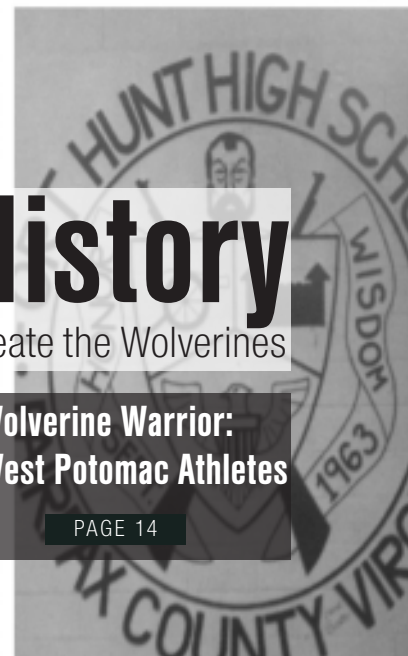
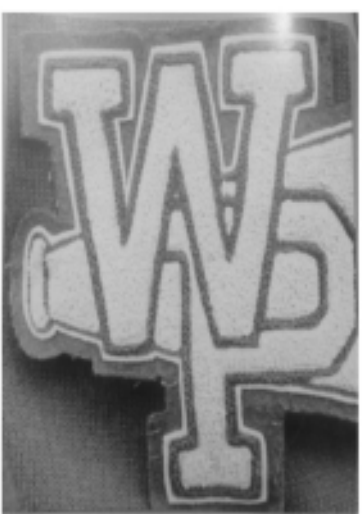
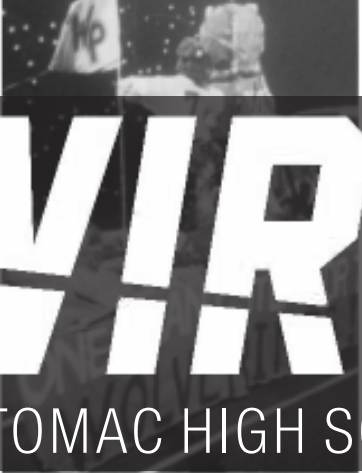


# THE WIRE

WEST POTOMAC HIGH SCHOOL

Volume 31, Issue 1  
December 2015



## 30 Years of History

From two to one: Groveton and Fort Hunt join to create the Wolverines



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The Best of 2015**

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Top West Potomac Athletes**

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*The Wire* is a publication whose aim is to inform, educate, and entertain the student body. An open forum for discussion, *The Wire* will not print any material that is libelous or obscene, or will invade any person's right to privacy. The ideas expressed in unsigned editorials reflect the opinions of the newspaper staff; however, letters to the Editor do not.

This issue's cover collage was created using scanned images from West Potomac yearbooks. The images used for the Table of Contents, Winter Watch List, book and music reviews, Best of 2015, and Hugh vs. The World articles were acquired using Google image search.

## Letter from the Editors: Nina Ranses & Duncan Hoag

Welcome to the first issue of *The Wire* for the 2015-2016 school year! First, we'd like to thank our readers, patrons and everyone involved in the production and ongoing support of our student-run publication. In this issue, we cover a variety of subject matter, ranging from our new satire section - *The String* - to taking a look back on the history of "The World's Greatest High School." It is our earnest belief that this issue showcases our dedication and best work.

Without further ado, we hope you enjoy this issue of *The Wire*!

## Thank You, Wire Patrons!

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# WINTER 2015

**STYLE**

**NETFLIX**

04-05

**Winter Watch List**

A recap of which shows are totally binge-able during the holiday break and beyond. Featuring comedy, romance, fantasy, and anime.

**RECAP**



06-07

**Best of 2015**

Compilation of Top 5's from the past year including arts, entertainment and technology.

**COVER**



08-09

**30 Years of West Potomac**

This year West Potomac turns 30! Our dramatic past is chronicled with a list of firsts for the Wolverines from the 1985-86 school year.

