

**WHAT'S THE  
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UP TO LATELY?  
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mind?  
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# POW WOW

BRENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL BRENTWOOD NY 11717 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2009 VOLUME 41 ISSUE 2

## Press Day at Hofstra University!

The PowWow staff had exciting experiences at Hofstra. We got to meet professional journalists and experience college life for a day!



Our own Nyasia Mitchell and WNBC's LI Correspondent Greg Cergol



Walt Handelsman of Newsday sketches for BHS students



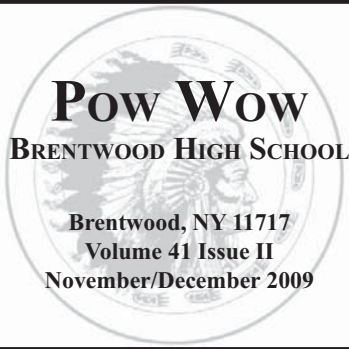
## BHS - Breakthrough!

Brentwood High School has been named a breakthrough school for 2009. See article on page 3.



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





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## Happy Holidays to All!

Thanksgiving is a time when families usually come together, when college students head home for the holidays, and where everyone sits at an inviting dinner table with a turkey in the center. This holiday is well-known, but its counterparts just happens to be right around the corner (holidays we know very well): Christmas, Kwanza, and Hanukkah.

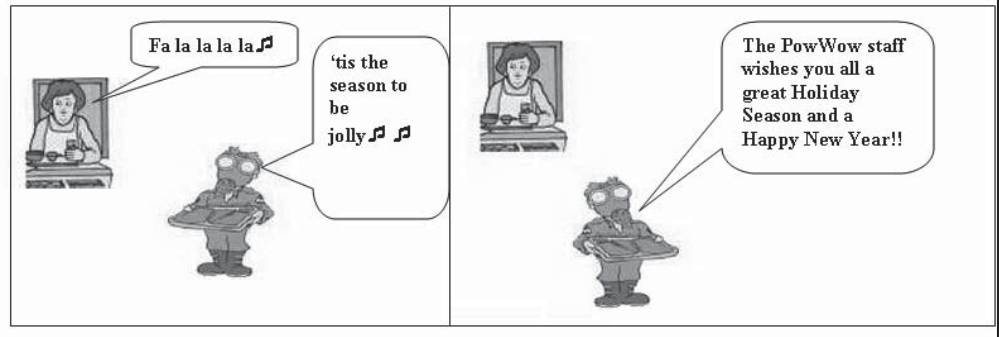
Christmas is widely considered the most popular holiday. While Thanksgiving only has the turkey, Christmas has Santa Claus, reindeer, elves, the Grinch, etc.. While Thanksgiving is a time just to eat and give thanks, Christmas is known for presents, decorating the house with lights, having a small, simple tree embellished with ornaments, with milk and cookies on the side. Christmas is also known to be dominated by a bright red and forest green (and possibly other colors as well). To sum things up, no kid really loves Thanksgiving as much as Christmas.

As the Holiday break is quickly approaching, we hope that you get the opportunity to relax and enjoy yourself. No matter what you celebrate (even if you don't celebrate anything at all), the holiday season is about love, hope, and peace to all. Please remember this as you rush to do homework, apply to college, buy holiday gifts, and/or travel to visit a family member in a different state. Make it a mission to smile at a stranger. Hold the door open for someone walking behind you. Compliment your friend without expecting anything in return. Whatever the holiday may be for YOU, the little things in life are what make this time of the year a miracle. Despite the fact that it's so cold, people always tend to feel the warmest during this time. Let's not forget that, even with the economy and the extra work we all have to do!

Happy Holidays!

Your Co-Editors-in-Chief,  
**DENISE RIVERA AND ELISABETH SCHEFFEL**

### Cafeteria Carlos



### Correction and Continued Welcome to Ms. Frederica Berger

Education: SUNY Old Westbury Bachelors Degree, Adelphi University Masters Degree  
Prior Experience: South Middle  
Personal: Enjoys watching her students mature and grow.  
Interesting Fact: Former business owner



## 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!

## Drama Club presents Bram Stoker's Dracula

by Laura Argueta



Brentwood High School's drama club proudly invited you to come and behold their star actors and actresses put on the show, *Bram Stoker's Dracula!* They performed atop the Sonderling auditorium stage and reenacted this horror-romance thriller with much fervor for all who watched their well-rehearsed impersonations. Mr. Jackson, the director and coordinator of all that happens on the stage and behind-the-scenes, has expressed pride in the young dramatists and greatly anticipated their debut. Simply put, he described the play

in one simple sentence: "It's a story of undying love." Mr. Rochester assists in directing and coordinating the actors as well, Monday through Friday until 5:00 p.m. The actors and actresses have been tirelessly rehearsing and it showed in their performances. Mr. Smith also assists with the play and the creation of the sets which were remarkably effective in evoking the time and place of *Dracula*.

Stephon Hightower, a junior, played the role of Arthur Holmwood, and he stated, "Considering that everyone loves *Twilight*, this is the original *Twilight*. It shows love and lust. The play is fun and great. Mr. Jackson is a great director. Plus when you're in drama club, you have to be lively. There's a lot of joking around, but you have to stay committed."

This classic play was performed over the course of three consecutive nights, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>. Tickets were sold for just \$3 each. Many were on hand to witness the spectacle of *Dracula!* It was a trio of entertaining evenings as the mystery unfolded!



## NASSP Breakthrough School *(cont'd from front cover)*

by Kaitlyn Boland

Brentwood High School has been named a breakthrough school for 2009. On December 11, 2009, News 12 held a press conference in the Puleo Lecture Hall! Several ESL, Bilingual, and Special Education classes watched the conference, receiving special recognition for their improvement. The NASSP, which stands for the National Association of Secondary School Principals, awarded Brentwood High School as a breakthrough school of 2010. The NASSP, which originated in 1993, includes schools all over the United States, including the District of



Columbia. Attendees included Mr. O'Brien, Ms. Donna Jones, the superintendent of Brentwood Schools and Mr. George Talley the president of the Board of Education.

