

# Barron Perspective

**PROM AND  
COTILLION  
FASHION  
SHOW!**

- Sunday February 8th!
- The Class of 2009 and the WHS PTO are hosting a Prom/Cotillion/Sweet 16/Quincenera Fashion show and Vendor "Meet and Greet"
- See the latest formal wear, make-up and hair trends!

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**T h e H a r l e m W i z a r d s c o m e t o  
W H S !**

**By: Rosemary Mende**

On Sunday October 19<sup>th</sup>, the Harlem Wizards played a basketball game against our faculty. The event was sponsored by the WHS Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO). However, this wasn't just any basketball game; the Wizards made sure it was an experience everyone would remember. The Woodbridge team consisted of Mr. Sienkiewicz, Mr. Calhoun, Mr. Terrell, and Mr. Lottmann. Joining the Woodbridge team was Brian Molnar, a Board of Education Member, Jeremy Warren, the son of Mr. Warren, and graduates Dave Silvassador (2007), Kirk Zambrano (2007), and John Vargo (2007). Not all of the

Harlem Wizards could attend, but the ones that did made up for their teammates absences: "Sparkplug" (guard), "Dazzle" (forward), "Skycam" (guard), "Tha Gift" (forward), "The Great G" (center), and team captain, Dwayne "Swoop" Simpson (forward). The Wizards were run by manager "Smidoo".

While the competition was real, everyone was there to have fun and to help the WHS PTO raise money toward Project Graduation.

Project Graduation takes place on the night following the annual graduation

ceremony, and it is a way to ensure that the graduates can celebrate with one another while remaining safe.

Congratulations and thank you to everyone involved in this fun and successful fundraiser!



*Above: Members of the Harlem Wizards pose for a publicity shot.*

**T e d d y B e a r ' s C l o s e t**

**By: Christina Brady**

Every year the International Culture Club (ICC) participates in fundraisers, as the club's main priority is helping others. One of the International Culture Clubs biggest fundraisers is the Teddy Bear's Closet, where they collect baby items and women's products for those in need. These items include pacifiers,

wipes, deodorant, shampoo, and soap. The club says that "every item makes a difference". Students from the International Culture Club collected items from homerooms for about three weeks in December. The winning homerooms from each grade will be receiving prizes shortly.

Last year, over 750 items were collected. All

students and faculty were encouraged to donate as many products as possible. The ICC's goal was to reach at least 1000 items this year and they are proud to announce that they have reached that goal! The ICC was able to collect 1, 013 items. With the help of Mrs. Clarke, faculty members, and students, WHS has made a significant difference!

## President-Elect Obama: Students' Perspective on the Election

By: Stephanie Barrios and Anthony Celi

The election of 2008 was, from the start, history in the making. It was highly anticipated, and hard fought. No matter who had won, we would have written history. On the one side, we had Barack Obama, who would potentially be the first black president, while on the other side, John McCain would be the oldest president voted into office, and his running mate, Governor Sara Palin, would be the first female vice-president of the United States. When everything was said and done, it was Barack Obama and Joe Biden who were victorious. Obama had 364 electoral votes to McCain's 163. The popular vote showed 53% (66,602,400 votes) to 46% (58,164,693) for Obama.

The Obama campaign has re-written the electoral map, turning traditionally "red" (Republican) states "blue" (Democratic). Obama's campaign also gave many people hope for the future. As our President-Elect, Barack Obama plans to make several changes for our nation,

ranging from education and health care to benefits for veterans and equal social and financial standing for women. As our president-elect, Obama has created a specific plan to better our economy. He plans to create more jobs and to have middle-class tax cuts.

Obama has stated he is concerned with correcting our depression-level economy as well as ensuring the success of the children of America: education plays a huge role in our new President's life. He believes in investing into education, wants all of our schools to be well funded and have only the highest quality teachers leading our kids to bright futures.

