

# The Barron Perspective: The Newsletter of WHS

April 2011

## Gov. Christie visits Woodbridge

**Students: Don't forget about fundraising! All the money you raise will go into your personal account for things like Cotillion, Prom and yearbook!**

**All grade levels can participate; please see Ms. Gross, Ms. Huber, Mr. Daly or Mr. Switek to find out about fundraisers!**

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By Samantha Bruno

Governor Chris Christie visited Woodbridge on Tuesday, March 15, for a town hall meeting as a part of his ongoing state tour. He held the meeting at the Woodbridge Community Center on Main Street at 9:45 AM. In this meeting, members of the public asked the governor any questions they had regarding the state of the state of New Jersey.

Outside of the community center, local police officers protested the governor's appearance, as public employees and the governor remain at odds. The central idea of the governor's address was that public employ-

ees' pensions must change for the good of the entire state.

About four-hundred-fifty people showed up to the town hall meeting and gave off mixed feelings to the governor. Some were heard calling Governor Christie "a liar" because he cut off particular services and continued to raise taxes. Many even wore t-shirts that had propaganda written on them against him, while others said after the meeting that he seemed to be "a nice man" and that they appreciate him. One Woodbridge resident stated, "He's not going to please everybody, but everybody has to give a little...he works with everybody and has an ear that listens". Some were



Above: Gov. Christie addresses the crowd at the Community Center. Photo from [www.injersey.com](http://www.injersey.com)

fonder of him than others, saying, "I want to invite him to dinner," and "I have total respect for him".

(Quotes and additional information from [www.nj.com](http://www.nj.com))

## Residents Pass Bond Referendum

By Asiah Sharpe

The bond referendum passes! The plan to install new roofs and solar panels on 21 Woodbridge Township schools has been voted upon; amazingly, Woodbridge Township residents passed a \$32.5 million school-bond referendum which has been promised to lead to future utilities-

cost savings.

The votes came in with 2,828 votes for "yes" and 1,103 votes for "no", a nearly three-to-one margin. With the school bond, new roofs will replace the current roofs and the installation of solar panels will reduce the district's energy cost. The measure is purported to save tax payers \$1.3 million in electricity

bills. Woodbridge residents will see an increase of \$7 a year. The work will be done on the schools during the next two summers. "We're very excited," says school Business Administrator Mr. Dennis DeMarino.

(Quote and additional information from [woodbridge.patch.com](http://woodbridge.patch.com))

## Students in the Spotlight: Freshmen Mentor Captains

*By: Parmveer Manhani, Monique Melvin, Catherine Ortiz and Amanda Torres*

If you ask most high school students, “Who helps you make the right decisions”, you would probably hear: parents/guardians, teachers or coaches. There is a group of students at WHS that act as peer leaders, helping other Barrons make good choices throughout their four years here. They are the Freshmen Mentors; the *Perspective* staff recently spoke with the captains of

this program: seniors Blake Adams, Justine Durham, Max Gomez, Emily Horvath, Stephanie Medvetz, and juniors Taylor Hopf, Samantha Jackson and Sean Villegas.

### **C.O.: What are your responsibilities as a freshmen mentor?**

B.A.: We just had a bullying seminar for the freshmen. But our responsibilities are to be role models... be friendly and get to know them.

T.H.: We go to their homeroom and help them if they need anything. Also, we inform them on the announcements if they missed anything.

S.V.: We show them that we can actually teach them and talk to them if they ever need anything.

### **A.T.: What made you want to be a Freshman Mentor?**

*(Continued on Page 4)*

## Support Person of the Year: Ms. Sias

*By: Samantha Bruno, Zunair Rizvi and Asiah Sharpe*

Ms. Cathy Sias the winner of Support Person of the Year, is a “fierce family person”. Her husband and three children all graduated from Woodbridge High School. She has a granddaughter, Riley, that is turning three years old soon. Ms. Sias has won this award two times before and has been in WHS since 1996 with Mr. Warren, although she started as an elementary school lunch aid on the playground.

to work with children. I get to interact with the students and I really enjoy that.

