

# POW WOW



BRENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

BRENTWOOD NY 11717

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2008

VOLUME 40

ISSUE 1

## Election '08: Ready, Set, VOTE!

by Joan De Jesus

Young voters hold a variety of opinions these days about the presidential election and the candidates themselves. In any hallway or classroom, reactions vary from, "It doesn't matter if I vote; it doesn't concern me", to the classic "Uh, I don't know." This contrasts sharply with those students at the other end of the spectrum who hold passionate support for one candidate or the other.

This year's election is one of the most controversial and exciting presidential races in decades. Whatever the result, the United States of America will make history with either the first African American president or the first female vice president. However, these facts should not be the leading factors in determining your November vote, for those who are 18 and older. Instead, focus on an issue that will directly affect you. Like all voters, involved Brentwood students focus on the topics that will affect them most directly when casting their votes. After all, in choosing your presidential candidate you are giving one man permission to shape your future, whether you see it this way or not. With the current state of our economy and the proximity of graduation, perhaps the most important question young voters should ask themselves in this upcoming election is: *Which president would make it easier for me to go to college?*



College costs have grown exponentially over the last couple of decades. According to a recent NY Times article, the average graduate leaves college with over \$19,000 in debt and many academically qualified students do not attend college because they cannot afford higher education on a private or even local level. For students attending public colleges and universities, the tuition bills are significantly lower than those at private institutions if you're an in-state student. Tuition at SUNY schools is approximately \$4,350 for NY residents, whereas for out-of-state students it is \$10,610. This is not just the case in NY; The University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, for instance, charges \$33,069 to out-of-state students, making it the most expensive public school for out-of-state students. According to the latest data from the College Board, tuition costs an average of \$29,029 to attend a four-year private college, and \$12,127 to go to a four-year public university. Unfortunately, this does not even include room and board.

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## REVENGE OF LATE HALL

by Gilberto Martinez

That's right, fellow students, Late Hall is back! The attempt to get rid of Late Hall last year backfired. Administration began to give legiti-

at the start of the bell, and students were repeatedly disturbing their classes with lateness. So far this year, Late Hall is most populated during second and third period, but the numbers are decreasing everyday. There are tactics used to urge students to get to class on time. "The point is not to catch people," stated Mr. O'Brien, Principal of Brentwood High School. Some of the tactics are hall sweeps, the announcement made to shut the classroom doors and lock the late students out of the room. When in Late Hall, the rules of a regular classroom are applied: no drinking, no eating, and, of course, no electronic devices.



mate late passes to class in order to get rid of Late Hall. "We were getting hundreds of kids per period," stated Mr. Autera, Assistant Principal of Sonderling High School. Students learned the system and jumped right on it. As a result, students were roaming the halls, classes were empty

each students' number of 'cuts' and latenesses for the week. After the process of checking the records, a student with an excessive amount of Late Hall visits will be called down to Late Hall and will receive further consequences.

continued on page 3



## STRUCTURE IN BRENTWOOD

by Nyasia Mitchell

Levels have made a comeback in Brentwood! Because of last year's ineffective system, Mr. O'Brien, the assistant principals, deans, union delegates, and the Board of Education searched for new solutions. They concluded that Levels needed to return to Brentwood, albeit in a modified fashion. Will the staff and students perceive it in a positive or negative way?

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The Pow Wow has an EMAIL!!!!  
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# POW WOW

## BRENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

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## What WE Have to Say

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome back to the 2008-09 school year. Sophomores, have fun getting lost in these new buildings. (Don't worry, it's only temporary!) Juniors, get ready for APs, SATs, PSAT, and the "college process." (TOTALLY NOT FAIR!) Seniors, prepare your path to college as a new chapter of your life begins. You know what? We're sick of lecturing. We already know what to expect, so just remember one thing: always plan to do something fun and spontaneous. As young, hard-working students, we have every right to breathe after receiving so many overwhelming assignments. As for the lazy students who procrastinate, just stop. For the overachievers, cut yourself some slack. (You know who we're talking to!!) This year has just started, and though it seems like your teachers are bombarding you with homework, take a deep breath. It's all going to work out in the end. Do things that you're comfortable doing, NOT what you think you have to do but can't handle. Sure, it's cool to take AP classes, but if you can't pass, why pressure yourself to do something you can't do? Just remember this one thing: when something unexpected comes your way, you learn your limitations. We just hope that something unexpected comes your way. We know this is going to be a great year!

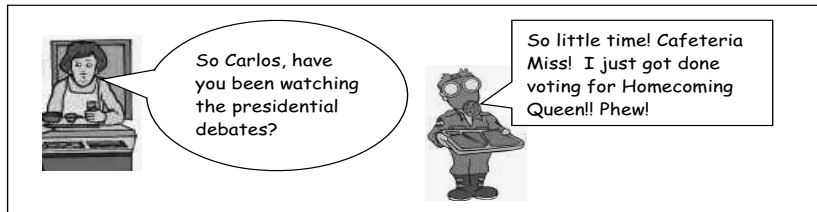
In conclusion, we wish you an amazing fresh start and a happy new school year! Just be yourself and enjoy the time you have here at the high school. Be resilient when you feel challenged and let your passion guide you as you discover your identity and pursue your dreams. We're not here *only* to inform the news; we're here to give you hope and encouragement as you embark on this journey that impacts the rest of your life!

Always aim for the stars.

Your editors-in-chief,

*Denise Rivera & Elisabeth Scheffel*

### Cafeteria Carlos October 2008



## 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!

# STRUCTURE IN BRENTWOOD

by Nyasia Mitchell

*cont'd from front cover*

Levels is a three step process. "It's not a punishment but a salvation," commented Mr. O'Brien. When a student is cutting or missing class, the teacher is required to call home and notify a parent or guardian; that is level one. 10th graders have the option to be put in the DAP program. A level two is when the student continues to cut or miss class. At this level, the teacher fills out a paper listing the dates and times of the student's cutting pattern. There will also be a parent conference. If offered, a contract will be given. The student is consenting in writing to discontinue the intolerant behavior. 84% of cutters return to class after level two. If the student still continues to miss class it elevates to a level three. The student's ability to receive credit is revoked from the class he or she was cutting. The last possible option is for a parent and student to set up a conference with Mr. O'Brien; only he will decide if something can be worked out after that point. "I am very pleased with the opening of this school year," says Mr. O'Brien, "it's too early to tell if there is a dramatic difference in the cutting as opposed to last year. But anything that improves attendance has no bad side," states Mr. O'Brien.

Ms. Chin is a fairly new staff member who teaches independent living/ college course and is a role model to others. She feels that the system wakes the students up. "It

allows the student to have a second chance and demands more parent contact." Because of the requirements at each stage of the level changes, the parents and the students are never left in the dark. "The system gives Brentwood structure and enforces rules. When it was announced that levels was being brought back, the teachers started clapping," stated Ms. Chin.

Some students are concerned late hall could contribute to 'being leveled.' It might, if you are constantly late to class as those are counted as class cuts. The number of late hall attendants change every period; a certain period might have three times the amount of students than another one. Some people look at late hall as an unfair punishment, some may look at it as a faulty method that really helps students cut class rather than attend it. Others may look at it as a place of safe containment for the students who don't go to class, and are tempted to do other things, like leave school grounds, go into the woods, etc. However you look at it, it will effect your attendance and performance in classes and does factor in to the level process.

The only students that should be worried about either policy are the students that are not fulfilling their purpose here at Brentwood. Those who do the right thing can carry out the school year as if levels do not exist, because as long as they continue to do the right thing, it never will.



