

The Barron Perspective: January 2011

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Did you know...

- Regardless of grade, any student can participate in fundraising to help pay for things like their yearbook, Cotillion tickets and Senior Prom bids?

For more information on how to get involved with fundraising, please see Ms. Huber, Ms. Gross, Mr. Daly or Mr. Switek.

Saturday HSPA Program: Year Two

By the Perspective Staff

The HSPA, the state-mandated test for eleventh graders, along with satisfying all of the classes you need, helps to determine whether or not you can graduate. Students in NJ must take the exam in March of their junior year and successfully pass the language arts and math sections in order to receive their diplomas.

In our previous edition, the *Perspective* staff discussed the success that the class of 2011 attained when the HSPA scores were released last spring. This article was written to highlight one of the unique programs WHS has created to ensure students can succeed on the HSPA.

The Saturday HSPA program, which had its inau-



gural year in 2010, is a three-Saturday-course which WHS juniors can attend to gain extra insight on the HSPA skills they will encounter in March. With WHS math and English teachers providing extra assistance on Saturday, January 29th, Saturday, February 19th and 26th,

students will participate in the one-and-a-quarter-hour sessions (one each, for math and English).

Please see your math or English teacher or your guidance counselor for more details.

Getting the Most out of Senior Year.

By the Perspective Staff

Recently, we sat down with Mr. Switek, our Senior Class Advisor, to better learn how the Class of 2011 can get the most from their senior year of

high school.

Barron Perspective: What kind of advice can you give to incoming seniors?

Mr. Switek: Education-wise, I would say be certain that you are up-to-date with college applications

and seeking letters of reference from your teachers. It can be overwhelming for teachers when all of their seniors ask for letters in the same week! I know that the guidance department (cont. pg. 4)

Students in the Spotlight: WHS Choir Officers

By Samantha Bruno, Zunair Rizvi and Asiah Sharpe

Have you ever seen trophies lining the counter in the main office in spring? Those awards belong to our school's choirs. Recently, *The Barron Perspective* staff sat down with the choirs' officers, Brianna Ludlow Women's Choir President), Steven Cordero (Concert Choir V.P.), and Rosemary Mende and Brianna Oddo, the choirs' treasurers. Here's what the officers had to say about being in choir!

Z.R.: How many different choirs are there?

B.L.: There are four different types of choirs: women's, concert, jazz, and show/mixed choir.

SB: What fundraisers, performances and trips do the choirs participate in?

R.M.: For fundraisers we sell Gertrude Hawk Chocolate Bars and our fundraiser event is the Haunted House.

B.O.: We also sell raffle tickets, have "A Taste of Woodbridge" restaurant nights, and have holiday concerts that have rehearsals and practices we miss class for.

S.C.: Our trip this year is to Cleveland during Memorial Day weekend. There is a competition there that usually takes place during the first or second day.

A.S.: What are the duties of the choir officers?

S.C.: I hand out bowties, make sure outfits are in check. I help the choir director set up.

B.L.: I take attendance everyday and make sure everything runs smoothly. Organize and remind people of upcoming events.

B.O.: I organize fundraisers and every member's account. [Rosemary Mende and I] make executive decisions and often have to be the "bad guys". We organize funds and help those who can't afford their funds. We individually help them.

A.S.: Is choir easy/challenging?

B.O.: It's a huge misconception that choir is easy. Choir is challenging. I can easily say I put more effort in choir than in any of my other classes. It's challenging. The music is not easy at all.

S.C.: Choir is not easy. Based upon the music were singing, I would say its rather difficult. What makes it easy is how the choir works together as a family and the choir director helping us. However, its the most difficult class I have. It's hard but knowing what you get at the end and knowing the effort you put into it, it's worth it. No one walks out alone to face the world, we walk out together as a team.

Z.R.: Which singers have inspired you?

R.M.: Taylor Swift

B.L.: Mariah Carrie

B.O.: Amy Lee

SB: What's your favorite musical?