Barack is also concerned with the stance of our environment. He plans to invest in alternative fuels and renewable energy and plans to create 5 million new "green jobs" for America. Also for the better of the people, Barack's health care plan provides affordable coverage and reduces health care costs for all families and individuals. Not only does he want more affordable health care but he is committed to ensuring that Social Security is (and stays) secure.

Obama plans to give veterans many benefits which include fully-funded medical care and plans to ensure that our veterans have the resources they need when they return home. Barack Obama also works for women rights; he believes in equal pay for equal work. Finally, Obama believes in working with the armed forces and our military commanders to end the war in Iraq by refocusing our occupation of the middle east and bringing the terrorists who attacked us on 9/11 to justice.

Senator Obama has much hope and many dreams for our country and as a nation needs our support. As our new president in the year of 2009, President Obama plans to reach out to all Americans, and finally make change happen. As Americans we should all do as our newly elected President says:

"I'm asking you to believe. Not just in my ability to bring about real change in Washington... I'm asking you to believe in yours."

"I'm asking  
you to  
believe. Not  
just in my  
ability to  
bring about  
real change  
in  
Washington  
... I'm asking  
you to  
believe in  
yours."  
~Barack  
Obama



(left) Joe Biden and Barack Obama celebrate their victory.

## "The Sopranos" meets Broadway

**By: Chelsea Torres**

Mr. Terrell found another interesting play to take his classes to. On October 16<sup>th</sup>, the drama teacher, accompanied by his "partner in crime" Mr. Lynch, took students in his Drama I, Drama II, and Philosophy classes to Middlesex County College to see the play *Breaking Legs*.

Directed by Lynn Wycoff, *Breaking Legs* is about a struggling playwright named Terrance who recently returned to America from Europe, where his play was being tested on audiences. His piece was a hit, so he wants to try to put it on Broadway; however, he doesn't have the money. Terrance heads to a New York Italian restaurant that a former student's family owns. The student, Angie, talks to her father, Lou, about investing in the play. Lou is interested and consults with

his brothers, Mike (the intimidator) and Tino (the quiet "spazz"). The brothers agree to invest in Terrance's play. Terrance is excited that he is finally getting the money to produce his play, but he discovers something grim: he has witnessed the brothers murder someone. Should Terrance take their deal and possibly end up "sleeping with the fishes"? Or should he throw away his dreams and save his hide?

The actors and actresses of *Breaking Legs* did a great job performing. The actors were very convincing as an Italian-American, mob-like family. Not once did they break character, even when an actor almost spilled his drink after banging his fist. The comedy was always on point; never did a funny line come late. Credit is due to the set designers, too. It looked as if the play was in a real restaurant with

beautifully painted walls, a finished bar, a smooth tiled floor, and an interesting collection of props. Another positive feature about this play is the performance of a former Woodbridge High student, Kevin Gable, who played Tino. He was an audience favorite.

There were, however, some minor, negative aspects. The nerves of the actors were easily seen. The actress who played "Angie" was always trembling when holding something, but one could only see that if they were close enough. "Terrance" always had a nervous look to him and kept retreating to the back of the set, though his nerves did do him some good for the character. Otherwise, the performance was well-done. Cheers to the cast and crew of *Breaking Legs*!

## Educator Profile: Madame Zeitz (Foreign Language Department)

**By: Sandy Ibrahim**

1. What is your favorite movie? Why? **"Love Actually". I love the music and it's an uplifting, funny movie.**  
2. Who is your favorite band? Why? **Coldplay, because I love their voices and lyrics.**  
3. What do you love most about your job? **I love working with kids and love their individuality and uniqueness.**  
4. What is one word you would use to describe yourself? Why? **"Caring". I care about my family, friends, students, co-workers and the world.**

5. What are your favorite foods? **Cheese, crepes, shrimp, chocolate and foie gras.**  
6. What is something you can't live without? **Chocolate, I have to have it everyday.**  
7. What is your favorite season? Why? **Summer. I love the sun, ice-cream, beach and sleeping in.**  
8. If you weren't a teacher, what would you be? **A dermatologist/aesthetician because I'm fascinated with beautiful skin and natural beauty.**  
9. What is your favorite place? **The beach because I love listening to the waves, feeling sand on my toes, and wind blowing through my hair.**  
10. What is something people don't know about you? **I speak**