### **S.B.: What expectations do you set for yourself while working?**

C.S.: Expectations that I set for myself are basically things I’ve taught my kids; to be responsible for yourself and for other people, to set goals to achieve, to try your best and work your hardest, and to remember the consequences of your actions because the decisions made reflect on the principal and vice principals; I always remember that.

C.S.: Maybe they’re all afraid of me (laughs) Well I believe I’m more visible because of my position as Mr. Warren’s secretary. I’m also equivalent to an office manager. I handle the budget and supplies. At the same time, I take care of Mr. Warren’s personal needs as principal. I’m the most visible member of the staff.

### **Z.R.: How did you feel when you won? Did you know you were going to win?**

C.S.: It felt nice to win; it was an honor especially to win for this school because it is so big. I tried very hard and I didn’t know that I was going to win since it was the teachers who vote for this award.

### **A.S.: What do you love most about what you do here at WHS?**

C.S.: Well, I love the staff. One of the best staff I have ever worked with and I’ve been in the district for a really long time. I get the chance

### **S.B.: What lessons or experiences have you had at other schools?**

C.S.: When I started working in education I only worked part time. I started off in elementary school where I had interesting, enjoyable experiences and received instant gratification. It enabled me to work and still be with my children, and I liked the whole aspect of business within education.

### **A.S.: Why do you think you were chosen support person of the year at WHS?**



*Above: Ms. Cathy Sias, support person of the year*

# Teachers in the Spotlight: Mrs. Clarke

By: Amanda Torres

I recently sat with Mrs. Clarke to ask a few questions so that I could learn more about the person behind the teacher.

**A.T.: What is your name?**

T.C.: Tina Clarke

**A.T.: What do you teach?**

T.C.: Anatomy, physiology, and biology.

**A.T.: How long have you been teaching?**

T.C.: [Since] January of 2000, so just over 11 years.

**A.T.: What grades do you teach?**

T.C.: I teach grades ten through twelve.

**A.T.: Do you enjoy your job? Why?**

T.C.: Yes very much. It makes me so happy. I love going to work. I enjoy teaching. I love waking up in the morning.

**A.T.: Would you say that your passion is your job?**

T.C.: It's a tie between my job and my family. Family comes first, of course... then teaching.

**A.T.: Did you always want to be a teacher? Why or why not?**

T.C.: At one point I wanted to be a physical therapist or a pharmacist. But when I got to college, I changed my mind

**A.T.: Who was the most influential person in your life?**

T.C.: My mother because she taught me so much and believed in me always.



Above: Ms. Tina Clarke, pictured with her famous skeleton drawing, is one of WHS's most popular and dedicated educators!

# Teachers in the Spotlight: Mr. Terrell

By Samantha Bruno

Everyone knows Mr. Terrell as WHS' resident drama teacher and all-around great guy; but there's a lot more about "Mr. T." that we bet you didn't know!

**S.B.: What college did you attend?**

K.T.: I went to the University of Houston for a semester. I spent four years in the marines. Then, I finished my degree at Texas State University, got my teaching certificate at Rutgers, my master's in theater at Texas, and my master's in education at Georgian Court.

**S.B.: What types of movies/shows were you in?**

K.T.: Generally, classic theater and Shakespeare. I was also in weird indie films and mainstream Hollywood movies.

**S.B.: What was the first movie you appeared in?**

K.T.: "Big Night", in 1993. It was about a famous opera singer who comes to a small Italian restaurant in New Jersey.

**S.B.: Who was your biggest influence/role model?**

K.T.: As an actor, Peter Sellers, who was an actor known to be able to be serious or funny. For entertainment, my favorite movie director, David Fincher, who made mainstream movies seem like independent films.

**S.B.: Out of all the jobs you've had, which did you enjoy the most?**

K.T.: [pausing] It's hard to say. I really enjoy being a teacher. But I

[also] really enjoyed being an actor. Even though it's hard work, it's a lot of fun. But the job I was best at was being a sergeant in the Marines.