The ceremony was a tremendous honor for Brentwood High School. Charts showed that test scores doubled between 2003 and 2008. Local news channels recorded and took photographs of the event. The award would not have been achieved without the determination, perseverance and dedication of the administration, staff and students of our high school. The ceremony was a fitting tribute to these "breakthrough" characteristics.

by Merissa Bhimsingh

Many people have mentioned The Lounge around school. Student Council came up with the lounge as a fun after-school place to hangout with your friends. CJ Hopkins, Ross Student Council President said that it's considered a "school-wide, safe-environment, hangout." The first day of this event was on December 9<sup>th</sup> from 2-5pm in the Sonderling Senior Cafeteria. To get in you just have

to pay two dollars and have your student I.D. card. Ingrid Galeas (Sonderling Student Council President) and CJ Hopkins (Ross Student Council President) both said that it was a fun time with music, movies, games, and of course food. They also said that they would like to have one of these lounge days every month, and each month to have a different theme. Some examples were seasonal themes,

cultural themes and dance-off themes.

If anyone knows a different club that needs help raising money, you can tell them that they can sell food at the event. Student Council would like to know if anyone has any other ideas that they would like to share. Check the event calender for the next meeting in the Ross library. If you have any creative ideas, please stop by.

## The Lounge

## The Great American Smoke-Out

by Vivian Vuong

As teens, we have been lectured over and over again but let me ask you this... When do we actually listen? Let's face it, rambling adults aren't as effective as your very own friends. So the Great American Smokeout was the perfect opportunity for one of your friends might just have needed that extra push from you. The American Cancer Society first began the Great American Smoke-out in November of 1977. On that ONE day, smokers were challenged to drop that cigarette! Hopefully, that one smokeless day became two, then three, and so on and so forth.

During that one remarkable day in school, your friends needed your unconditional support. America just can't afford another person to fall into the cold hands of lung

cancer, amongst other severe illnesses.

S.A.D.D struck again! This club promoted and motivated students to participate in this smoke-out. Run by guidance counselors, Ms. Feil and Ms. Fasano, S.A.D.D has successfully sent out a clear message to Brentwood High. Dozens of candy grams have been sold to teachers and students for people they've sponsored in order to help them stop that itch for smoking. The candy grams included McDonald's certificates, chewy bars and plenty of other useful things to better help that smoking craving. S.A.D.D says thank you for either dropping that cigarette or helping out a friend. The point is, they couldn't have don't it without you!

## The Video Game Tournament

by Julio E. Villarman

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, there was a tournament held for the video game "Madden 2009." Tickets to play were five dollars and students hung out in the Ross Library from 2:00 to 5:00. Student Council, specifically member Akino Ollivierre, coordinated this event and it was a great turn out. Many people came and had non-stop fun. Two people played at a time on each screen with one player on each team. There were two television screens and one

projector to get more people playing for a better experience. With the students cheering for their teams, it sounded like a real football stadium. At the end of the fun-filled event, there were definite winners. First place winner was Jason Saez, who won a twenty-five dollar gift card to Game Stop. The second place winner was Randy Smith, who won a ten dollar gift card to Game Stop. Congratulations to all.



# The Green Machine Strikes Back

by Deloris Scott



On the Halloween weekend, while most people were trick-or-treating, the award-winning Green Machine Marching Band was pulling out every trick they had to get the perfect treat. On October 31, 2009, the day before State Championships, the Green Machine Marching Band went to Phoenix, New York. They won Superior over all the bands there. Last year the band came in sixth place. They have learned from then; they went upstate to triumph, and they triumph they did. They competed at the NYS High School Band Championship in the Carrier Dome at Syracuse University on Sunday, November 1, 2009. Out of six bands in the division of Large School 2, Brentwood's show, "The Modern Imagination," won second place with a score of 89.95, only 1.55 points behind the champion band Baldwinsville.

The Green Machine has had an undefeated season. As a new member to the Green Machine Marching Band, eleventh grader Andrea De Paz participated as a color guard member who spun flag in the ballet. "I think we did great. It seemed like Green Machine members brought their passion," said Andrea. Like Andrea, some students find the band to be boring before they join, however, once you are a part of it, things change. Not only does Andrea feel the passion that the Green Machine possesses, she also feels like they're part of her family.

Senior Drum Major Lindsay Baillie and Junior Drum Major Jackie Langella declare, "We are truly proud. We worked so hard this year and [we] feel our hard work definitely paid off." As Drum Majors, they try to lead the band and help achieve the main goal.

"Next year and in the years to come, always try your hardest and strive for the best. This band is amazing and has so much potential, over the years I have seen this organization grow and I have so much faith in the band. Always keep in mind that when things seem hard or unmanageable the reward will only be that much sweeter," Lindsay Baillie comments, encouraging her fellow band members. Junior drum Major Jackie Langella plans "to assist in building the strength and talent of the individual so that the band as a whole can go even further. This band deserves the best and [she] will work [her] hardest to make sure that they receive just that." Mr. Joseph Sittler said, "The Band was the best and not everyone else." He also expressed that the band worked hard over the summer and in September. The goal for next year is to be the best, not the rest.

The Green Machine is second place in the State of New York. The Halloween weekend was probably fun for most of the student body, for the Green Machine, they loved it even more. Coming from sixth place last year to second this year was truly rewarding for them. So, congratulate a passing Green Machine member in the hallway!



## Did Mariah Carey Take Music Theory?

by Leigh-Ann Ramsey

Whether Mariah Carey took music theory or not, this class is an experience like no other and one you should try. Many students have probably heard about the class, but a lot of people are unsure what it is. To many, only big music nerds take this class. However, that assumption is wrong! While yes, students whose passion is music are generally the ones who fill up the seats, more and more non-music students are signing up.