**four languages and I've been to 18 countries.**



*Above: Madame Zeitz, one WHS's resident foreign language experts!*

## Juniors Must Take All Final Exams

By: Yesenia Vicente

Beginning in the 2008-2009 school year, juniors will not be exempt from their academic finals. This news began circulating in the beginning of the school year, but since the same rumor has been heard for the past five years, it was dismissed. As talk of juniors' exemptions being cancelled became more frequent within the school, students still didn't want to believe the news. By mid-October, the administration announced the final decision to all staff, who, in turn, announced the decision to the students, who were most interested.

Some students took the news with indifference, not really caring if they had to take the finals, but there were the few who were looking forward to finally being able to be exempt from their finals, and they didn't understand why this privilege was being taken away.

It is believed that the educators responsible for this decision came to the conclusion that if juniors take their finals at the end of each semester, it would serve as additional preparation for the HSPA.

If you are a student who was not happy to hear this news, consider this: the standardized tests which are being developed

for implementation in schools in the next half-decade are reportedly going to make the HSPA seem like "the easy way out". It has been determined that within the next four years, the HSPA will be no more and in order for a student to graduate high school, they will have to pass an exit exam for each of their academic classes. Comparing it to the difficulty that a student will have to go through to graduate in the future, this year's junior class will surely not miss their exemption from finals.



## Educator Profile: Mr. Sienkiewicz (History Department)

By: Sandy Ibrahim

1. What is your favorite movie? **"The Departed"** because I'm a huge Martin Scorsese fan and his films remind me of my college days in New England. **"Do the Right Thing"** is the best movie about race relations in this country.
2. What is your favorite band? **The Ramones**, because they're a great punk band and they play fast music which is good stuff to bang your head to.
3. What is your favorite part of your job? **Interacting with kids and finding**

**different ways to teach things to make sense out of history. I love that every day isn't old, but new, experiences.**

4. What is one word you would use to describe yourself? **"Passionate"**. I feel strongly about things I do and try as hard as I can.
5. What are your hobbies? **Basketball, working out, hanging out with my wife, and watching movies.**
6. What is something that you "can't live without"? **My TV, I'm a TV junkie, it's always in the background while I'm doing schoolwork.**

7. If you weren't a teacher, what would you be? **A lead guitarist, because it would be the coolest feeling being on stage and thousands of fans going crazy or an architect because I'd like to build things with my hands.**
8. What is your favorite place? **The basketball court, because when I was a kid, no matter how stressed I was and what problems I had, I played basketball.**
9. What are your favorite foods? **My wife's eggplant parmesan, pizza and cheeseburgers.**
10. What do you love most about your life? **I love my wife, my job, and I live with no regrets.**



*Above: "Mr. Sink", one of WHS's most popular history teachers!*

January, 2009

## B o w l i n g

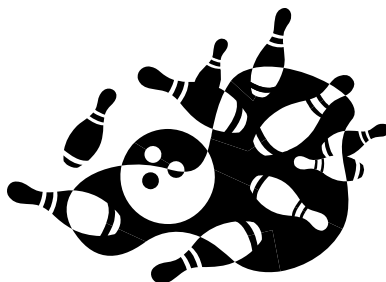
**By: Christina Brady**

The bowling season has begun and the team is making its way to victory once again! The Woodbridge High School boys' bowling team is one of the best in the state. They placed third in the first two tournaments of the season and all concerned are certain that there are more to come. With the support of Coach Yanazzo, both the boys' and girls' bowling teams are bound to continue their excellence. Leading the boys' bowling team are captains Evan Simon and Nick Olah. Returning bowlers are juniors Brett Wiewiorski and Matt Sabin, and sophomores Mike DiLeo, and Kevin Scesney.