## REVENGE OF LATE HALL

by Gilberto Martinez

*(cont'd)*

As punishment, the student receives a cut from the teacher, parental contact, and detentions. In School Suspension would be the highest form of discipline.

There are ways to avoid the dreadful Late Hall: Make little or no contact when going to class; avoid large groups of students; and



look for gaps in between large groups to maneuver through. Administrators also know that there are students who have classes in different schools. Students with adequate proof of that will be given a One Minute Pass. Now that you know, keep your eyes open, because Late Hall is NOT where you want to be!

## WHAT IS ISS?

by Krystina Rivera

Have you ever asked yourself questions about ISS? Well here are some answers to help you.

**"What are some rules that students break to get into ISS?"** The student probably repeatedly did something that the teacher or principal warned about and something that could impede a student's success, such as being late to class or always coming to school late, said Ms. Pappert, Sonderling Assistant Principal.

**"What consequences happen if the student does not go to ISS?"** Either staff looks for you in the school or if you are not in school they will serve you the next day with your punishment.

**"What happens if a fight breaks out during a day of ISS?"** The same consequence you would get if you fought anywhere else on school grounds, a five-day suspension.

**"What is the regular schedule for teachers monitoring the ISS student?"** Every period a different teacher is there.

**"How do students get their lunch during the day?"** They do not get to go to their lunch period, they do not get their lunch given in their exact lunch period unless they have fourth period lunch, which is when they get their lunch delivered to them.

**"Is there an alternative to ISS?"** Well the answer is yes, before the student is given ISS he/she may either get detention, or his parents may get contacted or may be called for a conference.

**"Who created ISS, the state or the district?"** That's a great question and a story behind it would be that about 18 years ago, there was a meeting of the high school administration and the union delegates. The meeting discussed alternative plans for discipline. That's how ISS was adapted, it went to the teachers union and superintendent and then with his approval, it was brought to the Board of Education for approval.

Some new rules are that all students, even those who get early release, must stay the whole school day, all work must be done and if the work is not done at the end of the school day you must stay until 3 pm to complete it.

## Homecoming 2008!

by Brenda Salinas

The pep rally was hosted on Friday, October 10th, during periods 8-9. The student body was able to cheer for the sports teams and view their candidates for homecoming court. This year was different though; not only did they present the fall teams, but they also presented some spring sports and summer sports.

Friday night, at 7:30pm, the Homecoming Dance occurred in the Sonderling senior cafeteria. This year, there was talk of cancelling the homecoming dance among the administrators. "They felt that the students from last year were not responsible," said Lindsey Williams, a member of Student Council. "A lot happened at last year's Homecoming Dance but it wasn't entirely the students' fault. We did not have ID cards, and there were kids there that did not belong. This year's dance was different. We had chaperones, and it was a safe environment. It is not our fault that last year's class had a mishap." Fortunately, the administration granted the students permission to hold the dance. The DJ, Charles Malave, did a great job with the music, mixing it up with different genres and entertaining the crowd well. Drinks and chips were sold in the front lobby, where IDs were checked. The tickets were \$5.00 for regular admission. For cheerleaders, football players, and nominees, the tickets were only \$2.00.

The dance lasted until about 10:00 PM, after the homecoming nominees were announced. The Sonderling queen and king were Jazmine Class and Allen Hightower and the Ross queen and king were Brenda Salinas and Michael Bennett. The winners did not receive their crowns. When members of student council were confronted about the issue, most did not know what went wrong. The winners are yet to receive their crowns, but are assured that they will get them in time for the yearbook pictures.

This year's Homecoming, on October 11, 2008, was unlike any other. The Brentwood Indians, who are currently 2-3, played against the William Floyd Colonials. The Colonials are one of the toughest teams in Suffolk County. Usually for Homecoming, the organizers will pick an easy opponent to ensure an easy win because no one wants to lose their Homecoming game! This pick was a controversial one because William Floyd has not lost a game in two years. They are on a current 37 game winning streak. "Losing homecoming would not be good, people just expect the football team to win the homecoming game," said senior Alexzia Alveranga Haynes. Unfortunately, the boys lost the game, 34-0. Jamie Jennings threatened to scorse, but the Colonials were strong defensively. The loss was disappointing, and the boys felt ultimately defeated. They look forward to a win on Friday night, however, against Northport, who is currently undefeated. The seniors on the team will not be present on the senior trip that Friday to Fright Fest, which shows that the players are committed and dedicated to the game.

Overall the weekend was a great success, because despite the loss on Saturday, the fans, the alumni, the parade, the dance, other Brentwood sports teams, the Green Machine and community as a whole demonstrated great pride and school spirit!



# Welcome to

## SGT. ARMANDO PEREZ

"Carpe diem."



**POSITION:** Jr. ROTC teacher

**EDUCATION:** College of Air Force, University of Maryland, UNLV

**PRIOR EXPERIENCES:** Recently retired from the Air Force

**PERSONAL:** Has three boys and one girl, has a beagle named Buddy. Likes to play guitar and computer games in spare time

**FAVORITE SUBJECT IN H.S.:** English

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Prepares students for the Air Force or other military positions

**INTERESTING FACT:** When he was a child, he wanted to be a pilot.

## YESENIA SMITH

"Positive things happen to positive thinkers."



**POSITION:** Foundations, Math B, and Geometry teacher

**EDUCATION:** Dowling

**PRIOR EXPERIENCES:** Taught at North Middle

**PERSONAL:** Likes to spend time with her kids, go to the gym, and dance

**FAVORITE SUBJECT IN H.S.:** Math

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Prepares students for mathematical practice

**INTERESTING FACT:** Always wanted to be a teacher

## MARTHA PEREZ

"Never give up on yourself."



**POSITION:** Spanish and ESL teacher

**EDUCATION:** Stony Brook, St. John's, NYC

**PRIOR EXPERIENCES:** Taught at Half Hollow Hills

**PERSONAL:** Has 2 daughters. Likes to dance, garden, do yoga, bake, and run

**FAVORITE SUBJECT IN H.S.:** French, Latin, Drama

**RESPONSIBILITY:** To help those who are struggling to speak English, and teach students how to speak English

**INTERESTING FACT:** Wanted to be a dancer

## ALIAH HOWELL

**POSITION:** Biology and Unified Science teacher

**EDUCATION:** CUNY College

**PRIOR EXPERIENCES:** Taught at a high school in Manhattan

**PERSONAL:** Believes that a teacher should be flexible, should be able to communicate with students and work with the different paces in which students learn

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Teaches students the functions of the human body and the importance of unified science

**INTERESTING FACT:** A nature lover, hikes and swims, loves to be around the elements

CAMERA SHY

## PAUL JOHNSON



**BIRTH:** West Islip, NY

**POSITION:** Music teacher

**EDUCATION:** Bay Shore High School, Five Towns College, Hofstra University

**PERSONAL:** Believes that a teacher should use discretion and great sense of humor

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Teaches students about the importance of music and the influences it has

**INTERESTING FACT:** Able to play numerous instruments such as piano, drums, and guitar

## DAVID BRACERO

"If you put your mind to something you can achieve anything, no matter where you come from."



**POSITION:** Social worker

**EDUCATION:** Attended NYU

**PRIOR EXPERIENCES:** Accountant

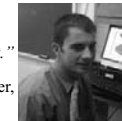
**PERSONAL:** Rides his bike to stay in shape.

