences, what are you going to wear?! Follow these trends and cruise into your coming of age with style.

Ladies: Take into consideration that you ladies will be in the hot, blazing sun for at least four hours. You want to wear something that will make you comfortable but will still leave you looking elegant. Sundresses will be crucial. Also, ladies I know this is a big event and you want to wear heels but I advise you not to do that. We are going to be on the grass and at some point; your heel may be caught in the muck. Wedges or even simple gladiator sandals will work best. Ladies, this is your time to shine. Bring out your classy, sophisticated side. No sneakers, flats or skinny jeans, please. Show the world that you are about to emerge into the world as a hardworking, successful, young woman!

Fellas: You must also take into consideration that you will be in the hot, scorching sun for at least four hours. Look presentable - after all, this is a momentous occasion in your life. Wear a long-sleeve or short-sleeve fleece shirt and PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE wear a tie or bowtie. Bring out your refined look. Any type of sneakers are not appropriate. Wear some classy, yet comfortable shoes that will make a statement. Fellas, take the time to groom. We don't want Shaggy look-alikes here! Overall, just have fun with it and have a sense of maturity now that

you're graduating and moving on to bigger and brighter things!



PROM DRESS COLLECTION!



Twelfth grader and an Executive Board member of Student Council, Ebonee Padilla, figured out a way to allow girls to achieve their dream of owning their own prom dress. Padilla recognized the hardship a young woman faces in purchasing a formal dress. Ebonee reiterates, "In these hard economic times, it's especially hard to pay for a formal dress when you also have to pay for shoes, hair, nails and any other essentials for prom." That was Ebonee's inspiration to create a place where girls could find a free dress, provided by fellow students in the school. The Prom dress collection took place in our school, right here in the Ross Library. It was a 2-day event. On the first day, many girls came out. Every girl who came walked away with a dress. "It was a big turn out," says Ms. Combs, a teacher at Brentwood High School, who also helped alongside Ms. Heinz and Ms. Buchner. These teachers helped Ebonee organized this event. Ms. Heinz, Student Council advisor says the staff and students donated 60 to 70 prom dresses. People also donated prom shoes and bags. "Every girl that came walked away with a dress," says Ms. Heinz. "I thought this was a good idea, because this would make any girl happy, and if you could take away the expense of a dress, then maybe more girls will be able to go to their prom." Prom dress collection provided a variety of dresses to the girls. From short to long, you name it! It was a good way to give slightly worn dresses away to help someone who couldn't afford to buy one. Special thanks to Ms. Heinz, Ms. Combs, Ms. Buchner, and Ebonee Padilla for all their hard work and contributions to make this event successful.



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SPORTS

BATON TWIRLING

by Jasmin Curtis

Do you know what a toss illusion is? What about a four turn caught into a drop angel or a spin walkover catch blind? If you do, you know a little something about the sport of baton twirling. Dance, gymnastics and performance skills, including what we call yearning, or a feeling for the music, are combined with baton work to create a routine that catches the judges' and audiences' attention.



parades or marching bands. Competitive baton twirling consists of state, regional, national and international levels. Athletes can compete on teams or in pairs or by themselves. They work year round to improve on tricks that will boost their scores. Synchronization, music selection, and personality allow a person watching to become mesmerized by the performer.



to have their sport become official. It is a good way to spread knowledge about the sport and make international friends with a common interest.

If this sounds like something you would be interested in, there are many organizations across Long Island willing to take you in. If you think you are too old to start twirling, you're wrong. Some athletes still compete at over 30 years old. It can be a life long sport to those who are dedicated enough. Even if you stop competing, you can become a coach, judge or board member. The United States Twirling Association's 2010

National Baton Twirling Championships will be held in Savannah, Georgia in July.



Baton twirlers don't just lead baton twirlers around the world are fighting

Round Number Two: The Brentwood Triathlon by Vivian Vuong

Wish it could be said that the day was a nice day for a jog BUT!...the sky was cloudy, the air was thick with humidity, and it was an early Saturday morning in May. Nonetheless, the participants in the Second Annual Triathlon had fun. Organized and directed by Brentwood High School's Ms. Denise Seibert, groups were divided by grade starting with the youngest participants, the 5th graders. The Triathlon began with four laps in the Ross pool. Once the swim was completed, participants quickly dried and moved on to the 3-mile bike ride. Finally, wrapping up the competition was a mile run around the baseball and softball fields, finishing on the track. The varsity girl's lacrosse team was stationed around the entire mile course for support and cheering, under the direction of Coach Lilis and Coach Mendell. It was here that our very own Mr. Murphy, amongst others, was spotted, making his way through this endless challenge. All in all, the day was a great success. Wait until Brentwood's Third Triathlon--it will prove to be even better.

