



The Barron Perspective Special Edition

WHS Works to Ensure Student Success

This is entitled a “Special Edition”, because we are featuring articles from Woodbridge High School faculty members in an effort to keep our communication with parents, guardians and family members informed. We will return to the student-centric form of the *Barron Perspective* with next month’s

By: Judith Kreisel, English Department

The administration, faculty and staff of Woodbridge High School are dedicated to assisting students in achieving academic success. Woodbridge High School offers a variety of tutorial programs and study aids to help students prepare for the HSPA and thrive in their academic classes.

The HSPA 20/20 program allows students to hone their English and math skills through guided practice. Students meet with English and math teachers before school, during lunch periods, and after school to learn and practice valuable test-taking strategies for all aspects of the HSPA (Multiple Choice Questions, Open-Ended Responses, and Persuasive and Narrative Writing).

WHS also has implemented HSPA Word of the Day, and HSPA Fridays in order to prepare students for the assessment. HSPA Word of the Day introduces students to a new vocabulary word and math term. During morning announcements, a student defines the words and provides an example of their use. Throughout the day, teachers incorporate the new vocabulary terms into their lessons. Teachers from all disciplines also participate in HSPA Friday, dedicating part

of their lesson to one area of the HSPA in order to bolster students’ critical thinking and test-taking skills.

In January, all juniors participated in the Pre-HSPA, a mock exam that familiarizes students with the test-taking environment and provides them with an opportunity to apply their skills. The results were assessed by teachers, who identified areas of weakness which were then targeted for instruction. In addition, all juniors were encouraged to partake in the Saturday Assistance Program, a new workshop that took place on February 21 and 28, where students were given an additional opportunity to meet with teachers and prepare for this rigorous exam.

English and math tutorials are also held for all grade levels before and after school in the library. The students meet with teachers to receive extra help, ask questions, and sharpen their math, reading, or writing skills. Peer tutoring in all subjects is also provided by Woodbridge High School National Honor Society members. Students meet one on one with some of the brightest students at WHS and learn valuable skills from their peers.

Athletes who have busy schedules may also benefit from the Sports Study Hall, which offers a quiet place to

study, finish assignments, and receive extra help after school.

Upcoming WHS PTO Events:

- **March 22: A PTO breakfast at the Woodbridge Elks. Volunteers are needed and appreciated!**
- **April 4th: NFL vs. WHS and Friends:**

Join current and former NFL stars as they take on WHS staff members, and teams from the Woodbridge community in basketball!

There will be autograph sessions, a silent auction for sports memorabilia (from all sports), food, beverages, and, of course, the basketball game!

There will also be a “Super 50/50” drawing with three winning tickets.

Doors open at 5; Game starts at 7. All proceeds benefit the WHS PTO and, in turn, Project Graduation.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Student Editorials | 2 |
| Inside WHS | 3 |
| Spotlight on... | 4 |
| Sports | 5 |



Student Editorial: "Why so Early, Mr. Bus Driver?"

By: Chelsea Torres

It is hassle enough for the regular morning routine of a bus student. They get up sometimes earlier than kids who live near the school, have to have a certain schedule for each activity in order to be on time, face the elements, and then there's the anxiety of the bus coming early or late. Time, time, time. That's the life of a bus student: time is at the center of it all. Now there's a new obsta-

cle added on to the list... buses are now coming fifteen minutes earlier.

That's right. Buses began arriving at their stops fifteen minutes earlier than originally scheduled on Monday, January 12th. What caused this sudden change in schedule? Some mistakenly believe that students, parents or guardians complained about being late to school. The actual reason, as determined by our district's central

administration, is so bused students can enjoy the same privileges as walkers or drivers. Namely, bused students will now be able to participate in before-school tutoring, the breakfast program, and can use the library if they choose to. In the name of equality, we bus students are now waking up a bit earlier.

The Class of 2009 has voted for their prom theme and it is: "Rock this Party", by Bob Sinclair and it represents a more light-hearted, celebratory approach to a theme than the standard, slow-dance ballad.

Not only is this the song to represent the seniors' prom, the title will appear on the invitations and the prom favors.

The prom will be held on Friday, June 12th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Bridgewater Marriott Hotel. Information concerning directions to the location, the cost and availability of bids is forthcoming.



XO Laptops Are Making Impressive Strides

"Computing is not about computers any more. It is about living."

Nicholas Negroponte



(Above) The XO-2 laptop.

By: Zakey Peterson

The XO laptop has returned with a new look and design. At a recent press conference, Nicholas Negroponte showed photos of the excellent XO-2 device with the announcement that the newly designed computers would be ready for delivery by 2010 and carry a price of only \$75.