**FAVORITE SUBJECT IN H.S.:** Math and Science

**INTERESTING FACT:** Believes that in demonstrating and giving respect, others will show it in return

## GREGORY BRINK

"Anything less than your best is sacrificing the gift."



**POSITION:** Science Teacher, Living Environment

**EDUCATION:** Quinnipiac University

**PRIOR EXPERIENCES:** Started as a teacher in Mineola School District

**PERSONAL:** Goes shark and tuna fishing as well as surfing and sailing

**FAVORITE SUBJECT IN H.S.:** History

**INTERESTING FACT:** Did cross country and track in college

## VALERIE CACACCIO



**POSITION:** Math Teacher

**EDUCATION:** Dowling College

**PRIOR EXPERIENCES:** Started off as a substitute teacher in Sayville and Eastport

**PERSONAL:** Wanted to become a teacher so that other students would find math more enjoyable

**FAVORITE SUBJECT IN H.S.:** Music

**INTERESTING FACT:** She is a Brentwood High School graduate.

## MARILYN SOLANO



**POSITION:** Social Worker

**EDUCATION:** Iona college in Westchester and Adelphi University

**PRIOR EXPERIENCES:** Previously an elementary school social worker

**PERSONAL:** She wants to better her community.

**INTERESTING FACT:** She was a graduate of Brentwood High School.

## MICHAEL GREB

"Smart is not what you are it's what you become."



**POSITION:** Earth science teacher

**EDUCATION:** Sacred Heart, NYIT, and Stony Brook University

**PRIOR EXPERIENCES:** Environmental scientist and a coach

**PERSONAL:** Likes both heavy metal and classical music

**INTERESTING FACT:** He played lacrosse for 18 years.

## Joshua Rackoff

"Give a man a fish and he eats for a day, teach a man to fish and he eats for a lifetime."



**POSITION:** Studio Art teacher

**EDUCATION:** Suffolk, Dowling, and Lehman College

**PRIOR EXPERIENCES:** Auto body design

**PERSONAL:** Boxes in his spare time

**INTERESTING FACT:** Likes listening to classical music when painting

## MELINDA GOMEZ

"One moment can change a million."



**POSITION:** Art Teacher

**EDUCATION:** Adelphi University, Stony Brook for Master's

**PRIOR EXPERIENCES:** Elementary art substitute in Copaque then a high school art substitute in Brentwood

**PERSONAL:** Likes helping people and enjoys working with kids

**FAVORITE SUBJECT IN H.S.:** Foreign Languages (Italian and Spanish) as well as Art

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Encourages students to try hard and to show effort

**INTERESTING FACT:** Loves shopping and spending time with family - Always knew she would be a teacher

## MARY GENTILE

"Do what you gotta do to get through."



**POSITION:** Special Education Teacher

**EDUCATION:** Stony Brook University, Dowling College and Touro

**PRIOR EXPERIENCES:** Has eleven years of teaching experience

**PERSONAL:** Brentwood High School graduate

**FAVORITE SUBJECT IN H.S.:** Math

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Encourages students to try their best

**INTERESTING FACT:** Enjoys playing with her daughter, and spending time with her family on the weekends

## AVARIL MCNAMARA

"Always follow your dreams. Don't let anyone or anything hold you back or stand in the way."



**POSITION:** Business

**PERSONAL:** Fair and open to new things

**GOAL THIS YEAR:** To become part of the BHS community and get involved in activities as she didn't have the opportunity in HS.

**FINDS IMPRESSIVE ABOUT BHS:** Respect from students

## JACOB MULDERIG

"Maintain our environments so that our future generations can enjoy our wonderful planet."



**POSITION:** Technology

**PERSONAL:** Enthusiastic and driven

**GOAL THIS YEAR:** To improve the automotive program and take it to the next level

**FINDS IMPRESSIVE ABOUT BHS:** The physical size of the building

## JORGE MARQUEZ

"Keep your head up high. Follow your instinct. Don't let anyone stand in the way."



**POSITION:** Bilingual Math Teacher

**PERSONAL:** Team Player and organized

**GOAL THIS YEAR:** Try to have the best experience as possible as a teacher. Try to make a difference in every student's life.

**IMPRESSION OF BHS:** People and students. The environment is very friendly.

# Brentwood High!

## MICHAEL COLLAZO

"Seize the day."



**POSITION:** Bilingual Global History  
**EDUCATION:** Stony Brook  
**PRIOR EXPERIENCES:** Taught in New York City.  
**PERSONAL:** He considers himself to be hard working and very 'by the book.' Was inspired to become a teacher by his father because he was also a teacher. His father taught 6th grade Bilingual in New Jersey  
**FAVORITE SUBJECT IN H.S.:** History  
**GOALS:** Assist all students in passing the regents and learning about history  
**INTERESTING FACT:** Would consider being a supervisor of any club, played handball

## SEAN CREAN

"Never give up."



**POSITION:** Social Studies  
**EDUCATION:** Merchant Marine Academy and Stony Brook  
**PRIOR EXPERIENCES:** Taught at North and South Middle  
**PERSONAL:** Considers himself to be fair - He gives his student the same respect he gets from them.  
**FAVORITE SUBJECT IN H.S.:** Math but hated Calculus  
**GOALS:** Wants his students to pass  
**INTERESTING FACT:** Wanted to go to the military. Played lacrosse and football in high school and is now the coach of the junior varsity lacrosse team

## DOROTHY HEINTZE

"Life is what you make of it...Have fun."



**POSITION:** Geometry  
**EDUCATION:** St. Joseph's  
**EXPERIENCE:** Teaches in East Middle School throughout the morning and comes to BHS for the rest of the day  
**PERSONAL:** Attended Brentwood until middle school, was inspired to become a teacher by her 9th and 10th grade math teacher Mr. Kolifar  
**FAVORITE SUBJECT IN H.S.:** Math  
**GOALS:** Wants students to succeed  
**INTERESTING FACT:** Will go for her certification so she can become a coach of track and cross country.

## RAY KRONENBITTER

"Study, study, study, - school is your buddy."



**POSITION:** Technology Education  
**EDUCATION:** US Air Force, NYIT, Suffolk Community College  
**PRIOR EXPERIENCES:** 25+ years in industry and several years of teaching  
**PERSONAL:** A member of the Air National Guard  
**INTERESTING FACT:** Has a couple of box turtles as pets

## JONATHAN SORBERA



**POSITION:** Physical Education  
**EDUCATION:** BA from Stony Brook, Masters from Hofstra  
**PRIOR EXPERIENCES:** Worked at Oak Park for 6 years  
**PERSONAL:** Married three years and expecting first child  
**INTERESTING FACT:** In addition to teaching P.E. he also coaches varsity football and varsity track

## BINDU SUNDARAN

"Talk less, work more."