What is music theory all about? It's all of the in-depth technical details of music. While listening to a song on the radio, a music theory aficionado is actually hearing the intervals used, and is figuring out how to play the song all in his/her mind. This class covers a whirlwind of topics, ranging from learning the notes on a staff to recognizing chords by ear.

Although this class is a lot of work, the material is presented in such a way that learning is no longer boring or redundant. "I enjoy the class very much. We learn a lot in a very relaxed environment that makes the class that much more enjoyable," Brian Cordova, a sophomore currently in Music Theory I, explains.

Perhaps the reason the class is so popular and enjoyable is the teacher, Mr. Tims. With his crazy antics and his sense of humor, Mr. Tims has learned, over his 10 years of teaching, how to present this college-level material so that students will not only understand, but will be CRAVING for more information. Mr. Tims tries to make the material clear and make it connect. He also tries to individualize as much as possible, putting each student at an "equal disadvantage." Using this method, a student who is very advanced will be challenged to do something above and beyond, while another student who is new to everything will be challenged with the task at hand. In this way, no student is ever bored, and is always pushed to his fullest potential.

After taking Music Theory I and passing the regents in June, students have the option of taking AP (advanced placement) Music Theory, which will count as college credit after passing the class and exam. This course, also taught by Mr. Tims, teaches students more about music than they had ever imagined.

This class also offers a diverse student population. Anyone, in any grade, in any building (Sonderling or Ross), and at any musical skill level, can be mixed in the same class. "It's a great opportunity for students to get a better understanding of the music around them. Whether it be in a music class, in their own studios, or in the music they listen to every day," Cordova said. Unfortunately, it is too far into the school year for students to be switched into the class for the '09-'10 school year. Anyone interested in taking Music Theory should speak to his or her guidance counselor about next year's schedule. Dig up more information, and ask, "Is music theory right for me?"

## Musical Wonderland at Brentwood High School

On Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, the Brentwood High School auditorium was host to the Winter Concert: Part I. The concert began at 7:00 pm and offered a varied array of Christmas/holiday songs. Alanna Henriquez, a junior, sang *The Star-Spangled Banner* as a prelude to the subsequent performances. The string orchestra, led by Ms. Hillard, kicked off the formal program. They performed three songs; among them, one entitled *Christmas Time is Here*. The symphonic band, led by Mr. Dewey, followed. They performed a special piece titled, *A Visit from St. Nick*. As they played, Ms. Kollar graced the melody by narrating the classic tale of *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* with much emotion. Her presence was appreciated by her former music students, especially since she retired just last year.

The wind ensemble took the stage third, conducted by Ms. Helbock. They added to the holiday cheer felt by spectators when they performed the notes of *Christmas Declaration*. Last but definitely not least, the mixed chorus tied the bow onto the gift

of music presented to those who attended this evening, when they sang *Baby, It's Cold Outside* and *Hallelujah!* In addition, the virtuoso pair, Christian Santiago and Willie Dawkins, performed a fine tenor saxophone duet and roused the spectators' emotions. Special thanks is given to the select choir, who entertained the audience in-between transitions. The host of this event, Dr. Joel Ratner, stated, "They're just so good that we try to bring them in as often as possible!"

In case you're wondering, the Winter Concert: Part 2 will be held on January 12, 2010 in the Sonderling Auditorium.

In it, concert band, women's choir, concert orchestra, select orchestra, and select band will be participating. Stay tuned for the next Pow Wow issue for a review of Winter Concert: Part II!



# Ready...set...go...November & December

by Vivian Vuong

**Did you know these holidays occurred in November?**



1) **National Adoption Month** - One less lonely puppy, person, or whatever else you can adopt! What a brilliant focus on reducing sadness around the world.

2) **Pursuit of Happiness Week (8th-14th)** - Do you truly know what it takes to be happy? Mend ends with an enemy, practice yoga... do something out of the "norm" because the most unexpected things come to surprise you for the better!

3) **National Family Week (22nd-28th)** - When was the last time you put aside AIM and Facebook for the people you've learned to love? If you don't already, eat dinner as a family or even sit down for Monopoly. Don't ever be ashamed to admit you want your mommy and daddy!

4) **Better Conversation Week (23rd-29th)** - Hellos and goodbyes are tiring out a good December:



chunk of your conversations? Be the one to throw in something random for once. It's about time for a better conversation!

5) **Sandwich Day (3rd)** - Self-explanatory! Sandwiches are amazing meals all in one. Fix yourself up an extravagant sandwich once you get home from that long day of school. It'll be something nice before you begin that terrifying homework.

6) **Forget Me Not Day (10th)** - Life is unexplainable. The people you've held most dear to you may become the most distant strangers you've ever had. Pop back into their lives and relive the best memories you've shared.

7) **Great American Smoke-Out (19th)** To all smokers, put that cigarette down for just one day. To all friends of smokers, encourage them to stop smoking. A day without lighting up can go far.



1) **World Aids Month** - Okay, so I'm not exactly telling you to go out and make public speeches about the horrors of Aids. I'm simply reminding you about the consequences of spontaneous actions. Just don't go for something that you can see yourself possibly regretting at any given time in your future.

2) **Bathtub Party Day (5th)** - How fancy! A day for a soothing bath. Throw in some fizzy beads into that warm water, raise up the volume of your stereo, light up some scented candles and...VOILA! You've got yourself a bathtub party.



3) **Human Rights Day (10th)** - "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." Rights - something WE ALL take for granted. This is one of those deep thinking days where you ask yourself, how would life be if I never gained any rights?

4) **Barbie & Barney Backlash Day (16th)** - This is definitely a child's nightmare. A day where evil parents tell their children Barbie and Barney are NOT real, followed up by throw-



ing these childhood nostalgic toys into a big, depressing, garbage bag.

5) **Underdog Day (18th)** - Beginning in 1948 when Mike "The String Bean" Johnson went 10 rounds in a boxing match with "Iron Meat" Jackson. A moment where the people you least expect, do the greatest of things.