Leading the girls' bowling team are captains Christina Brady

and Jessica DiSilvestro. Returning bowlers are senior Samantha Freeman, and juniors Miranda Lishman and Diana Tulek. Although they had a rough start, the girls are beginning to improve their record.

Come cheer for the boys and girls bowling teams after school at Brunswick Zone Bowling Alley in New Brunswick. With many games remaining in the season, we wish both the boys and girls bowling teams much luck!



**Did you know...  
... that there are more  
than 70 sports teams,  
clubs, organization and  
student societies offered  
at Woodbridge High  
School? With so many  
opportunities to pursue  
your passions, you're  
sure to find a team or  
group that's perfect for  
you! Make the most of  
your years here at  
WHS, and...  
GO BARRONS!**

## W r e s t l i n g

**By: Jasmine Viera and Natalie Gasparowicz**

Although the pep rally was cancelled on Friday, December 19 due to inclement weather, the wrestling team is trying its best to keep its spirits up for the 2008-09 winter season. With the after-school practices running from 2:50 to 5:00 or 5:30, the team has been training rigorously. Their coaches (Mr. Daly, Mr. Walsh and Mr. Reutsch) have been pushing the athletes to train for strength and stamina.

The team has all classes represented in their ranks, including freshmen who tell us that they are all proud to be Barrons Wrestlers.

Captain David Figueroa is the team leader for this season. He has welcomed the freshmen and the following returning varsity athletes: Rob Rivera, Brian Chin, Aaron Landy, Tony Vacca, Eric Schwab, Will Buchan, Garret Pastuzyn, Anthony Prybeck, Teofilo Gutierrez, and Leo Giannopoulos. Two freshmen, Al Jordan and Dave Zboyan, made the varsity team as well.

Other notable members of the varsity squad include Brian Boland and Joe Kiraly. Keep your spirits high and let's have a great season!



*Above: WHS Wrestling Head Coach (and member of our science department) Mr. Daly predicts a winning season for the Barron Grapplers.*

## Ice Hockey

**By: Andrew Shapiro**

The Woodbridge Barrons ice hockey team geared up for their second season, thinking it would be hard to beat last year's amazing inaugural season. The team was coming off a 7-6 record, with a Township Cup to go with it. However, the team currently stands at an amazing 7-0 record!

The team also has good news on the recruiting front. With only two seniors graduating last year, the team has lost little manpower, and has also gained two valuable additions.: Tim Nelsen (sophomore), a defenseman from East Brunswick who moved to Woodbridge, and Corey Moran (freshman), a goalie who just graduated from Woodbridge Middle. Also returning will be team captain Rob Kuchie (junior), and alternates Danny Swansboro and Scott Dydak (senior). Seniors Dave Wiedele and Matt Romanella are also coming off strong seasons.

The heart of the scoring lineup, juniors Andrew Shapiro, Zack Hopf and Dennis Henry will all return after scoring a combined 20 goals just a season ago. Coaching the team will be Mr. Joseph Rotella, a WHS business teacher.

In all, the Barrons are confident that they will improve upon last year, so come check the team out. Continued good luck, and go Barrons!



## Boys' Basketball

**By: Stephanie Barrios**

The 2008-2009 basketball season will be a new adventure for the Barrons this year. With a new head coach, Mr. Antoine Patterson, (who teaches at Roselle High School in Roselle, N.J.) the Barrons should be on their way to a successful season. Coaching along with Coach Paterson are Coach Carter, who coaches our Junior Varsity team and Coach Russo leading the freshman.

The Barrons' senior captains this year are Gerard Bullock, and Blair Dolphin. Other seniors on the varsity team include Kristian Cullins, Brian Murray, and Keair Peppers. The varsity team

also includes a select number of juniors, along with freshman and sophomores on the Junior Varsity team. This year should be a successful one for all three of our boys' basketball teams. Come support the Barrons at our home games!