**POSITION:** Living Environment, Forensics  
**EDUCATION:** BA in Microbiology and Biology, Masters in Education  
**PRIOR EXPERIENCE:** Second year teacher  
**FAVORITE SUBJECT IN HS:** Biology  
**PERSONAL:** Married with two children, loves teaching in Brentwood. Experiences great personal satisfaction at the end of the day  
**INTERESTING FACT:** Part time travel agent

## KATIE SAVAGE

"Be who you are and say what you feel. For those who mind, don't matter, and those who matter, don't mind." - Dr. Suess



**POSITION:** French 1 & 2  
**EDUCATION:** University of Delaware, BA French and Stony Brook University, MA Liberal Studies  
**PRIOR EXPERIENCES:** 4th year in district  
**PERSONAL:** Just married in August to college sweetheart  
**INTERESTING FACT:** Lived in France for 4 months

ALL INTERVIEWS BY THE ENGLISH ELECTIVE JOURNALISM CLASS:

Joan De Jesus  
 Gil Martinez  
 Wendy Melendez  
 Eileen Rivera  
 Elisabeth Scheffel  
 Cleona Smith  
 Maria Sgroi

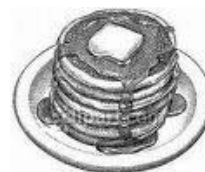
## Join the fun at the 14th Gary Mintz Memorial Run!! Brentwood High School



Sunday December 7, 2008  
 5K Competitive Run & 1.5K Fun Run/ Walk  
 Registration & Check-in: 7:00-8:15am  
 Entry Fee: \$15 Race Day \$20  
 (631) 434-2204

Please view our website for more information and directions [www.brentwood.k12.ny.us](http://www.brentwood.k12.ny.us) Click on district events, Mintz Pancake Run

All proceeds benefit the seniors through the Brentwood High School Scholarship fund!





# ELECTION 2008



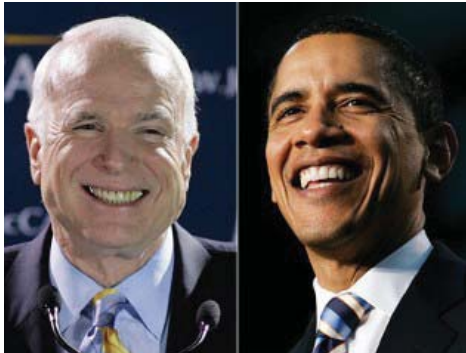
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To make the situation worse, students and parents are completely overwhelmed with financial aid forms and applications when November and December come. Both candidates offer promising plans for the issue of higher education in our country. Both are ambiguous and vague, but promising nonetheless.

"I don't want to send another generation of American children to failing schools. I don't want that future for my daughters. I don't want that future for your sons. I do not want that future for America," said Barack Obama at the Jefferson-Jackson Dinner in Des Moines, Iowa on November 10, 2007. According to the A Change We Can Believe In campaign, Obama and Biden will make college affordable for all Americans by creating a new American Opportunity Tax Credit. This universal and fully refundable credit will ensure that the first \$4,000 of a college education is completely free for most Americans. This money is said to "cover two-thirds the cost of tuition at the average public college or university and make community college tuition completely free for most students." They also promise to make the application process easier by eliminating prolific paperwork and replacing it with a simple check box in tax forms. However, even financial aid comes with its own cost, as recipients of the credit will be required to perform 100 hours of community service.

On the Republican side of the argument, John McCain emphasizes the grow-

ing competition in higher education overseas not because of a more capable generation but because of the inadequate funding to support this generation in the western hemisphere. According to the McCain website, "America is facing increased competition from overseas like never before. Higher education is as much a part of that competition as the job sector, and we must rise to the challenge and modernize our universities so that they retain their status as producers of the most skilled workforce in the world." Although many of his ideas parallel his opponent's, looking at the Country First campaign, the details are scarce, for example he proposes a program to improve information for parents on college aid but does not expand upon how this information will be more accessible and concise. McCain, however, does speak about clarifying higher education tax benefits. He states, "By simplifying the existing benefits, I can ensure that a greater number of families have a lower tax burden when they are helping to send their children to college." McCain also promises to improve private student-lending organizations so that they can work with young Americans rather than



against them.

Aside from educational finances, the economic woes we are facing will ultimately influence the outcome of the election along with other controversial issues like diplomacy, women's rights, energy and the environment.



## COUNTRY FIRST

**"REFORM. PROSPERITY. PEACE."**

Financial Aid	Defense	Women's rights	Economy	Environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Improve information for parents</li> <li>- Simplify Higher Education tax benefits</li> <li>- Fix the student lending programs</li> <li>- Improve research by eliminating Earmarks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Increase size of military</li> <li>-Smarter defense spending</li> <li>-Pursue creating a democratic nation in Iraq</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-End abortion by appointing Supreme Court justices who would support the reversal of Roe v. Wade</li> <li>-Return the abortion question to the individual states</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Does not support wind fall tax</li> <li>-Cut corporate tax rate from 35% to 25%</li> <li>- Will repeal the 54 cents per gallon tax of ethanol</li> <li>-Tax money not used to bail out real estate speculators or financial market in crisis</li> <li>- Enforcement of global trading rules</li> <li>-Reduce trade barriers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Expand domestic oil exploration in The United States</li> <li>- Promote the use of domestic supplies of natural gas</li> <li>- Propose a \$300 million prize to improve battery technology of Hybrid and Electric Automobiles</li> <li>- Commit \$2 billion annually to advancing Clean Coal technologies</li> </ul>



# ELECTION 2008



## THE GREAT DEBATERS? ...not in my opinion!

by Joan De Jesus

Friday, September 26, 2008 began a series of this election's presidential debates that will take us to a truly historic election. Both candidates entered the arena with something to prove: experience, capability to lead, or a keen understanding of the nation's economic and foreign affairs.

Although the first debate was meant to focus on foreign policy, emphasis on the crumbling economy found its way into a number of the questions that were posed. In recent times, the government has turned away from the conservative, capitalist approach to the economic system and increasingly towards a more liberal, government-involved economy. The seven-billion-dollar bailout speaks directly to this issue. The first question of the debate asked both candidates where they stood on this bailout. Barack Obama voiced that government should hold more people accountable and "not only during crisis" emphasizing *what is good for Main Street, not Wall Street*. John McCain voiced his concern regarding the bitter partisanship in Washington calling for Democrats and Republicans to work together, a remark that his opponent has been repeating since 2004. However, he ended on a seemingly positive note stating, "America is the greatest importer and exporter." However, there is slight truth to this comment when we are compared to nations like China and India. A second question asked whether there was a fundamental difference between the candidates' economic plans. The answer seems clear, of course, there is, but each candidate had the responsibility to answer the question in order to prove themselves capable of leading a nation on the verge of an economic disaster.

As the questions began to move away from the economy and more towards the topic of the night, both candidates, surprisingly, held their own, especially Obama. Much speculation has been made over the Illinois Senator's inexperience on foreign affairs, a subject his opponent thrives on. When Jim Lehrer asked about the lessons learned from Iraq, McCain responded saying "We are winning in Iraq" and "This strategy is working," phrases not all Americans would agree with. He ended stating that the "troops will come home in victory not defeat." Obama stated that America should not have entered Iraq to begin with because they had not finished their job in Afghanistan, and that it would distract them from the real threat of terrorism in that country. Six billion dollars (currently reaching three trillion dollars) and four thousand American lives later, Al Qaeda is stronger. This is when, you could say, the uninspiring two hours of the debate got *juicy*. Looking at John Mc Cain, Obama stated, "John, you said war was gonna be easy, you were wrong, you said we would be met as liberators, you were wrong, you said we knew where the weapons of mass destruction were, you were wrong." *Silence*. "John, you talk as if the war began in 2007," in response to Mc Cain's claim of American success in Iraq with the latest surge.

Overall, the night was generally an uncomfortable situation. Jim Lehrers' persistence in asking both candidates to make eye contact only worsened the situation. The debate resembled a bad blind date; awkwardly painful and entertaining to watch. The second debate was highly anticipated due to the increasing tension between the two campaigns. While not as many punches were thrown as had been expected, the candidates distaste for each other was more apparent than before. As in the first debate, the moderator, this time Tom Brokaw, added to the awkward moments with his repeated insistence and reprimands of both candidates for exceeding their time limits in responses. CNN's poll of independent voters showed Barack Obama as the clear front runner in the debate and many late night talk shows used McCain's physical wandering on the stage as ready comic material. Still, many people have argued that neither candidate was any better off after debate, than he was before.