6) **National Chocolate Day (28th)**



- Let's give a salute to one of the all-time, greatest, heavenly wonders! Chocolate coated everything is what anyone in the world is up for, not only on this day, but any and every day!

7) **World Peace Day (21st)** - Throw your fist in the air and look, you're already looking politically empowered. World unity is something way beyond our belief but hey, maybe it can randomly sprout up after we make it through December 12, 2012.

## Time To Relax

by Kaitlyn Boland

Stress can pile up easily. School, homework, extra-curriculars, jobs, college applications and the SAT, definitely can make a person crazy. The holidays are approaching as well, which makes this time of year very stressful for many people. Taking the time to relax is crucial to your health. Relaxation is beneficial to one's body, mind and good humor.



stress also causes harm to the body. Stress comes from one's environment and thoughts. Short-term problems include headaches, upset stomach, elevated blood pressure, chest pain and sleeping problems. Various conditions can also be developed over time, such as high blood pressure, heart problems, skin conditions, diabetes, arthritis and asthma. Over time, stress can also weaken one's immune system, making it easier to become sick.

Stress affects people differently. Senior Richelle

Powell develops headaches when she is stressed, and senior Essence Johnson even loses weight when she is stressed. Stress also takes a toll on a person's energy level, which is true with senior Littleton McPherson, who becomes very tired when he is stressed. Others get stomachaches when something is troubling them. According to webMD.com, 75-90% of all doctor's office visits are for stress-related ailments and complaints. This proves that taking the time to relax, even for just 20 minutes a day, can be important to your body, mind, and feelings.

Benefits of relaxation include a drop in blood pressure, a restful heart rate and slower breathing. One way to slow down and relax is by laughing. Laughing reduces stress hormones, according to health.com, which helps immune cells function better and reduces the risk of becoming sick. Laughing also just lifts your spirit and makes you feel better. Another way is walking. The rhythm and repetition of your feet has a calming effect on the brain, decreases anxiety and improves sleep.

Fragrance plays a huge part in relaxation. Fragrances pass to the nerve centers of the brain, where a wide range of responses are produced, according to readersdigest.com. Citrus smells boost feelings of well-being and alleviate stress, while lavender tames our physical reaction to stress, induces sleep, and enhances energy. There are also a few foods that can aid with stress. Eating spicy foods releases endorphins in the brain, chemicals that trigger feelings of well-being and euphoria. Also, honey's antioxidants and antibacterial properties may help to improve immunity.

Taking on too much activity can add to stress.

Once in a while, it's okay to say no to taking on another task, if you have too much to do already. If it's a sunny day, step out into the sunlight for a few minutes. Sunlight improves mood and stimulates the production of serotonin, a feel-good chemical. In addition, just getting the problem out can help you feel better. Try talking to a loved one or good friend about it, or write about it in a private journal.

Take a minute to focus on your breathing and current thoughts. This helps to slow your breathing rate, blood pressure and heart rate, and can change your brain structure, increasing your ability to focus and remain calm in stressful situations. Recalling a warm memory can make you feel better, and watching your favorite movie/TV show or reading a good book provide an escape, to help you forget about the problem at hand.



With the holidays coming up, it's crucial to your well-being to spend a little time relaxing. Reducing stress can reduce your chance of developing long-term health problems, be more focused and efficient and can make you feel better. Stress is a part of daily life, but learning how to deal with it will greatly help your mind, body and emotional well-being.



# Gary Mintz 15th Annual Pancake Run



# MUSTANG!!



The AFJ ROTC proudly presented, "THE FORD MUSTANG X-1." This super car was created to demonstrate how youth's passion for cars and mechanics can develop into a career in the US Air Force. All were welcomed to the ROTC room to see and learn about the amazing qualities this Mustang possessed. This vehicle was made with state-of-the-art technology from highly specialized airmen, a world renowned team of car mechanics and

customers from one of MTV's popular shows, "Pimp My Ride."

Some of the characteristics that makes this baby better than any other Ford Mustang is that it has a center drive system, a F-16 aircraft ejection seat, a F-16 flight stick gear shift and top-of-the-line sound system consisting of 2 Arc Audio Amplifiers with audio control sound processor and 3 sets of Kenwood Coaxial speakers. This car also has NASCAR style Willwood brakes, Aeronautic-like strobes and light beacons, with fresh air intake used for the driver cooling system and a rear deck lid reverse duct system, which is used for simulated jet intake.



itself down after a car show and has a technologically-advanced charging system. The computer system controls a lot of features in the cars and it has internet access and GPS tracking capabilities. Its speed can go from 0 to 60 in about 3.99 seconds, with a top speed of 178 mph. Can you say fast and furious?

This sports car is a one of a kind beauty, detailed for many different situations. Well, of course ,it's made with the best; it's from the Air Force.

by *Arellys Iwaru*  
Something interesting about it is that it has an Infrared and Thermal Camera that enhances your vision. This is very similar to what's used in the Air Force when they want to seek heat. You can tell where gunfire is coming from, whether or not a car has been on, and anything that's warm or gives off heat. The electrical system has the most up-to-date technology; it protects itself by disconnecting all batteries when everything is turned off. It also includes a timer which allows the car to shut



## A NEW MUSIC EXPERIENCE

by *Arellys Iwaru and Yasmeen Mohammad*

The crowd was roaring as Air Force Band, the "AfterBurner," performed two concerts at Brentwood High School for the first time ever on November 18th, 2009. AfterBurner is the United States Air Force Band of liberty's high energy rock band. This seven-member band kicks in a twist, blending different genres such as rock, blues, and R&B in their performances. The band plays songs anywhere from Jimmy Hendricks to some of this year's hottest hits; such as Kings of Leon's *Use Somebody*, *Fun House* by Pink, *Ignorance* by Paramore, and



back next year."

These active duty airmen have performed all around the world, including Europe, New York and New Jersey. They have appeared on National Television and have opened for famous bands and people like The Fabulous Thunderbirds and Charles Daniels. It was truly a great experience for many. Allowing students this opportunity exposed them to something great, unique and maybe even something they will consider as part of a future career.

many more.