**OPINION**



10-11

**Hugh Vs. The World**

College campuses are seeing an increase in protests and Hugh is not okay with it.

**SCHOOL VIEWS**



12-13

**APUSH & No Child Left Behind**

Daniel and Shahtaj go head-to-head on the changes to the APUSH curriculum over the years and Amanda explores the history of NCLB & over testing.

**SPORTS**




14-15

**Wolverine Warrior**




What do top athletes have to say about their athletic

# What Does the Rest of the Year Hold For You?

 **ARIES**    
 You're trying so hard to reach this goal and it seems like you'll never reach it. Just keep pushing and you'll grasp the prize of achievement.



 **LEO**    
 Don't be afraid to let someone else have power, just because you're not in control doesn't mean things will go down in flames.

 **SAGITTARIUS**    
 Don't waste time on what's unnecessary, if you lose focus you will fall.




 **TAURUS**    
 Continue to appreciate them and soon they will realize how much you care. Just be patient.




 **VIRGO**    
 A little charm never hurt anyone. Don't be afraid to talk to that person you've been wanting to meet.

 **CAPRICORN**    
 Criticism might hurt but knowing you didn't try your best to work past it will hurt more.




 **GEMINI**    
 Just analyze every situation properly, then go with your gut.

 **LIBRA**    
 Try your best to keep work and fun in balance. It'll be easy for you after a while, and it's key for your success

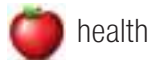
 **AQUARIUS**  
 Sometimes you have to drop those who aren't as loyal as you are.  

 **CANCER**    
 Remember your family roots and things will be alright.

 **SCORPIO**    
 Someone out there understands you. It's up to you to meet them halfway.

 **PISCES**   
 Sometimes keeping a low profile isn't the best. Try your best to be a bit more out there. 

## What Should You Focus On for 2016?



health



love/romance



family



school/studies



friendship



money



### When were you born?

I was born in 1963.

### What was your favorite subject in school?

Art.

### What college did you go to?

Major- Biology; William and Mary

### How long have you taught at WP?

I think it is my 7th or 8th year, but I'm not positive.

### Favorite/least favorite grade to teach?

I teach freshman and seniors with a few juniors in some of my classes. I like seniors because they are closer to the point where they can put things together better. I like that. I like freshman because they are very creative sometimes and they are good at thinking outside of the box.

### How long have you been a teacher?

I have been a teacher for 22 years.

### What's your favorite food?

I think good pizza. Good pizza is always good!

### What subjects have you taught over your career?

My first teaching job was in a hospital setting with kids that were hospitalized for psychiatric disorders. I taught everything from math to english to history. But now I teach science.

### What was your favorite memory at West Potomac?

When one of the science teachers got to use a fire extinguisher because of a trash can fire in the bathroom. That was kind of fun, you know, you see fire extinguishers all the time but you never get to use them. It was after school.

### What is your favorite TV show?

Right now, it's Elementary.

### What's your favorite animal?

I like cats. Cats are very cool.

### Do you have any pets?

Yes, I have two cats.

### Favorite Color?

Green, I like green.

# TV Binge

With two whole weeks of free time and minimal homework to complete (hopefully), the holiday break is prime time to get started on a new series or show, or collection of films.

By Jonathan Milam & Cooper Rosenberg



## BREAKING BAD

**Binge-ability:** 9.5/10; starts off slow, but it gets QUICK fast. Almost every episode has an ending that leaves questions which are only answered in the next episode. Be ready to watch hour after hour.

**MPAA Rating:** TV-MA

**Where to watch:** Netflix, Amazon, iTunes, and Google Play

**Why Watch It:** Breaking Bad is widely considered to be the best TV show of all time. This show does a good job of showing mental struggle through its masterfully created scenes, and well rounded cast of characters.



## MIYAZAKI FILMS

**Binge-ability:** 7.5/10; The movies are instantly intriguing, but each movie has its own story line which slightly inhibits binge watching.