The third, and final debate will take place right here on Long Island on Wednesday night, October 15, 2008. The debate is scheduled to be held at Hofstra University in Nassau County. While it promises to be interesting, the debate will end after the publication deadline for this issue. Stay tuned, with the rest of America, to see who wins it all in the end!



# CHANGE

## "WE CAN BELIEVE IN"

Financial Aid	Defense	Women's rights	Economy	Environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Create the American Opportunity Tax Credit*</li> <li>-Simplify the application process for financial aid</li> <li>-Tax relief for the families with a child attending college</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Create a Civilians Assistance Corps §</li> <li>-Rebuild and expand military</li> <li>-End threat of terrorism in Afghanistan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Opposes any constitutional amendment to overturn supreme courts decision in Roe v. Wade</li> <li>-Supports the right for women to receive equal pay for equal work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Enact windfall profits tax to provide \$1,000 emergency Energy Rebate to American families</li> <li>-Provide to tax cut for 90% of working families</li> <li>-Invest in a clean energy economy and create 5 million new jobs</li> <li>-Create a Universal Mortgage Credit°</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Get 1 million plug-in hybrid cars on the road by 2015</li> <li>-Create a new \$7,000 tax credit for purchasing advanced vehicles</li> <li>-Promote the responsible domestic production of oil natural gas</li> <li>-Develop and deploy clean coal technology</li> </ul>

\* American Opportunity Tax Credit will ensure that the first \$4,000 of a college education is completely free for most Americans and will cover two-thirds the cost of tuition at the average public college or university and make community college tuition completely free for most students. Recipients of the credit will be required to conduct 100 hours of community service.

§ (CAC): An Obama-Biden administration will set a goal of creating a national CAC of 25,000 personnel. Corps of civilian volunteers with special skill, sets (doctors, lawyers, engineers, city planners, agriculture specialists, police, etc.) would be organized to provide each federal agency with a pool of volunteer experts willing to deploy in times of need at home and abroad.

° Obama and Biden will create a 10 percent universal mortgage credit to provide homeowners who do not itemize tax relief. This credit will provide an average of \$500 to 10 million homeowners, the majority of whom earn less than \$50,000 per year.

## MONEY FOR COLLEGE

by Eileen Rivera

Let's face it seniors: It's October already right? How many of you can honestly say that you have a plan, a *savings plan* for college?? Most of you are probably just laid back saying, "I'm gonna get into college, move out, become independent." Yeah.... if only life were that easy. Hate to break it to you but you are obviously going to have to work for these types of dreams and if you don't, you are most likely going to end up with a bunch of broken ones. Like it or not, mommy and daddy aren't always going to be there and many of them won't be able to help with college even when they are. Probably more than half of you work, but who actually thinks of saving money for college expenses? Kudos to whomever does. Truth is, we all spend money... ALL THE TIME!! And often, not on what we actually need.

Here is a list of money saving possibilities for college because in reality, it is not cheap to pay for it and we should try and take advantage of as many ideas and tips as possible so that YOU won't end up spazzing out in the long run. **TIP#1:** Alternative to moving out; staying in. Traveling to and from your college shouldn't seem like such a bad idea. It saves over \$12,000 a year dorming at a college, even \$1,200 renting a place. Understandably, we all have issues and some of you are probably looking forward to moving out, but it really isn't a piece of cake. It's not like you're going to be home anyway; you should either be in



class, studying, or working. If you're planning to leave the state for college than that's an entirely different issue.

**TIP#2:** Applying for scholarships. Seniors, you'd be surprised to see where you can find a scholarship just right for you. Believe it or not, they are all around us and all we have to do is LOOK FOR THEM! Procrastination is a problem and is a hard habit to break, but this determines my future and yours, so search! Lefty? Scholarship. Potential writer? Scholarship. Divorced or deceased parent? Financial Aid! You can be eligible for money pretty much doing anything, so take advantage of these precious opportunities.

Being more organized won't hurt either which leads to: **TIP#3:** investing in what's important. Your first year of college is not a guaranteed "nice and easy" type of thing so you need to learn to use your money wisely.

Making a shopping list of what is important and used on a daily basis can save one from \$40 to \$200 a week on food and supplies alone. Just imagine the possibilities. Books are extremely expensive in college and you will most likely be needing plenty of those. You can buy many of your books at used book stores and sell many of them back at the end of a semester as well. Take some time and look through your options, seniors. Remember, you don't want to end up with a bunch of broken dreams, you want to achieve them. All things are possible, you just have to be focused, dedicated, and start planning.

## THE SAT: THE SENIOR'S ACADEMIC TICKET

by Elisabeth Scheffel and Fatima Hamrani

With the dreaded SATs inevitable approach for college-bound juniors and seniors, students are c o n s u m e d with panic and last minute preparation. Muttering foul words at the College Board for creating such an atrocious examination, most high school students would give anything to get out of it.

So what is the positive side to this test? Mrs. Crawford, the Department Head of Guidance stated that all students should take the SATs, remarking, "I would never discourage someone from taking the SATs." If you're looking at prestigious universities, you should definitely take the SAT's. Former juniors and seniors have learned that the SAT is a ticket to college, and it must be conquered. Regardless of any sort of fear, every college bound high school student should sign up to take this test at least twice. To sign up, go to your guidance counselor, or go to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). The test is about forty-five dollars with a twenty-eight dollar late fee. The new edition of the SAT consists of a total of 10 timed writing, critical reading, and math sections. To get preparation for the test, go to College Board, Method Test Prep, or Naviance. High scores are rewarded, and even mid-range scores are appreciated when combined with a good résumé. There's no such thing as "failing" the SATs; just try to get as close to 2400 as possible, and you'll be just fine! Sophomores and juniors can also take the PSATs to prepare for the real thing. On Wednesday, October 15, between second and fifth period, all sophomores and juniors took the PSATs for free as the district generously paid for their fees! According to Mrs. Crawford, the PSATs were taken during class to allow more students to get scholarships. It is statistically proven that the more you take the tests, the better you perform. So start studying and sign up!!!



## Thinking about your future? PREVENT GLOBAL WARMING!

by Denise Rivera

We have heard the phrase a thousand times, and it is a huge factor in the future of our lives and our planet. Global warming is the gradual increase in the earth's surface temperature. One of the major contributions to global warming is greenhouse gases: carbon dioxide, methane, water vapor, nitrous oxide, ozone, and CFCs. However, the most important factor that causes this environmental conflict is mainly one thing: human beings. The activities we participate in like deforestation, burning of fossil fuels, generating electricity, and driving our cars further contribute to this global problem, and now it has become one of the greatest issues that everyone has to face worldwide. The effects of global warming may lead to the melting of ice caps, rise of sea levels, stronger natural disasters, and animal extinction.

RELAX! Not all hope is lost. We can do something about it. If we have the power to pollute this world, then we also have the power to clean up the beautiful environment that we live in. Here are some of things that you can change in your daily lives that will only benefit you and the world around you:

- Use compact fluorescent bulbs
- Make sure to fill the dishwasher completely with dirty dishes
- Use recycled paper!
- Adjust your home thermostat (make it two degrees lower in the winter and two degrees higher in the summer)
- Keep water heater no higher than 120°F
- Change the air conditioner filter as recommended
- Don't take a long time in the shower!
- Install a low-flow showerhead
- Buy products locally
- Buy energy certificates and green tags (It helps spur the renewable energy market.)