**S.B.: How do you want to be remembered?**

K.T.: I'd like to be remembered as somebody you could always count on, rely on, and go to for help.



Above: Mr. Kelly Terrell

*(Continued from page 2)* B.A.: I wanted to be a freshman mentor because my mentors were great and helpful and I wanted to help others. I like to help.

**M.M.: Are there any requirements for becoming a Freshman Mentor? What are your qualifications?**

B.A.: You have to have good grades; [you have to follow the school's rules]. And you have to be able to write well [because] you have to write an essay to get in.

**M.M.: Do you see some of your peers that don't take freshmen mentoring seriously?**

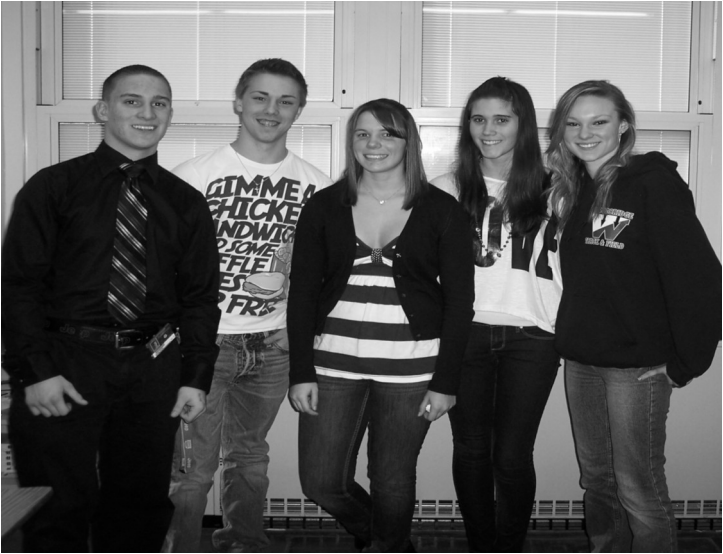
E.H.: [Some] people... just go to the meetings... and don't care about what Mrs. Washington is saying to us. They just want to put ["Freshman Mentor"] on their college applications. [But] if Mrs. Washington catches on you will be removed.

**P.M.: Do you like being a mentor? Why?**

E.H.: I love being a mentor. I like to help freshmen because I feel like I am inspiring people and I like doing community service.

**P.M.: Is there a down-side to being a Freshman Mentor?**

All answer: It's hard to find volunteers for our activities. [Also] when we think of a great idea [for an activity] but can't get it approved!



*Above: Some of the Freshmen Mentors (from left to right) Blake Adams, Sean Villegas, Taylor Hopf, Samantha Jackson and Emily Horvath.*

## The Grammy Awards Review

*By Zunair Rizvi*

At the 2011 Grammy's, Eminem did not end up with best album which he was projected to win by many music listeners around the world. Instead it was the Canadian alt-rock band Arcade Fire holding up the award at the Grammys. One of Eminem's friends, Royce, told the media, previous to the ceremony, "[h]e doesn't think he's going to win anything... Which I think is ridiculous." Based on this information, Eminem didn't seem to be too confident about his record-breaking album, "Recovery", and he was proven correct as the album failed to garner the top award of the night.

On the bright side for Eminem fans, he did win best rap album as "Recovery" topped the other nominees (including "The Adventures Of Bobby Ray," by B.o.B, "Thank Me Later," by Drake, "The Blueprint 3," by Jay-Z, and "How I Got Over," by The Roots). Other notable winners in the Grammys were: "Need You Now," by Lady Antebellum for record of the year. Esperanza Spalding won best new artist, "The Fame Monster," by Lady Gaga won for best pop vocal album, and "The Resistance," by The Muse won for best rock album.

*Left: B.o.B*

*Right: Eminem*

*Left: Esperanza Spalding*

*Right: The Muse*

*Left: Drake*

*Above: Jay-Z*

*Left: Lady Gaga*