**MPAA Rating:** G - PG-13

**Where to Watch:** Buy on DVD/BluRay, or online

**Why Watch It:** Studio Ghibli is a Japanese animation studio co-founded by lead director, Hayao Miyazaki. The gorgeous visuals, imaginative settings, lovable characters, and well thought out plots are all reasons why Studio Ghibli films are some of the top grossing foreign films of all time, and continue to amaze viewers of any background.



## DRAGONBALL & DRAGONBALL Z

**Binge-ability:** 7/10; great action packed battles but can get very slow and drawn out at times. Watch out for filler episodes.

**MPAA Rating:** G - PG-13

**Where to Watch:** Buy on DVD/BluRay, or online

**Why Watch It:** These two shows follow Goku as he goes on adventures to save the world and collect the Dragonballs – seven magical orbs that when all collected together grant a single wish. The short episodes of 21 minutes each are good to knock out episode after episode, all the while getting brought deeper into the world of Dragonball.



## GAME OF THRONES

**Bingeability:** 8/10; great and well made show with many twists and turns. Only real downside is that it is required to have HBO to watch it so it's a little harder to get a hold off.

**MPAA Rating:** TV-MA

**Where to Watch:** HBO, HBO GO, and HBO NOW

**Why Watch It:** Based off the books written by George R.R. Martin, HBO's Game of Thrones brings family feud to life in the dark aged realm of Westeros. All though not concluded, catching up on Game of Thrones is a must for anyone wanting to be in the know when the subject inevitably comes up in a conversation.



## Gossip Girl

**Binge-ability:** 10/10; offers plentiful twists along a continuous series of 6 seasons.

**MPAA Rating:** TV-14

**Where to watch:** Amazon Prime, Netflix, and Hulu

**Why Watch It:** Each episode will leave viewers asking for more while satisfying their need for overarching mysteries and crushing backstabs. Gossip girl follows Manhattan's elite as they make their way through the cutthroat world of the rich and famous. Viewers won't know who to love or hate and the ultimate question remains until the last episode: Who is gossip girl?



## PARKS AND RECREATION

**Binge-ability:** 8/10; a hilarious satire of local government that steadily improves throughout.

**MPAA Rating:** TV-PG

**Where to Watch:** Amazon Prime, Netflix, and Hulu

**Why Watch It:** Parks and Recreation has become a cultural sensation as it features memorable and relatable characters as well as hilarious situations and running jokes. This show has not only gained critical success and created a massive cult following, but has also elevated the careers of each of its stars by creating break out roles and memorable personalities.



## ARCHER

**Binge-ability:** 7/10; hilarious antics and amazing characters although has a very loose plot.

**MPAA Rating:** TV-MA

**Where to Watch:** Amazon Prime, Netflix, and Hulu

**Why Watch It:** Archer is a parody of Hollywood spies as the title character Sterling Archer and his coworkers embark on ridiculous missions and find themselves in ludicrous situations. With a tasteful number of Top Gun references (including a very special Kenny Loggins appearance) and the constant abuse of Archer's butler Woodhouse, Archer offers a bounty of laughs and an altogether great time.



## THE OFFICE

**Bingeability:** 9/10; witty banter and iconic characters remedy an opportunity for Binge-watching

**MPAA Rating:** TV-14

**Where to Watch:** Amazon Prime, Netflix, and Hulu

**Why Watch It:** The Office chronicles the hilarious personalities and antics of the Scranton branch office of the Dunder Mifflin Paper Company. This Emmy award winning series offers big laughs as well as good situational humor. This show is a must see for anyone who enjoys comedies with unique style and creative execution.

## Grant's Picks

### Music



When Olly Murs auditioned on the X-Factor for its 6th run in 2009, his voice was discovered and grew extremely popular among teenage girls around the world. Although he did not win the X-Factor, Murs has dropped 3 multi-platinum albums and 4 no. 1 singles. Never Been Better features 11 songs including Demi Lovato in his song "Up" and Travis McCoy in "Wrapped Up". Never Been Better has brilliant beats and brings out the best in Murs voice and style and his album has a great mix of hip hop and jazz and a catchy beat to jam away the holidays in style.