- Buy minimally packed goods
- Plant a tree
- Buy recycled products

- Insulate your water heater
- Replace old appliances
- Use ceiling fans
- Turn off computer when not in use
- Buy less meat
- Avoid using plastic

For those people who have a car or plan on buying one:

- Use a hybrid or a fuel-efficient car (No SUV's!)
- Carpool
- Change car filter monthly
- Inflate tires (check them monthly)
- Ride a bicycle or walk to a local place instead
- When using the car, turn the engine off for more than 30 seconds unless in traffic

Do not be discouraged if you feel like you are the only one trying to keep our environment clean (You are not alone!). Even though some of these ideas may sound unusual, it's guaranteed that you will create less carbon monoxide and save more money \$\$\$. Global warming is a hazardous issue that will cause the problems of our future. The consequences of this environmental problem are far too dangerous and it threatens all life forms. If we want the future generations to live in a safe, beautiful environment, the time to start acting is RIGHT NOW! This wonderful world is too serene and too great to destroy. As corny as it sounds, we do have the strength to decrease the chance of global warming if we are united and committed to clear the polluted environment.



# SENIORS SPEAK OUT

by Maria Sgroi

Finally, the long-awaited journey of twelfth grade has begun. All those years of waiting, preparing, and planning have brought the seniors to this point. Over the summer did you ever say to yourself, "I can't believe I'm a senior!?" Besides the stress of filling out college applications, getting letters of recommendation, and taking that great test called the SATs, there must be some amount of happiness inside you, right? This is the final year, the entire educational process that has brought you this far is now pushing you forward to the next level. A new path will be formed and seniors will now create which direction they would like to follow. What kind of a path will you create for yourself? What are the hopes and dreams for your senior year? Have you started the journey yet?

When I asked ten seniors, from both the Ross and Sonderling buildings, what their goals were for this school year, I got replies both alike and different. Christina Jones, a senior at Ross, replied to this question by saying, "My goal for this school year is to pass all of my classes." Not only did Christina Jones say this but two others did as well. Cynthia Casas, a student in Ross, said, "My goal for this year is to be able to get all my applications done for college, pick out a career in my life, and have a 94% average."

Jehovany Cruz, a senior at Ross said, "My goals for this school year would be to get my college applications, everything college-related done, and to get the stress of it off my shoulders." He added, "My only concern for this school year is getting into college." Jehovany is not the only senior that worries about getting into colleges. Are you worried?

Arianna Rizzuto, Kevin Montalvo, and Cynthia Casas are all seniors in Ross. Each of these individuals have their own hopes and plans for their lives after high school. Arianna Rizzuto said, "My plans after high school would be to go to a college somewhere



in the city, get a degree in media communications, and a minor in music education." Kevin Montalvo says that he plans on going to college after high school. Cynthia Casas' plans for after high school are, "I want to move to North Carolina, go to college, get a job, and have a family." Jevalynn Molina, a Sonderling student, said, "I want to go to college of course, maybe Cornell University, because they have a ROTC program. Also, it is a big liberal arts school. The only thing that would prevent me from attending it would be if I end up failing the SAT or if I can't afford it. Hopefully I'll major in computer graphics, working for either Pixar, Disney, or Dreamwork Studio, making movies like Shrek, and A Bugs Life, etc."

What are you looking forward to this school year? Denise Martinez, a student in Sonderling, said, "I am looking forward to prom and the ROTC banquet." Danielle Earl, also a student in Sonderling, said, "I am looking forward to the musical and graduating." I also asked both Elizabeth Gonzalez and Cibia Hernandez, Ross students, what were some concerns that they might have this year. Elizabeth said, "My biggest concern would be not getting a scholarship, and having to pay for my college alone." Cibia said, "I'm concerned to not be able to be ready for the regents exams at the end of the year."

Through the process of interviewing seniors at Brentwood High School one thing became clear. Each individual had their own personal hopes and dreams that he/she would like to achieve. Although these goals varied, each person had a dream and a goal for himself. From the stress of college work to the fun of your senior year, enjoying every minute of what's ahead of you is pretty exciting, right? Whether you're a senior or not, prepare for your future, and once you're prepared, much of the stress will fade away.

## COLLEGE:

### WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS

by Ashley Fortin and Helen Morales

If you are a senior you should have already started or be finishing up with the college application process. Before you delve into your final decisions however, you should keep in mind some of the following information. You should know and recognize that every senior is different and has his or her own personal style and preferred way of life. So how exactly do you find a college best suited for you? Well, you can create a free account with Collegeboard.com and use their search engine and college matchmaker. You can also make an appointment with your guidance counselor. If you choose to go to your guidance counselor, he or she can recommend or request some college options for you. They can also help you sign up to visit college open houses where you can get a real feel of the college you are interested in or researching. But with all this research you should make sure you are choosing a place suited for you. Are you interested in a small town feel and peaceful atmosphere with a lot of outdoor activities year round? If this is the case take a look at Lyndon State College in Northern Vermont. You could also look into SUNY schools located in upstate New York such as Brockport, Buffalo, Potsdam, Binghamton, and New Paltz. If living in this type of area bores you and you want a city setting with non-stop activities outdoors and indoors maybe looking into schools such as the Fashion Institute of Technology or the prestigious, Ivy League Columbia University would be best for you. These two schools are located in the heart of New York City. In the end though, the decision is yours and yours alone so make a wise decision. To help you with this, you should keep in mind some of the following questions:

- Is there student parking for freshmen? (Some colleges such as SUNY Albany do not have parking for freshmen.)

- Do they have storage space available to you when they close the residence halls for summer and winter breaks?

- Where is the closest ATM? (For the times you need emergency money and do not have it on you.)

- Is there room for extra furniture? Are you allowed to bring any?

- How late is the dining hall open at night?

Finally, while researching and making your final decisions, keep in mind what kind of learning environment you thrive in academically and what arena you want to be learning in. Is the school a hands-on experience with small class sizes, or are the classrooms strictly limited to lecture halls where if you attend a large school can start at 150 students in a single room?

#### Definitions of words used in the college application process

- **Rolling Admissions:** This means that the college accepts or denies admittance to students on a first come first serve basis. So apply early to these schools because many of them, once they fill up for a semester, they will discontinue accepting applications.

- **Early Decision:** You apply early to this school and if they accept you, you must go to this school and are not allowed to apply to other schools once you have been accepted, in many cases.

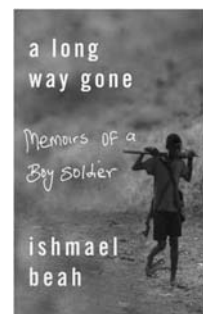
- **Early Action:** You may apply early to have a better chance of being accepted. However, unlike early decision you may apply to other schools and even if this college accepts you, you are reserved the right of choosing a different school that has also accepted you.