Afterburner had the students of Brentwood High School on their feet, singing along to the music in no time. "The show was insane! I was screaming at the top of my lungs!" Roger Barba, an ROTC cadet, commented. This basically sums up the general feel of the show, where the band absolutely drew the attention of ever-so-reluctant teenagers and gave them something to shout about. The show drew nothing but smiles, laughs, and cheers of pure enjoyment. Kayla Thomas, another ROTC upperclassman, said, "The show was so kick... butt! Roger was screaming like a little girl the whole time, so that was a nice added bonus."

Lead singer, TSgt Kim Lively has been a member of Afterburner for about half a year. She calls it the "greatest job possible to have in the Air Force. I love singing, and this band gives off so much energy... we have so much fun." Kim Lively, bassist TSgt Kenny Maurais, and guitarist/vocalist Sar Tim Reeder all agreed, "This is one of the greatest audiences we've had... everyone was so into it... I really look forward to coming

Afterburner held the audience into the show from start to finish. ROTC instructor Msgt Perez said, "Opportunities like these don't come by all the time and it was really great that we could bring it to Brentwood High School. Guitarist Msgt Gary Noel and drummer Ssgt Bennet spoke about how they couldn't see themselves doing anything else in the military. Having the chance to try out this incredible career, while still serving in their country, means so much at this point in their lives.

This musical experience has broadened the term Air Force on so many levels that it diversifies the stereotypical thought when mentioning the military. Any student who is interested in possibly pursuing a career in an Air Force Music program should contact Ssgt John Pantajo.



## AFJ ROTC Dining-Out a Huge Success!

by *Yasmeen Mohammad*

On Friday, December 13th, the annual AFJ ROTC Dining-out took place in the Sonderling Cafeteria. A dining-out is essentially a night where military cadets, along with guests, gather for a formal dinner, ceremony, and celebration. Brentwood High School's ROTC did just this... the fighting falcons know how to put on a real party. Opening with Singers Amarilys Bermudez and Desmond Wilson performing the country's national anthem, the colors were posted, guests were honored, toasts were given, instructors were roasted, and everyone was welcomed to this year's event. The core's upstanding drill team even performed a very well-put together unarmed trick show. Afterwards, there was a rush for the buffet of food that the cadets worked hard to put together, and finally, after everyone's appetites were satiated... it was time for the real fun to start. Cadets and guests alike were able to participate in a number of games and events such as drill knockout, the cake eating contest, and the ever-so-popular raffles. Students walked away with cash prizes ranging from one to twenty dollars, and one student, Stacey Forte, even won a wide screen TV. The night obviously didn't end there, and after the raffles, games, food, and secret Santa fun, the dance floor opened and the cadets let loose. Despite the long, tiring night, especially for those who remained in school all day to help set up and prepare for this event, the cadets of Brentwood High School's AFJ ROTC held an excellent event that is sure to be remembered for years to come.

## Tinker Auto Parts

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD  
AUTOPARTS STORE SINCE 1962

\*\*Brentwood\*\* 273-1771, 952-0980

\*\*Bay Shore\*\* 665-0700

\*\*Bohemia\*\* 567-1991

Hablamos Espanol

# BEST DRESSED OF NOVEMBER-DECEMBER



## 12th: ANYA BEHARRY

**Aleruchi: Who/what inspires the way you dress?**

**Anya:** A lot of things inspire the way I dress, from music videos I watch to the pages of magazines. After taking ideas from the fashion industry, I add my own twist to the way I dress.

**Aleruchi: What are your favorite things to buy?**

**Anya:** I love to buy things that make me stand out. I take pieces from different stores and put it together.

**Aleruchi: Where do you like to shop?**

**Anya:** I shop at many different stores. I go to underground stores in the city or common stores and find unique pieces. I add accessories to bring out my outfit.

**Aleruchi: How do you define your style?**

**Anya:** I do not have just one style, sometimes I dress relaxed, other times I am dressy, so it varies.

**Aleruchi: How does the art of fashion influence your life?**

**Anya:** It inspired me to be different and step out the box. It contributes to my individuality.



## 12th: JAVON LEXCH

**Ada: Who inspires the way you dress?**

**Javon:** Kid Cudi & Ibn Jasper, who is the stylist for Kanye West and Lupe Fiasco.

**Ada: What are your favorite things to buy?**

**Javon:** My number 1 favorite thing to purchase is sneakers, preferably sb dunks. But if it's not that, then I also love to buy bape clothing.

**Ada: Where do you like to shop?**

**Javon:** Well about 95% of the things I buy, whether it be sneakers or clothes, are bought online, but for the rest I like to shop in Soho or Roosevelt field mall.. depending on how far I wanna travel lol.

**Ada: How do you define your style?**

**Javon:** I would probably say it's a very urban / city oriented style. Just comfortable really.

**Ada: How has the art of fashion influenced your life?**

**Javon:** It allowed me to meet many different people who I probably wouldn't even have looked twice at if they didn't stop me because I had a pair of sneakers they really liked on my feet.



## 11th: ANDREW DURAN

**Ada: Who inspires the way you dress?**

**Andrew:** I guess my older cousin. I look up to him; kind of bit off of him but with my own little twist on it.

**Ada: What are your favorite things to buy?**

**Andrew:** Clothes; can't go to a store without buying something. Also, kicks, mostly Jordans, and some dunks. All my kicks are Nike. Gear: everything from H&M to American Eagle.

**Ada: Where do you like to shop?**

**Andrew:** In the city... umm some boutiques in soho... like my cousin and his boys got a boutique (Coat of Arms)... and I buy a lot of my gear from there... and out here... regular stores like H&M American Eagle.

**Ada: How do you define your style?**

**Andrew:** Preppy, but still a bit urban.

**Ada: How has the art of fashion influenced your life?**

**Andrew:** It has definitely influenced me. It's like one of those really important things to me and how I look is very important to me as well. I always try to look my best and always want to keep my style new and fresh. I'm just always worried about it and I am very interested in it.