Stealing the spotlight from bands like Imagine Dragons, X-Ambassadors latest hit debuts in their newest album VHS with "Renegades". Full of clapping and a catchy melody, the album reached no. 7 on Billboard.com's top 200 chart and "Renegades" reached top 20 on their chart as well. VHS has 20 songs that include seven interludes (a performance during an intermission) and 3 bonus tracks. VHS also features several types of music including rock, hip hop, soul, and R&B.

### Books



## The Legend Series

The exciting dystopian trilogy *Legend* starts with its first book by the same name (which debuted in 2011). The trilogy's first novel is set in the flooded Republic of Los Angeles in

the year 2130 A.D. *Legend* tells the story of a boy who is the Republic's most wanted criminal and a girl who is the Republic's most beloved government prodigy. Their paths cross when the girl's brother is murdered and she is hired to hunt down the person responsible. It's hard to put this book down as it surrounds you with action and suspense around every page. The trilogy continues with *Prodigy*, released in 2012, and *Champion*, released in 2013. The trilogy is a must read and is a great series as the days of winter break fly by.

### Books

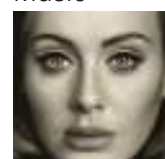


For a quick read over the holiday break, pick up *Let It Snow*, a collection of three interconnected romance stories by young adult authors John Green, (author of *Paper Towns* and *The Fault In Our Stars*) Maureen Johnson (*Thirteen Little Blue Envelopes*), and Lauren Myracle (t.ty). *Let It Snow* was written with winter break reading in mind, simple yet cheerful. Though short and can be incredibly cheesy at times, *Let It Snow* is a perfect, leisurely book that you shouldn't take seriously and puts you in that great holiday mood; nothing more, nothing less.



Meet Anthony Doerr's *All The Light We Cannot See*. Beginning a few months after D-Day, *All The Light We Cannot See* tells the story of Marie-Laure LeBlanc, a young French girl who loses her eyesight. Marie-Laure meets Werner, an orphan who was recruited by the German army due to his talent for science and fixing things. Though their acquaintance is brief, they connect, and touch each other's lives forever. Full of incredible detail and elegant language, balanced by short chapters, *All The Light We Cannot See* is an enchanting and compelling read.

### Music



Adele "25"  
Haven't jumped on the Adele bandwagon yet? Never fear; Adele's new album is here. *25* delivers a refreshing and captivating music experience, starting with its first track, Hello (the album's first single, which debuted at #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart). *25*, as Adele's previous albums, could be described as somewhat emotional, addressing the various feelings of heartbreak, lost love, and sadness, but yet stands out due to her nostalgic, wistful mood adopted throughout, and, of course her quintessential haunting voice for which she is known. With tracks such as Send Me Love (To Your New Lover), When We Were Young, and River Lea, *25* is an album you don't want to miss.

## Claudia's Picks

# ....The Best of 2015....

## Movies

### 1. Mad Max

The fourth film of the Mad Max series, Mad Max: Fury Road (released in May) immediately garnered acclaim with a 97% from critics and earned an 8.7/10 average rating on Rotten Tomatoes. "It's like a monster-truck motocross competition staged by a more nihilistic version of Cirque du Soleil, where the stakes are life and death." said Mike O'Sullivan of the Washington Post, which truly captures the essence of the film. The complex characters and interesting world-building captured the hearts of viewers, which brought it to earn over double the budget.

### 2. Jurassic World

### 3. Inside Out

### 4. Avengers: Age of Ultron

### 5. Furious 7

## Technology

### 1. Hoverboard

Though the hoverboard, or a self-balancing two-wheeled board, debuted in China during 2014, it only became popular in the United States this year after multiple celebrity appearances using the board, including Justin Bieber and Wiz Khalifa.