## Book Review: A Long Way Gone

by Jalisa Stanislaus



ATTENTION!!! The following book is enlightening, informative, and life-changing. You may not want to read it if you're not into that sort of thing! Sierra Leone is a place that seems like it's millions of miles away, yet the struggle and adversities that many teens face, seem all too familiar to teens everywhere. In this novel, "A Long Way Gone" by Ishmael Beah, magnifies a teenage boy's struggle during a war at home, where he finds himself losing his family, friends, and eventually himself. As high school students, we can greatly benefit from this novel. It is extremely easy to relate to and teaches teenagers not to take the simple things in life for granted. Some think they have it rough, but have no idea what rough really is. After reading this novel, it jumped to the top of many people's favorite list. Ms. Kimbell, a Sonderling English teacher states that "A Long Way Gone" is a "testament to the human spirit" and it 'illustrates how a person who has been to hell and back can still find worth in living and still find a way to see the glass as half full.' Pick up your copy today!



# BEST DRESSED OF SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

by Ramon Bueno

by Alexis Serrano



carefair.com" and GQ.

Jean's style is more on the casual side, but with an edge. He tries not to match too much but he puts colors together very well. From slip-on shoes to Nikes, and from graphic tee shirts to plaid button-up's, his style defines modern with a twist of what the big names in clothing for guys are inspired by. His look can be used anywhere from school, to a job interview, to a night out on the city. Jean's look should inspire many male teenagers to strive for his "casual effortless" look.

Stereotypically, males never really cared as much about the latest fashions or trends as females, but things have rapidly changed in our society. With male designers now becoming more popular, such as Marc Jacobs and Ralph Lauren, gentlemen are now more into style and fashion then ever before. With so many different trends emerging and so many people dressing in various ways, it's hard to stand out in a school that has over 3,000 kids, but one particular guy was able to do it.

One guy dares to be different. Jean Chery has proven that you can look sharp and dress to impress while staying true to your self and personal style. This is why he won best-dressed guy for the month of September. Alexis (my partner) and I clearly made our choice by incorporating the "2008 fall fashion trend" into our evaluation of Jean's style and he met the standards of what teenage boys should be wearing around this time of year. "The cardigan is a piece of clothing that never goes out of style." "Navy and grays are ideal." This some of the advice offered by major websites and magazines such as

In today's world, it is so hard for a girl to stand out in a school full of beauties, with so many different cultures of fashion. School is a place where everyone has a different style and edge. Popular stores such as Forever 21 and H&M have been the favored place for our fashion junkies. Fashion has gone from something you only see celebrities and rich people caring about, to something that is internationally known where all types of people are getting involved.

In our school, many girls have their own unique style and have the "it" factor which makes them stand out from everybody else. That is why Ramon Bueno (my partner) and I chose Johani Portillo as the best-dressed girl for the month of September. Our adorable and petite Johani has an abstract "girly girl" style that sets her apart from the rest of the crowd. From colorful knits to that little black dress, every girl should own, she knows how to incorporate her own style with the trends that are taking over the fashion industry today. Johani Portillo mixes bold and bright colors, floral patterns, and she tops off her outfits with big accessories such as necklaces and bags. She gets her inspirations from "Cosmo Girl" and "Teen Vogue" two major magazines that help teenage girls with the latest trends in the fashion world. Johani is very flattered that she won September's "It" girl and she has a word of advice for every girl out there, "Fashion doesn't make a women desirable, but those clothes that she wears gives her confidence and that's it."



## "TUFF" AND "CATTED" FALL 2008



by Esther Dfournoy

### CONFUSED

Many people are confused about what they'd like to wear this fall; be it a 10th grader looking to start fresh, an 11th grader who is transitioning and finding herself, or a 12th grader who wants to leave this high school with a bang. I can't promise a miracle but what I can do is help chose things that cater to your one-of-a-kind features and your soon to be one-of-a-kind style! Let's start with the basic Do's and Dont's of Fall 2008 fashions. What I personally like to call it is, "Tuff" and "Catted."

### THE GIRLS - YUP, YUP, THE GIRLS

Remember: Bigger is Better Tuff: super size necklaces, slip on a large necklace over any outfit and "voila" you are looking instantly Fall 2008  
Catted: Don't wear your necklace outside your winter coat or try to pull off a Mr. T rope chain or Flavor Flav clock chain. "Remember boo, you're a lady."



Cookie cutter style - Match match

Tuff: Straight or fitted jeans, whatever jeans flatter you body type, paired with a warm, soft colored sweater  
Catted: Don't ever, ever (mayday mayday) try to totally match colors. For example, say you have a graphic tee that's turquoise with a yellow robot on it, don't try to find matching jeans with a yellow metal squared belt, turquoise colored skinny jeans, and matching Reebok yellow ice cream. Ughhh - "Stuff like that gives me a migraine!"

### YOU CAN WEAR IT TOO!!!

Something that I loveee!!! I have seen a lot of people looking fabulous by effortlessly wearing cardigans or button up blazers. These style ideas can add some flair to your outfit. All you need it a cute tank or v-neck shirt, a chain or necklace, some skinny's, vans, flats, or sneakers and you're looking real - just like the coolest shorty or ninja to ever grace this school!!!!



## Tanger outlets have arrived!!!!

by Ramon Bueno

Are you tired of traveling to Riverhead to shop at the Tanger Outlets? Well you don't have to anymore. They are coming to us, the Tanger Outlets are opening up a new shopping center fifteen minutes away from us in Deer Park. This new project will finally be finished and ready to open by the end of October 2008. The new outlets are going to have some of our favorite stores and also attractions such as high-end restaurants and a movie theater that will have approximately 3,000 seats. The outlets will be about 81 acres and provide parking for 4,700 cars.

Some of the stores that are going to open at Tanger are Calvin Klein, Pacsun, Tommy Hilfiger, Nike, Addidas, Juicy Couture, and Saks Fifth Avenue just to name a few. The new Tanger Outlets are definitely going to be a threat to local competition such as the very well known South Shore Mall and Smithhaven Mall because people, especially teenagers, are attracted more to places where we can do more than buy clothes, and the Tanger Outlets are the perfect place. Besides buying clothes, you can go watch a movie with your friends and catch a bite to eat at the restaurants provided. The design of the outlets is also a plus because it will have an elegant, yet comfortable environment for all ages.

This new project is also providing employment opportunities for local teenagers who are in need of jobs. So make sure you run out to the "Tanger Outlets" in Deer Park off Commack Road as soon as they open to find yourself an employment opportunity and/or to experience one of the best shopping experiences around town.



## BRENTWOOD INDIANS FOOTBALL COMING TO AN END-ZONE NEAR YOU!!

by Brenda Salinas, Wendy Melendez, Christina Tejada

The Brentwood varsity football team opened up the season with great excitement and anticipation about proving their dominance in the league. Their goal, like any other team on Long Island, is to be "The Long Island Champions." Brentwood has not seen the title since 1999. Hard work and dedication during summer workouts and after school practices



have brought the team together. "We feel like we have a good team that is dedicated, with good speed and ability," stated Jamie Jennings and Eric Rodriguez, two of the captains on the team.

The Indians played their first game of the season on September 13 at home vs. Patchogue Medford. Brentwood started with

a promising touchdown thrown by quarterback Alex Corporan to wide receiver Chris Jean-Pierre followed by a field goal by kicker Jose Saavedera which give the Indians a 7-0 lead. Patchogue Medford then went on to score three consecutive touchdowns, one led from an interception thrown by Corporan leaving the Indians down at halftime 21-7. The Indians they did not score again until the third quarter. Corporan ran the ball 15 yards to score the Indians second touchdown of the day leading to another extra point by Saavedera. The scoreboard lit up 21-14. The Indians were still down but with hopes of a comeback. Gabriel Manzueta and Jose Saavedera led in tackles but disappointingly the score did not change and the Indians lost their first game. They promised themselves to bring a better game to the number two seed of the division Sachem North.