Mr. Negroponte is a best-selling technology author, long-standing member of MIT's technology department and the founder of One Laptop per Child, a non-profit

organization that provides laptop computers to children to help them learn in our technological world. Mr. Negroponte obviously knows about technology and is trying to make sure that everyone can afford high technology gear. One Laptop per Child is helping to send these to poor countries that face challenges in staying connected to the rest of the world.

What's new about the XO-2 (other than the surprising price tag) is the green keyboard of the XO-1 model replaced with a touch screen.

With the second screen, the device can be opened to portray the same qualities as an electronic book (E-book), or it can be switched to a more traditional laptop configuration, with the new touch screen assuming the role of a virtual keyboard. This news is encouraging; Mr. Negroponte and the rest of the One Laptop per Child organization are helping the world stay connected.

Woodbridge High School is granted Accreditation

By: Judith Kreisel, English Department

In April of 2008, Woodbridge High School welcomed a Middle States Validation Team. Over the course of four days, the Team observed our learning environment, listened to our concerns, and discussed our goals for the future with many members of our school community.

This entire process was guided and nurtured by three Internal Coordinators, Mr. Joseph Massimino (our new Social Studies and World Language department head), Ms. Rita Saylor (now the vice principal at Colonia Middle School, and Ms. Suzana Zeitz (recently named as our "Excellence in Education" recipient).

Woodbridge High School chose the Accreditation for Growth protocol because we are committed to improving student performance. We are

implementing action plans and objectives that will be continually reviewed by all stakeholders in order to fulfill our vision.

We are pleased to announce that in the Fall 2008, the Commission on Secondary Schools of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools voted to grant Woodbridge High School with Accreditation. The term of accreditation is for seven years. Congratulations Woodbridge High School!



Above: The Middle States Seal of Accreditation.

What Happens on HSPA Days?

It is a widely-held belief that HSPA-testing days are only for underclassmen. During the testing days, those seniors in attendance were brought to the auditorium where Mr. Switek (the senior class advisor) and Mr. Farley (the student council advisor) presented different information that seniors need.

They declared that the

theme of the days would be "Civic Responsibility", and, to that end, staff members from the Middlesex County's registrar's office came in to the school. Following a presentation on the ideologies of voting from the Social Studies department's Mr. Modeszto and Mr. McLaughlin, the Registrars registered the seniors to vote.

Other information

discussed with the seniors included motivational presentations, ways to avoid the unseen pitfalls of life after high school and other information on the end of the year activities that will most impact seniors. Those seniors that attended the meetings had a chance to learn about their civic responsibilities and act upon them.



Preparing for Prom

By: Christina Brady

It's that time of year again! Making plans for prom? Start now! Woodbridge High School's first prom committee meeting was held on Thursday, January 22, 2009. The advisors, Mrs. Woerner and Mrs. Haley, along with many senior class students discussed the events of this year's prom. Some of these events included the new location, the DJ, and of course the

memorable favors.

This year's prom is going to be like no other. It is being held at the beautiful Marriott in Bridgewater. This is the first time in many years that it hasn't been held at its original location which was the Doubletree Hotel in Somerset. Along with its new location, there are many other very special surprising details that will be added.

The senior class has held fundraisers throughout the year to help raise money

for the prom bids. On Sunday, February 8th at 2 P.M., there was a vendor and fashion show for students and parents to attend concerning prom. A night out at Cheeseburger in Paradise was held on Tuesday, February 24th and Wednesday, February 25th from 5 P.M. until 8 P.M. Currently, there is a Yankee Candle Fundraiser, which will end April 1st. These are great ways to lower the price of your prom bids. These are the most recent fundraisers to be held, but of course more will be in store, so get involved!

WHS Class of 2009 Presents: "How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying"



**By: Jasmine Viera and
Natalie Gasparowicz**

This year, Woodbridge High School will be performing the classic musical from the 1960's, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. The musical centers around J. Pierpoint Finch who washes windows for a living at the World Wide Wicket Company, and aspires to have a successful career. He soon picks up a book entitled *How to*

Succeed in Business Without Really Trying. Then, as he starts to follow the rules within the book, he hops his way up the "corporate ladder."

Thus, the plot begins to unfold as he follows the instructions entailed in the book. As the musical progresses, there will be songs that will make you want to get up and dance, such as "Company Way" and "Coffee Break" with extravagant dance numbers. The musical, as performed by Woodbridge High School stu-

dents, is being directed by Mr. Lynch, from the English department. Mr. Lynch is being assisted in his directorial duties by Mr. Terrell, another of our English teachers and the school's drama teacher.

Be sure to catch the performances at the following dates: March 19, 20, 21, and the 22nd. Hopefully, we all will enjoy Woodbridge High School's portrayal of this classic musical. What will happen to J. Pierpoint Finch? We'll just have to see and find out.

An Interview with Dr. Papageorgiou

By: Anthony Celi

Do you enjoy your job?

Dr. P: Yes

What exactly do you enjoy?