### 2. Tidal

### 3. Apple Watch

### 4. Backpack Speakers

### 5. iTunes Music



## Actors

### 1. Chris Pratt

Actor Chris Pratt had a busy year, from starring in blockbuster Jurassic World to ending his run on Parks and Recreation. Pratt came into this year riding on the success of Guardians of the Galaxy, and clearly kept his record of success going throughout this year.

### 2. Melissa McCarthy

### 3. Tom Hardy

### 4. Scarlett Johansson

### 5. Eddie Redmayne

## Books

### 1. Go Set a Watchman - Harper Lee

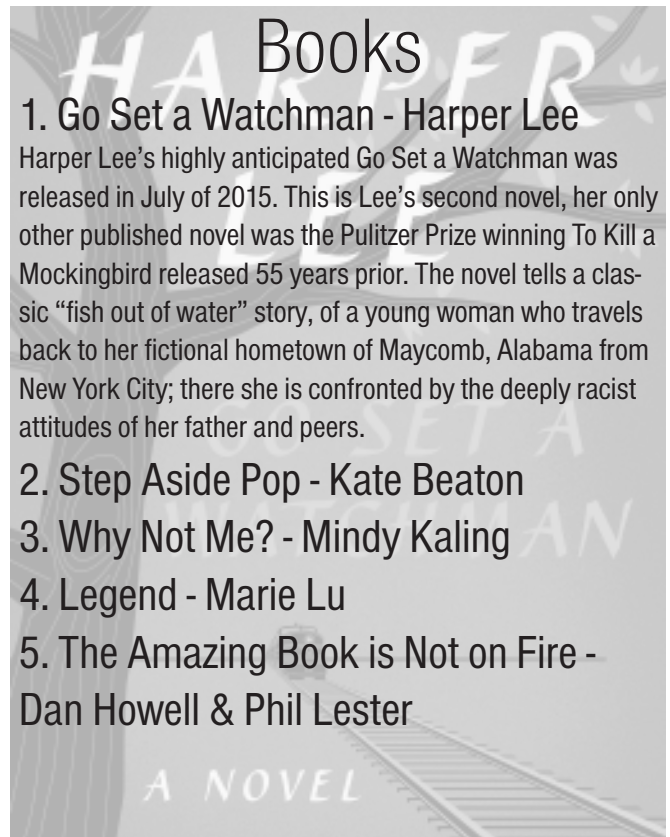
Harper Lee's highly anticipated Go Set a Watchman was released in July of 2015. This is Lee's second novel, her only other published novel was the Pulitzer Prize winning To Kill a Mockingbird released 55 years prior. The novel tells a classic "fish out of water" story, of a young woman who travels back to her fictional hometown of Maycomb, Alabama from New York City; there she is confronted by the deeply racist attitudes of her father and peers.

### 2. Step Aside Pop - Kate Beaton

### 3. Why Not Me? - Mindy Kaling

### 4. Legend - Marie Lu

### 5. The Amazing Book is Not on Fire - Dan Howell & Phil Lester



# New Artist

## 1. Shawn Mendes

He first appeared as a cover artist on the app Vine back in 2013, a year later the "vine sensation" was signed by Island Records and released his first EP "Life of the Party" in June 2014. The debut of his major EP peaked number 5 on Billboard's top 200 and won the Teen Choice award for Webstar in music. Now Mendes has released his first album Handwritten which had 10 songs and was debuted number 1 on the Billboard 200.

## 2. Tove Lo

## 3. Halsey

## 4. Walk the Moon

## 5. Melanie Martinez

# Album

## 1. Adele - 25

Returning from a four year hiatus, English singer-songwriter Adele released 25, her third studio album in November. The album's first single, "Hello," debuted at No.1 on the Billboard Hot 100 Chart; the 24th song in history to do so.

## 2. *The Beauty Behind the Madness* - The Weeknd

## 3. *Honeymoon* - Lana Del Rey

## 4. *Froot* - Marina and the Diamonds

## 5. *If You're Reading This It's Too Late* - Drake

# Songs

## 1. "Uptown Funk" - Bruno Mars

"Uptown Funk" was recorded by British producer Mark Ronson, with vocals by Bruno Mars. The catchy upbeat vocals kept the song featured as number one for an astonishing fourteen weeks.