The Friday night game on September 19 was one of the coldest nights we have had yet. The Arrows of Sachem North opened up with a touchdown but missed the extra point. Brentwood then let up another touchdown making the score 12-0 at halftime. When the players came out of the locker room they were more ready. They came out strong and drove the ball on the Arrows, which led to a touchdown. The touchdown was set up by a 60-yard reception by Gabriel Manzueta and a pass from Corporan then went to wide receiver Kevin Kuhlmeier who scored the 1<sup>st</sup> touchdown to give the Indians, and their fans, a boost of confidence. The Indians has shrunk the lead to 12-7. You could feel the excitement building in the crowd spurred on by the Brentwood cheerleaders. Led by Derrick Brown, the Brentwood defense held the Arrows from scoring. Brentwood's Saavedera made an interception, giving the Indians fresh hope. Corporan then ran the ball in and scored the Indians second touchdown of the night. Jamie Jennings soon made another interception, which lead to a touchdown pass to Chris Jean-Pierre. The Arrows tried scoring and settled for a three-point field goal. The rest of the game was filled with anxiety and hopeful hearts. With minutes on the clock and the score at 21-15, Brentwood, the crowd and the players became eager. If the Arrows scored in the last minute, they would tie 21-21 and if they made the field goal, they would win 22-21. Everyone in the Brentwood stands was on their feet waiting for the seconds to pass and hoping for the defense to stop the flaming Arrows. They inched up to the end zone as everyone was cheering them on. On the defensive line, David Ripley rushed the quarterback leading to a forced pass as time expired and Gabriel Manzueta tipped the ball. The Brentwood

Indians defeated the Sachem North Arrows 21-15 and they were ecstatic. Everyone had played a great game. "It feels good to win our first win of the season, it takes a lot of pressure off," said two-way starter Kevin Kuhlmeier. "After the big game the kids now have more confidence," said Coach Peretta. "They hope to show the same effort and prosperity for their upcoming game against Ward-Melville."

The game on September 27, 2008 was rainy and humid. There were not too many people present due to the weather. Brentwood's # 81, Chris Jean Pierre, scored the first two touchdowns for the Indians. They led 14-0

and looked strong until Corporan threw a pass intended for Jean Pierre, which led to an interception. Ward-Melville then scored a touchdown followed by the extra point, making the score 14-7. Jamie Jennings had a touchdown in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, followed by another touchdown by Darius Allison. The final score was Brentwood 28, Ward Melville 21. They came close to tying up the game in the last minutes but defensively the Indians performed well and stopped them.

The most anticipated game of the season, Homecoming, took place on Saturday October 11, 2008. The stands were full of people covered with green and white holding up posters of their favorite player's name and shirts with the year '09. Everyone was cheering for our boys and hoping for the best. Although our Brentwood Indians went up against one of the best football teams on Long Island, the William Floyd Colonials, we all had high hopes and believed we had chances of winning our long lasting rivals. The Indians were not discouraged, they gave it their all fighting against William Floyd's reputation. Our players left their hearts out on the field. One of the Indians who gave his all was Jamie Jennings

who almost scored a touchdown in the 2nd quarter, but the Colonials defensive players just stopped him. The Colonials pushed the Indians back and Jennings score attempt was incomplete. No other Indian was able to come close to another touchdown. As the quarters ended, and the scoreboard lit up against the Indians that day, at no point did the Indians show any desire to give up. The outcome was not what the Indians and their fans had hoped for, with a final score of 34-0. Brentwood spectators knew how much our players had prepared for this game and how much they wanted this win, unfortunately the Colonials continued their domination of League 1. The Brentwood Indians are not letting this one game discourage them and they will keep working hard at practice and have quite a few games remaining in which to prove their strengths. With their upcoming battles against Northport (10/17), Longwood (10/25), and Walt Whitman (11/1) the Indians still intend improve their 2-3 record and end their season with an over 500 record and earn themselves a playoff spot. Show your Brentwood spirit and cheer them on from the stands!





## POINT, SET, MATCH

by Nyasia Mitchell

For the first time in roughly eight years, this year's girls varsity tennis team has been making a turn around and coming up victorious in their matches. As of Wednesday the 24th after the match against Babylon the girls tennis team has a league record of 7-2.



"Being placed in league four gives us a chance to win. It's not a given, but a chance," states Coach Rooney. He added, "I've always had great girls that try like crazy, the only difference this year is that we're winning. This season we're very much on the hunt for the league title." This year is the most successful season since 2000 by many standards.

So how are the girls capturing these victories? The answer is easy; they believe they have an excellent coach that drills footwork into their brains which enables them to fight for each shot 'til the death. This, along with other crucial strategies and techniques that are practiced until near perfection, helps the girls in every match they play. "Coach is working us harder than ever," said Sydnee Gonzalez, a player on this year's team. When the team gets on the court, they are well prepared and get the job done. There is an indubitable chemistry that the team shares and it plays a major role in their coming together and pulling through to win matches. "This year our team is much more united and much funnier," added Jessica Padilla. "I am so proud and happy to be apart of this team not only because of our wins; but because this team is like a family. We all work hard and play our best and support each other. This is probably the best fun I'll have all year. Tennis Rules!!," exclaimed Vilmaire Hernandez. As a team they expect to win every match that is left in their season. "We are eagerly looking forward to playing against Connetquot and beating them because they are the best.; then win leagues, of course,"

stated Sydnee.

The new varsity girls also have role models like Padilla and Jennifer Adaris, who demonstrate great sportsmanship, dedication, and passion. Also, Gonzalez and Katherine Trujillo lead the team in the right direction. Both of them have been varsity starters for five years, which is a major accomplishment and very rare. "This season I hope to win many games as a team. My



wish is to put Brentwood girls tennis on the map. I hope that we can grow as players and have a great learning experience; and become a family," said Trujillo. Katherine Trujillo, one of the team's seniors, wants to attend Columbia University or New York Institute of Technology for architecture.

Tennis is much like chess, you must think a few steps ahead and constantly have a plan, a strong plot as to how you will be the victor. The only difference is the players are moving and putting the plan into action with their bodies, not just their brains. Kendra Covnejo sums it up, "Tennis is a real sport. We work just as hard as any other team. Anyone that feels differently can come to the courts. This year the girls varsity team WILL win the league title."

## Boys Soccer Strives for Perfection!

by Christina Tejada and Wendy Melendez



The players of the Brentwood Varsity Soccer team are known for winning each and every game they've played since 2003. So far they have not won the state championship yet, but that is one of the goals this season that they hope to accomplish. Since the beginning of the season they've played and won all five games. They've played against Patchogue Medford and won with a score of 2-0, beat Sachem East with a score of 3-0, shut out Ward Melville with a score of 4-0, triumphed over Lindenhurst with a score of 8-0, and defeated William Floyd with a score of 2-0.

Although they make it look that way, wins like these don't come easily. They come with hard work, dedication, and practice which the boys of the varsity soccer team have clearly made a part of their lives. Growing up together as friends and as teammates means that they have a very close and strong relationship with each other. This gives them a greater advantage because they all know how each other play and they're able to work as a team. They are confident with each other and know

what they have to do in order to achieve their goals.

Joseph Lopez and Marby Velasquez are the captains of the varsity soccer team. They see themselves as successful, as well as motivational captains. They are very understanding towards their teammates but sometimes they have to be leaders instead. They have to push and motivate the team in order for them to do what is expected of them.

Brentwood boys soccer has a tradition of excellence, and this year proves to be no different!!