## 11th: JOHNNY BANERILLA

**Aleruchi: Who inspires the way you dress?**

**Johnny:** The way I dress comes from hanging out with my friends and walking through the streets of the city.

**Aleruchi: What are your favorite things to buy?**

**Johnny:** My favorite things to buy are plaid button-up shirts, and sneakers. I do not just stick to popular sneakers that everyone buys but sneakers that bring out the type of dresser I am.

**Aleruchi: Where do you like to shop?**

**Johnny:** I like shopping at hidden stores like East West, H&M, Forever 21, and Urban Outfitters.

**Aleruchi: How do you define your style?**

**Johnny:** Simple! My style is original but realistic and individualistic.

**Aleruchi: How does the art of fashion influence your life?**

**Johnny:** It inspired me to be a better dresser and add more versatility to my style.

Shout out to Joe... best kicks for senior class!



## 10: ASHLEY WHITE

**Ada:** Who inspires the way you dress?

**Ashley:** Well I really don't have anybody who inspires me, like I like a little of everyone - and I put it all together .

**Ada:** What are your favorite things to buy?

**Ashley:** I absolutely love buying sneakers, I can't go into a mall or a sneaker store without coming out with a pair .

**Ada:** Where do you like to shop?

**Ashley:** Forever 21, H&M, Wet Seal, Aeropostale, just basically every store has something that catches my eye.

**Ada:** How do you define your style?

**Ashley:** Unique, not to sound cocky or anything, I just think it's different from everyone in a way.

**Ada:** How has the art of fashion influenced your life?

**Ashley:** It inspires me in so many different ways to be creative and develop my own style, to just be me and to not care what people think .



## 10: ROBERT HARRIS

**Ada:** Who inspires the way you dress?

**Robert:** My sister, Kanye West , Lupe Fiasco

**Ada:** What are your favorite things to buy?

**Robert:** Polo, Ralph Lauren shirts, vests, cardigan sweaters and sneakers Once in a while traffic tees. Ohh yeah and straight leg skinny jeans

**Ada:** Where do you like to shop?

**Robert:** Soho area, H&M, and UrbanOutfitters and the Polo factory.

**Ada:** How do you define your style?

**Robert:** Flavorful and unique.

**Ada:** How has the art of fashion influenced your life?

**Robert:** It allows me to express my personality and inspires me to look good at all times.

# Fashion Police!

### • Ladies:

**\*Stop:** Now that winter is vastly upon us, I should remind you guys that covering up is essential. We don't want any one to catch a quick case of the Swine Flu or any type of disease for that matter. There are many, many things you gals can where that looks cute and fashionable but is still WARM! Try a nice graphic tee with a cardigan, leggings and leather boots to match. Remember ladies, LESS IS MORE (but not too little) so just have fun with it and make your style your own.

**\*GO:** Ladies, now is the time to get out your winter gear and accessories. I'm talking about the leggings, the berets, the leather boots or the signature UGG Boots. Gloves and scarves are also a must have this winter season. Whether you're wearing your Northface or a peacoat, just keep in mind that not only do you want to be warm but you also want to look cute, too. Also, try wearing nice bright colors like pink, yellow, or red. Just because the weather outside is dingy doesn't mean that you have to be. Remember just have fun with it!



### • Fellas:

**\*Stop:** Guys, just be sure to bundle up this season but not too tight. As mentioned in the last issue, tight skinny jeans is a NO, NO! If anything, just get the fitted jeans with a graphic tee and a cardigan and some fresh kicks and you are good to go. No female wants a dude whose jeans are tighter then hers!

**\*GO:** Guys, this season the "in thing" is hats. Whether it is a Yankee fitted, or a simple cap or one of those weird hats with the floppy ears ( sorry, I don't know the name but I like how it looks ). All are good candidates that bring out your outfits and keep your heads warm during this cold season. Remember fellas, just be confident in whatever swag you have and your clothing will do the talking.

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## “I pledge allegiance to the flag....” but why?

by Littleton Mc Pherson

Many of us ask ourselves why we have to say the pledge, but what we fail to realize is that it is an important part of our history. Saluting the flag in public schools began as part of a national effort to Americanize immigrants, which was a good way of bringing people together, but what is its real meaning? How should someone feel about being forced to stand for something they truly do not believe in or do not feel like standing for? How should, not just students, but also everyone who is told to stand feel about this custom? Not everyone wants to stand because not every American believes in what that flag stands for. Is it right that those who do not believe the same as others, be marked as outcasts and fake Americans for the fact that they do now wish to stand for the pledge? Ironically, they wish to have the freedom to stand and say what they wish. Are we Americans if we do not say or stand for something that is against our beliefs? Are some people wrong to feel this way?

What many people fail to realize is that many Americans do not even know the meaning of the pledge and what it stands for. Some may say I do not care to stand because I do not know what it means anyway. Nevertheless, those who do not know, should ask themselves if they should find out what it means or consciously decide not to care to know. When people choose not to stand they should ask themselves, do I know why I am not standing at this time and place? The question we all must ask of ourselves is, do we know the meaning of America and the flag's meaning? Principal O'Brien, when asked why Brentwood has always said the pledge since he became principal, said, "It is law that public schools say the pledge every day in the State of New York and some other states. It is to be said every day and when I was in school, if you did not say it you were kicked out of a classroom and there was nothing that you could do about it." Mr. O'Brien said that unless it's against your religious belief, you need to stand for the pledge as a citizen.

Many students say they just do not want to stand but what they need to know is that they should know what they are not standing for and the meaning of their actions, not just because they want to be lazy one day. In life, there are things we sometimes do not like but we should always know the meaning of why we do not like it in the first place. Just because you miss a day not saying the pledge does not make you a bad person or less American, but you should know the meaning of your choice and what it represents to other people around you. According to website usflag.org, the colors of the flag are symbolic: red means fearless courage and integrity, blue means heaven, loyalty, and faith and white means liberty and equality for all. There is history in many of the customs and traditions we follow and people need to think before they make big statements like not standing for the pledge of allegiance. According to website usa-flag.org, for more than 200 years, the American flag has been the symbol of our nation's strength and unity. It has been a source of pride and inspiration for millions of citizens. The American flag has been a prominent icon in our national history and the daily pledge is our way to honor everything for which our country stands.