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## Review: "The Dark Knight"

By: Sandy Ibrahim

*The Dark Knight* was the event movie of the summer of 2008. The DVD was released on December 9<sup>th</sup> and proved to be one of the most popular movies of the holiday season; this is fitting, as it was the highest grossing movie of 2008 in the theaters. In fact, as of this writing and despite the fact that the dvd was released, the film was still in the top 20 grossing movies in theaters (initially released on July 20<sup>th</sup>, it has grossed over \$525 million in the US alone).

It stars the late Heath Ledger, Christian Bale, Aaron Eckhart, Michael Caine, Morgan Freeman, Gary Oldman and Maggie Gyllenhaal. The running time is 152 minutes and it is rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence. It is directed and written by Christopher

Nolan.

Batman (Bale) sets out to save Gotham from criminal organizations that break out in the city streets with the help Lieutenant Jim Gordon (Oldman) and District Attorney Harvey Dent (Eckhart). As things seem to be at peace in Gotham City, chaos is suddenly unleashed by a criminal mastermind named "the Joker" (Ledger). What makes the Joker dangerous is his laughter in any situation and nihilistic attitude. The Joker's plan is to expose Batman's secret identity to show that he is a fraud. Lucius Fox (Freeman) is in charge of Bruce Wayne's underground headquarters and develops a method of eavesdropping on all the citizens of Gotham City; while this undoubtedly helped Batman, it provided the characters (and the audience) with the moral question: should

people be able to do *anything* to protect others?

This film has been in serious talks by critics about the film receiving Oscar nominations at the 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Academy Awards which will be held on February 22, 2009. It broke a record and took the place of *Spider-Man 3* for biggest first weekend gross ever. If you are a fan of the *Batman* series, or film in general, this is not a movie to miss!



Above: Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale) examines the Batman armor.



Left: Nine of the original ten contestants on VH1's "Scream Queens".

## Review: VH1's "Scream Queens"

By: Kimberly Hill

If you're interested in how to become an actress in a horror movie, "Scream Queens" is the best show you can watch. If you're bothered by people being overly dramatic (and, often, making fools of themselves) it's not for you. VH1's new television show "Scream Queens" is looking for the best "undiscovered" actresses to play in "Saw 6", the continuation of the popular horror franchise. [See the review of "Saw 5" on page 8]

The cast of "Scream Queens"

includes 10 females ranging in age from 21-28. They're all from different states and they all have some acting experience, such as working on Broadway or playing a role in a film. To catch them in action, turn to VH1 at 10:00 p.m. on Monday nights.

This show demonstrates what goes on behind the scenes of a horror movie. There were only eight episodes to watch the ladies obtain training on playing a role in the film; although the advice the instructor provides to the actresses is appropriate, I personally enjoy

seeing the actresses exaggerate what they're told to do. If the host, Shawnee Smith (of "Saw" fame), told the contestants to show more enthusiasm in their next performance, I can almost guarantee you that you will see them screaming at the top of their lungs and running around like hyperactive three year olds.

If you enjoy both reality television and horror movies, "Scream Queens" was made for you. If you enjoy rational behavior, then skip it!

## Review: "Saw 5"

**By: Vincent Coughlin**

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the fifth movie in the "Saw" series was released. If you are not familiar with the series, it involves a criminal mastermind named Jigsaw who, with the help of his assistant, Amanda, kidnaps people that he feels do not value their lives. Once trapped, Jigsaw puts them through a test, which usually involves extreme pain; if done properly, their trial ends with their release and freedom.

The fifth installment begins with a character getting caught in one of Jigsaw's infamous traps and then the movie moves into one of the investigating detective's involvement with Jigsaw. It tells the story of how he became partners with Jigsaw, while the movie also tells the story of five strangers who are put through one of Jigsaw's tests. These five people have to travel through five rooms to get out safely. (There is no subtle symbolism here.)