BO: "Chicago".

RM: "Wicked".

BL: "Jersey Boys".

A.S.: "Glee"- fan or not?

B.O. and S.C.: It's entertaining but it's unrealistic. I'm a fan but it isn't like choir at all. We prepare for our songs, rather than the show [where the choir spontaneously sings].

B.L.: I'm a total "Glee" fan. I have the T-shirts and everything but it isn't like choir at all.

Z.R.: Were you involved in Choir in Middle School?

S.C.: Yes. I didn't care in middle school but I do now; it is very important and it feels like a lifestyle. To me it's a commitment.

B.L.: I was involved in 3 choirs, I had to commit and now I'm more dedicated.

B.O.: No, I wasn't involved; I joined in 6th grade and ended up quitting. I didn't like the environment.

SB: Will you pursue a career in music? How can choir train you for your future?

B.O.: No I was not planning on pursuing a career, but being in the choir is life-altering. I mostly learned responsibility and how to grow up.

B.L.: No, but it's definitely trained me. I know how to be dedicated after being



Brianna Oddo and Rosemary Mende, WHS choirs' treasurers, share a laugh and a hug.

in choir.

SC: No, but it teaches you basic values like respect. Choir will always be helpful, and no matter what I do it will always be a part of my life.

SB: Why do you choose chorus over other activities?

B.O.: I felt like I had to be in choir because of the reputation it had that my mom told me about.

B.L.: Choir is my first choice. My sister mostly had a huge impact on me, and I feel like I made the right decision in joining.

S.C.: It took priority to realize it needs more attention than other activities. I love the feeling of helping people in my section while expanding my horizons. You can't vote it in, you have to be there everyday.

Z.R.: Why are you a good fit for choir?

B.O.: The mentality that I needed to be in choir just hit me.

B.L.: I was involved in other things, not just choir. I am very active, but I felt like choir was a big accomplishment and when someone asks me "what I do", my first response is "choir".

S.C.: [Choir] took priority; the experience in choir progressed so that led me to prefer choir over other activities. It required a lot of time.

Administrators in the Spotlight: Mr. Scarano

Interview by Asiah Sharpe

Mr. Scarano is instantly recognizable in the halls of WHS and we wanted to know more about the exuberant vice principal!

Barron Perspective: Where did you grow up?

I grew up here in Woodbridge; I graduated from Woodbridge High School in 1987.

BP: Do you have any children? How old are they?

I have two boys: Alex and Justin, ages fifteen and thirteen.

BP: Who were your role models in life? Who inspired you while growing up?

Mostly my father. He's the one who inspired me while growing up.

BP: Where did you attend college?

Richard Stockton State College. Earned an associate and bachelor degree in history. I then earned my masters degree in educational administration from Kean University.

BP: Did you play a sport?

Yes, I played soccer in college for four years. My sons play as well.

BP: How many years have you worked at WHS?

A total of sixteen years. I was a teacher and a coach for six years. I then worked four years as an athletic director, and now, six years as vice principal.

BP: If you weren't an administrator, what other career would you like to have today? Why?

A marine biologist. I was always intrigued and fascinated by the ocean and seas. In college, I thought of becoming a dolphin trainer.

BP: Any special talents?

What are your hobbies?

My special talent . . . I can juggle. As for hobbies, I run. I enjoy skiing and camping. Most of my hobbies include outdoor activities. I go out as much as I can.

BP: What do you like best about WHS?

I graduated from here. Woodbridge High school has a lot of pride and tradi-

tion, it's what I love most. The staff, Mr. Warren, Mr. Pace, we all care. Everyone cares. The students are great and they work very hard . . . I love it here. I could retire here.

BP: What was your most unforgettable moment at WHS?

There were many unforgettable moments I've had here at WHS, but I would have to say last year's HSPA test scores and when I had to shave my head. We all worked very hard for the HSPA and the results were great.



"...we all care. Everyone cares. The students are great and they work very hard . . . I love it here..."