## Guest Speaker Presents for Medical Society

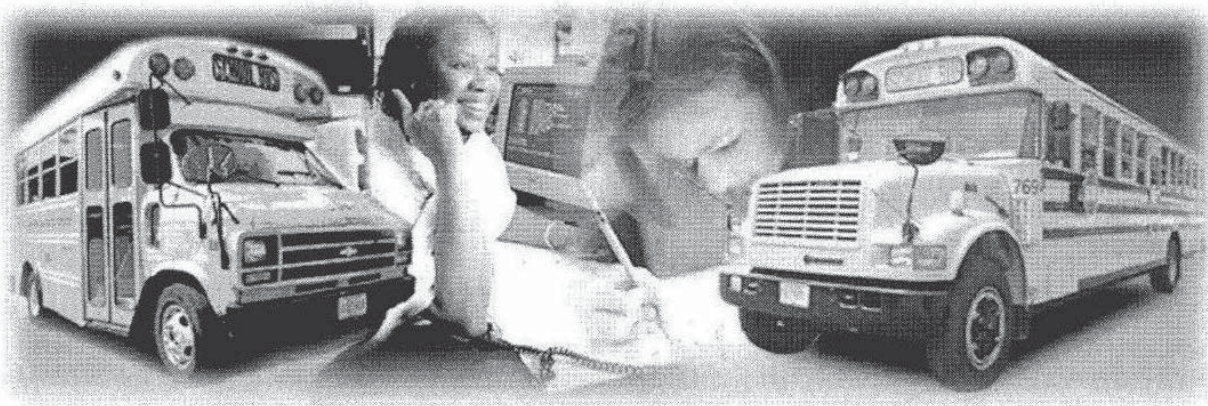
by Laura Argueta and Maryam Y. Rabbani

Students who hope to be a future part of the medical field work force were enlightened by Althea Mills' wise words of advice and knowledge. Mills, whose job alters between being a clinical instructor at Suffolk County Community College and a nurse at Brookhaven Hospital, shed light upon the process of becoming a nurse this past 9<sup>th</sup> of November at the Puleo Lecture Hall. More importantly, she delivered a valuable speech that delved into a more personal realm. She elaborated on the subject of what is the best pathway, in terms of medical professions, for each student. This, she says, is in

accordance with their unique characteristics and attributes. Mills spoke of responsibilities, salary, and job opportunities available in the extensive field of medicine. She also offered information regarding her own personal experience and further encouraged any students interested in becoming a nurse, to follow their dreams. Mills emphasized the fact that nursing is a secure career to strive towards, because there is never a lack of work, meaning sick people, unfortunately, are always abundant. Her visit to Brentwood High School was appreciated and well respected by our very own future doctors and nurses.

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# BE SUCCESSFUL!

by Jean Dorilus

For some young students, they come to school for no reason. They have no hope. They just want to be cool. What is it to be cool? Ricky responded, "To be cool is when you see your friends doing something that you do not have doing, yet you Ronald replied, things that your stay close to look like a punk. one those guys, stop being cool, successful." As "Smoke bud all will never find



Stop smoking, drinking, don't be a drug user. If you wear your pants below your waist, if you never go to class, if you keep on walking in the hallway all day, cutting class to go to McDonald's, you think you're cool for that?? You have to know that success comes from opportunities and hard work. The road to success contains a bunch of needles, so you better hope that you're not without your shoes on.

Being 'cool' is not taking you anywhere. Yes, today you might be Mr. Kool, but think about tomorrow. When you see your friends that weren't considered cool, they are going to end up driving a 2017 car and living in a 4.5 million dollar home. While you, on

the other hand, end up driving a Toyota Camry, still working at McDonald's and living in an apartment with your mom. THAT is where being cool is going to take you. I know you do not want to be like Squidward, and never get what you want, or like Spongebob flippingburgers.

Is that how you want to live? You can be like: Lil' Wayne, Beyonce, Ne-Yo, Nicolas Cage, Kate Beckinsale, and even Obama!

**"Tell me your friends, and I'll tell you who you are." - Ancient Proverb**

All you have to do to be successful is respect your parents, don't do any drugs, be obedient, and never steal. That is how you can be like those who have met with great success. It's easy for some, but for others it's difficult. You have to know that no matter how far you get, you have not finished yet. No matter how hard you try, do not just say good-bye. If you want to be successful, take my advice: Each day is 24 hours. So separate it in 8 hours for school, another 8 hours for you to have fun and time to play, and the last 8 hours is for sleeping. Make sure every single day you learn five or more things that you did not know. Be successful. Do not worry about being cool. Who you hang with is who you are.

Stay in school and be successful!!!

## Defending the Mentally Ill

by Kaitlyn Boland

Different levels of mentally ill individuals exist around us. There are mild cases, where a person can attend school or a job, take basic care of themselves, live a simple life and have relationships with others. Mild cases include mental retardation and Down's syndrome. Other cases are severe, where the individual needs to be kept in a special hospital, possibly for the rest of their life. Disorders of these cases include schizophrenia and multiple personality disorder, also known as dissociative identity disorder, according to webMD.com. If a mentally ill person, who is not possibly aware of their surroundings and what they are doing, commits a crime such as murder, should they be committed or acquitted?

The first insanity defense arose in 1843. Daniel M'Naghten, a woodworker, believed he was the target of a conspiracy involving the pope and British Prime Minister Robert Peel, according to washingtonpost.com. As a tragic result, he

traveled to 10 Downing Street to ambush Robert Peel and shot and killed Peel's secretary by accident. While he awaited his verdict in court, several psychiatrists evaluated him and found M'Naghten to be delusional. The jury agreed, and Daniel M'Naghten was found not guilty.