Dr. P: I think my favorite part is interacting with students, and seeing if I can make you think. I want to see if I can really get through to you. My job is not done until my students are able to analyze, and make decisions.

When did you start teaching?

Dr. P: Two years ago.

I know that you were a lawyer before you became a teacher. Why the change?

Dr. P: I didn't like dealing with

other people's problems. I thought by being a teacher, that I would be making a better contribution to society. Growing up, I couldn't decide between the two. After being in the legal profession for 10 years, teaching started to pull me.

Is teaching going to be a long-term thing for you?

Dr. P: Yes.

What do you do in your spare time?

Dr. P: I spend time with family and friends.

Anything in particular?

Dr. P: I used to play guitar, but

I wasn't in a band. I liked playing softball and basketball. I'd say my top 3 things to do are music, automobiles, and sports.

What is your favorite band?

Dr. P: Van Halen. I got into them at my cousin's house. I heard "Runnin' with the Devil" and "Eruption" and got hooked. I like Stone Temple Pilots too.

What is your dream car?

Dr. P: It's tough. A 1967 Chevy Corvette convertible, with a 427 big block V8, and 4 speed transmissions...in black.

Actual Car?

Dr. P: A black Honda Civic.



Above: Dr. P's dream car: a 1967 black Corvette.



Left: The Van Halen logo; Dr. P's favorite band!

Eight in a Row for WHS Hockey

By: Andrew Shapiro

Over the winter break, the Barrons improved to 7-0 with a 4-1 win over Fairlawn High School. Two of the three captains, Rob Kuchie and Danny Swansboro, combined for three of the four goals, and junior Andrew Shapiro added the fourth. Billy Stamato, Zack Hopf, Dennis Henry, and Dave Weidele all had assists, and freshman goalie Corey Moran added a huge 25-save performance. Despite an outstanding performance by the Fairlawn

Cutters' goalie, including one heart-stopping save on Kuchie on a breakaway, the Barrons muscled through, and proved that they definitely were the better team.

The hockey team also added a win by forfeit against the Hamilton West High School Hornets last Wednesday. But because the team was so excited to get out and play, the disappointed fans in attendance were treated to a split-squad scrimmage of "white vs. black". Though no score was

kept, there was a winner: the fans. The Barrons' call the Woodbridge Community Center their home ice; please support the team this year and next!

Good Luck, and Go Barrons!



Lady Barrons' Basketball

By: Jesse Lynch

Though the Barrons' record fell to 13-6 after a heart-breaking loss to Edison on Wednesday, the players, coaches, and the rest of the Barron faithful couldn't be that disappointed knowing that their record stood at a tremendous 7 games over five hundred. Woodbridge's success very

well could be due to marvelous offense by sophomore Alex Nardosa as well as phenomenal defense by seniors D'aisha Smith and Christina Jordan.

The team rallies behind coach, John Moyer, experienced seniors, and several young stars including Nardosa and freshman Jordan Stanley. Team chemistry as well as a ton of fan support helps this team

win games. Woodbridge wrapped up the regular season with games at J.P. Stevens on the 6th of February and Union High School on the 9th, and there was a n appearance in the post season. Although the Barrons are known as a young team I believe their future for this season and years to come looks promising.



WHS Swimming

By: Lauren Drumm and Justine Durham

Woodbridge swim team "dives" into their second year as a program at Woodbridge High School. The girls' team's current record is 1-8. The girls' recorded their first win over Passaic County Tech. The boys' team's current record

is 0-8. Captain of the boys' team this year is Eian Schneider, a junior on the team. Captains for the girls' team are seniors Ali Heitner and Johanna Safranski. Seniors on the team this year are: Sue Chanese, Ron Fazzi, Ali Heitner, Hannah Hugger, Susanna Matias, Stacy Rouse, Johanna Safranski, Lina Valencia, and Maria Zapata. As

a new program at Woodbridge High School, the swim team has an impressive number of members and will hopefully keep growing. The home meets for the Woodbridge Swim team are held at the Woodbridge Community Center so make sure to come out and support them!





WHS Thanks Local Businesses

WHS' administrators, faculty, staff and students would like to extend their thanks to the local sponsors of Saturday Assistance Program. (*please see story, page 1*)

Bertucci's Brick Oven Pizza, Carvel Ice Cream of Avenel, Perkin's Restaurant, the Woodbridge Township Community Center, ShopRite of Woodbridge and Modell's Sporting Goods all generously donated their time and products to our HSPA preparatory program. Thanks again!

The Class of 2009 Extends their Thanks as well!

The graduating seniors of 2009 have a great many local businesses to thank for their generosity in helping make their last year their best year!

Thank you to: Knot Just Bagels, the Yankee Candle Corporation, Dukoff's Tuxedos, Ultimate Fashions, The Clubhouse Barbershop, D & G Limousines, and Cheeseburger in Paradise!