Mr. Scarano



Above: Mr. Warren and three WHS students proudly display the generous donation from Bob's Discount Furniture.

WHS Benefits from Bob's!

By Perspective Staff

Bob's Discount Furniture, located on Woodbridge Center Drive, recently donated \$1,000 to WHS!

The popular furniture retailer invites shoppers to submit the name of a school for a random drawing. A Barron supporter

submitted our school's name for the drawing and we were lucky enough to be the winning school!

On behalf of all of the students, teachers and administrators at WHS, the *Perspective* says "Thanks" To Bob's Discount Furniture.

Making the Most of Senior Year (cont.)

-ment has a great check-list for seniors, so that students have a better idea of when to prepare for certain events, so I always tell my students to check with their guidance counselor.

BP: How about senior activities?

Mr. S.: As far as senior-year activities are concerned, I am trying to urge every student, not just seniors, to get involved with fundraisers. The school maintains individual accounts for each student, and the more you do, the more that accumulates. About 15 percent of the class of 2009 did fundraising, and that's a decent amount of people. The class of 2010 had almost 30 percent of the students participate in some way, and that was amazing. I am hoping that the numbers keep going up... there were about 12 seniors [in 2010] that went to prom for free because they had raised so much money for themselves.

BP: What do you do for the senior class?

Mr. S.: My title is "advisor", and that literally means I can present ideas or opportunities to the senior class officers and Mr. Daly can present ideas to the student council officers, but the decision is, ultimately, the students'. I can "advise" what I think is right, but students have their own perspective on what we should do for their class. That being said, I think that the officers, Mr. Daly and I really enjoy working together... last year, we got to have a dodge ball tournament, we sold the coolest WHS senior tee shirts

I've ever seen, planned the senior picnic and we got to create the prom favor. We had 8 great seniors to work with and we all had a great time! This year, again, we have 8 seniors who are working hard for the entire class.

BP: Speaking of prom, how do students buy tickets?

Mr. S.: Traditionally, students would wait until May, after all the fundraising is done for the year, and then the price of the prom bid is set. Students come before school to buy their prom bids in the gym. This year, though, the prom advisors [Ms. Woerner and Ms. Noble] had the idea to create "prom layaway", and I think that should help ease the process for a lot of people. *[For further details on Prom Layaway, please see the announcement box on this page.]*

BP: How can students become senior officers?

Mr. S.: In June, we have interested juniors come to a meeting to hear what the officers do throughout the year. Students decide what office to run for, and then we have voting on a homeroom day. We will know who the senior officers are before the end of this school year, and we can hit the ground running on the first day of school.

BP: Any parting ideas for the seniors reading this article?

Mr. S. : [Laughs] Keep fundraising, pay your fines early, and be sure to thank your teachers before you graduate.

What are Seniors Watching?

Barron Perspective Staff

The Barron Perspective staff recently conducted a survey of WHS seniors (in Mrs. Hain's Block 4 English class) to see what the Class of 2011 is watching and listening to... when they're not in school of course!

What is your favorite movie?

- *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*
- *Inception*
- *Dazed & Confused*
- *The Notebook*
- *The Last Song*
- *Pulp Fiction*
- *The Notebook*
- *The Truman Show*
- *The Waterboy*
- *P.S. I Love You*

Who is/are your favorite musical artist(s)?

- Taylor Swift
- Miley Cyrus
- Jason DeRulo
- 5 Finger Death Punch
- Bullet for my Valentine
- Daughtry
- Eminem
- Better than Ezra
- Dave Matthews Band
- Third Eye Blind
- Coldplay
- Lady Gaga

New to WHS this year:

Mrs. Woerner and Mrs. Noble are accepting "Prom Layaway", where seniors can give either prom advisor money toward prom every week, every other week, every month, etc.

This money will be kept in your student account and it will help ease the cost of prom when bids go on sale in the spring! See Mrs. Woerner or Mrs. Noble for more details TODAY!!!