If you are not already a fan, the fifth movie is no different from the rest, so I would not recommend you see it. But if you have followed the series, the fifth movie answers some of the questions posed by the fourth, so I would suggest it. The traps in the fifth movie are not the best of the series and the best I can say is that this movie is "good"; it is better than the majority of "scary" movies Hollywood releases. "Saw 5" is really for people who have followed the series from the beginning and intend on following it all the way through.



*Left: A character from "Saw 5" finds himself stuck in one of "Jigsaw's" traps.*

*Right: Actor Tobin Bell portrays the mysterious "Jigsaw".*



## Review: "Project Runway"

**By: Sandy Ibrahim**

*Project Runway* is a fashion designing competition show created, hosted and produced by supermodel Heidi Klum. It airs on the Bravo network on Wednesdays at 9 o' clock. It begins with 16 talented clothing designers in the United States handpicked by the judges. They compete to be able to show their collection in New York City for fashion week at Bryant Park. Every week they have a new challenge where the designers are given \$100 to spend for designer fabrics and a few hours to design and construct their outfit; one contestant per week is sent home, until the final three designers remain. The final three are sent home to create a collection of 12 pieces to be shown at Fashion Week. The winner wins \$100,000 to start their own clothing line and a brand new car. This show has been an award show favorite and has been nominated for numerous awards including 12 Emmy nominations.

Season 5 kicked off in July and ended October 15<sup>th</sup>. The challenges varied from the interesting to the wacky: making outfits inspired by an astronomical sign, music genres, the Olympics, nature, re-invented looks for recent college graduates and even make an outfit out of car parts. Celebrity judges included Brooke Shields, LL Cool J, and legendary designer Diane Von Fursternburg.

If you love fashion design, this is the perfect show for you. It is amazing to see these designers create a garment in just a short amount of time. I think everyone will be hooked after watching just one episode!



*Left: Season 5 winner Leanne Marshall dances after hearing she won the top prize.*

*Right: The contestants, judges and hosts of "ProjectRunway" season 5*



## Horoscopes

**By: Noelia Vicente**

### Aries

You are feeling adventurous; travel in winter. If you're visiting your siblings this could add stress and cause strain, be careful what you say.

### Taurus

This is a very important month, something unexpected will happen. It will affect your life in a positive way. Your optimistic outlook on life will come in handy if you're looking for love.

### Gemini

Being surrounded by inspiring characters is starting to rub off. You will feel inspired by their ambitions and goals, but you might feel bound to your principles and not want to take that extra step forward.

### Cancer

Timing seems to be everything. This month you will encounter a wise, old soul that will give you educational advice right when you need it. Knowledge will be thrown at you. Be sure to accept it, it will help you in the near future.

### Leo

You are very driven to make something of yourself; you may have a crisis figuring out who you are, but your ability to adjust will help you discover the new you. Change is upon you; you will progress swiftly and embrace it.

### Virgo

You will experience self-development and begin to feel a new maturity as you put difficult occurrences behind you. You will feel that your surroundings at home are too small for you, don't act hastily. Patience is important this month.

### Libra

You may feel confused and exasperated this month, things will get better towards the end of the month. If education isn't at its peak it will improve dramatically. Don't lose hope on that special person; he or she will come around.

### Scorpio

You will feel a sense of empowerment this month; you will be successful in upcoming school events. Once you adapt to the changes you have been through, everything will fall into place.

### Aquarius

This will be a good month for you, school projects and assignments will go smoothly. You will be open to travel with friends, new and old. That special someone will reveal himself or herself to you soon.

### Sagittarius

You will have an exceptional time this month; you will be overjoyed to see relatives that you haven't seen for some time. Focus on your studies the first two weeks of the month, things will get harder and by the end of the month everything will be easy.

### Capricorn

You will have a big chance to work on some of your important dreams this month. You will be successful in these projects and find yourself to be happier when you accomplish them. Someone you previously had feelings for is giving you the eye, don't be afraid to talk.

### Pisces

This month will be very tense, watch what you say to others because sometimes the truth isn't for the best. Your truthfulness may offend some of your friends, be careful how you word things.