The insanity defense refers to a plea that defendants are not guilty because they lacked the mental capacity to realize that they committed a wrong or can appreciate why it was wrong. Laws vary by state, but some also allow defendants to argue that they understood their behavior was criminal, but they were unable to control it, according to washingtonpost.com. This is also known

as the "irresistible impulse" defense.

Guilty but mentally ill verdicts allow mentally ill defendants to be found



criminally liable and require them to seek psychiatric treatment while incarcerated, or to be placed in a mental hospital, according to enotes.com. When the patient is well

enough, they then move to a prison facility. New York State places the burden of proof on the defendant. However, some cases are severe enough where the patient needs to be kept in a hospital for the rest of his/her life.

Insanity defense is an attempt to impose a moral check on a system largely designed to weigh facts and evidence. The defense allows juries and judges to realize that some defendants are not "criminally responsible" for these actions. A three-year old child would not be charged with arson, because the fire was obviously an accident. Why should a person who has no awareness of their surroundings and is unable to live a normal life be thrown in jail? Although there are others who fake it to get out of prison, there are ill people who have no family to care for them and are unable to have a "normal" life. They deserve the care they really need, which is in a mental health hospital, not behind bars.

## SHOULD PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROVIDE TEENAGE PARENTS WITH DAYCARE?

by Littleton McPherson

Should public schools provide teenage parents with day care? According to website publicschoolreview.com, this also comes back to the debate over sex education in public schools which has now been extended to the question of what schools should do after students choose to have sex. The question many may ask themselves is, is it right for other people to pay for a choice that teens made? I don't believe that it is right for others to pay for something you chose to do because when it comes down to it, you are the one who chose to have sex at a young age so it is your problem.

Some people may argue, "How are they going to go to school if they have a baby at home?" My answer to them is that those who have kids should not have them because if they can't get an education how are they going to help support a child later in life? Therefore, when you look at it, if schools provide day cares, in a way, they

are supporting teenage pregnancy.

Many communities are being forced to debate whether or not public schools should provide day care programs for teen parents. Many teenage parents, especially teenage moms, choose to dropout



upon giving birth to their children. In areas with high teen pregnancy rates, many school officials assert that the community

must strive to prevent teens from dropping out of school. However, at the same time they have to think about where this day care would go and how many people have to be hired and how will it be paid for. Leaders argue that teenage dropouts lead to a great number of economic and social problems in the community. Many school leaders and community members contrarily believe that these programs are simply encouraging irresponsible choice. I agree with this because with teens, if they know they have a day care service free they know if they have a baby, their child would be taken care of which in many way could hurt the community in which they live.

There are many such programs already in place such as the Gotham

Schools system, located in New York City. This teen parent support program, established in 1982, has helped many but it has cost too much over the years and they do not know how much longer it will last. According to a report by the New York Civil Liberties Union, the Department of Education should bolster its day care program for students with young children of their own. According to gothamschools.org, however, because of budget cuts, the DOE could actually move in the opposite direction, cutting off young parent's access to free DOE-run day care centers currently housed in 40 public schools across the city. What many fail to realize is that these programs are becoming too much on communities to pay for. Many taxpayers cannot afforded to take care of anyone else's children but their own and there is no room in the budget for it. What it all boils down to is that everything costs money and people should think before they act.

# The Gallery Lost in Autumn

edited by Ryan Every

hard work and determination-  
nervous wreck, fights and arrests  
police lights, stress, mercy he's a mess  
tries his best to get it off his chest  
so he follows the rest, in words he invests  
the first stop, another verse yet  
a hurt head, he sits with the words dead  
his wings spread, it starts working  
for certain, opens up like his mind was a curtain  
concerned with bursting and thoughts of cursing  
he wants to be heard but can't get the word in  
reversing and swerving until they merge  
his vision not yet done like a virgin  
yearning to be someone the others worship  
earning, getting respect that he deserved and  
still reserving while serving he's still dispersing  
his dream has come true...yeah it was all worth it

-Cory Lezama



Krystal Fleishman

for the winter time-  
leaves fall from branches  
like the deceased in their caskets,  
on top of one another  
like flowers at a funeral,  
death has never been more beautiful...  
the weather changes with  
the different shades of color  
an abstract canvas of amazing wonder...  
the temperature falls  
further in the season after  
the leaves all scatter and we  
breathe in freezing matter...



Helberth Rivas

now the winter is upon us  
shadows when the sun's up  
it's as dark and cold as my heart and soul  
even more so in the evening  
for only the moon can shed light  
on the night of the wolf...  
this time of year seems  
to do something magic  
but it's not christmas spirit  
it's a feeling of tragic  
disaster and misery  
but it calms me so  
as i cry in the cold  
on comes the snow  
each tear shed from misty eyes  
is crystalized  
it's all for the winter time...  
i really do enjoy it through  
such a peaceful time of year  
the people kind with holiday cheer  
although i am a mess  
like snow plowed into dirt  
on the side of the road  
i remain content for it's all i know  
but it hurts my soul...

-Ryan Every

untold-  
Broken Windows and a shattered heart  
told that I must play a part  
their goal is perfection, a work of art  
want much more but, they never see  
the tears I shed behind closed doors  
wishing to be understood,  
Her chosen words are  
"you need" but never "you should"  
I see you as nothing to me  
so i'll stop and start with He  
HIM! never was his little princess  
guess you're why my life is a mess  
wishing you were loving me with  
all of your heart  
but my hatred for you only  
glows in the dark  
you sit in the black hole in my heart...  
guessing you left that mark  
scars and bruises, cuts on my skin  
as you continue to play with the fire  
that burns within  
nobody knows about how i feel and all you  
care about is the metal  
that sits on your wheels...  
of course that comes before me  
you'll be better off blind  
maybe that'll make you want to see...

-Dominique Dantzler



Matt Falconi



Mary Malone



Noelle Tibke



Daniel Calderon

Christina Ruiz