## 2. "Shut Up and Dance" -

Walk the Moon

## 3. "Can't Feel My Face" - The Weeknd

## 4. "Hotline Bling" - Drake

## 5. "See You Again" -

Charlie Puth & Wiz Kalifah

## 1. Nicki destroying Miley

This year's VMAs provided its viewers with an iconic moment of unscripted award show history. As Nicki Minaj took to the stage to give her acceptance speech for winning Best Hip Hop Video, she decided to throw a "shout out" at a fellow musician who had recently snubbed her in the press. Taking a pause after thanking her pastor, Minaj turned to the VMAs host, Miley Cyrus, and delivered the iconic line, "Back to this \*\$#%@ that had a lot to say about me the other day in the press, Miley what's good!?"

## 2. Kanye's Presidential Run

## 3. Oprah's Lego Oscar

## 4. All Female Team Winning Best Musical

## 5. Viola Davis Winning Best Actress

# Oscar Noms

## 1. Saoirse Ronan

In Brooklyn, Saoirse Ronan delighted viewers as Ellis Lacey, a recent Irish immigrant who is torn between her new life in Brooklyn with her romantic interest Tony, and her family back home in Ireland. Ronan performed the role to the greatest possible capacity, embodies and expressing all the struggles immigrants had. This performance is sure to impress the Academy in 2016.

## 2. Meryl Streep

## 3. Mark Ruffalo

## 4. Matt Damon

## 5. Cate Blanchett

# TV Shows

## 1. Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation ended its six year run in February, finishing off seven critically acclaimed seasons. The show is centered around Leslie Knope and her fellow parks employees living in the fictional Indiana town of Pawnee. Parks and Recreation has gotten a large and growing fan base throughout the years, and earned an outstanding number of Emmy nominations. Parks and Recreation was able to balance both comedy and heart, making it a television program that will be truly missed.



## 2. Daredevil



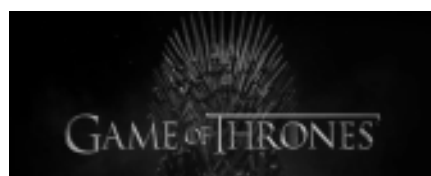
## 3. The Daily Show



## 4. AKA Jessica Jones



## 5. Game of Thrones



# 30 Years of History

## Nina Raneses Reporter

On the morning of August 26, 1985, the first bell signalling the first classes to start at West Potomac High School rang. Filling the crowded halls and student parking lots were students who were all new to this experience. Most of them didn't know each other, and almost all of them had a bias or some sort of judgement which had already formed in their heads before they walked through the doors that morning.

"Socially, we weren't very connected as a student body the first year," said West Potomac alumnus Christopher Calogero ('88), who had previously attended Groveton High School before the merger. "You were considered a Ft Hunt kid, or a Groveton kid." That was the only way students could identify one from the other in the first couple of months of school. The atmosphere is one that you could expect from two staunch rivals and polar opposite communities who were suddenly forced to learn under the same roof, which is exactly what happened.

While West Potomac celebrates 30 years of rich history and accomplishments, over two thousand students of the Groveton and Fort Hunt High School communities came together to form a school where the journey had only just begun.

West Potomac was created after a decision by the county to merge former Fairfax County high schools Groveton and Fort Hunt to create one new school. This idea came after the county saw low enrollment in the eastern part of the Mount Vernon district, among other issues that a task force decided could be solved by closing one of the schools down. The proposal would force one of these schools to close permanently to be turned into a middle school, while the other would stay open and welcome a whole school population of new students. A citizen's task force had come to

the conclusion that Fort Hunt High School should be closed.

While many factors contributed to the task force's decision, one key moment that set the ball rolling was the Fort Hunt fire of 1978. The school underwent major renovations costing up to \$4.5 million after recent grad Timothy Greer ('78) and students Matthew Musolino and Robert



Smithwick threw molotov cocktails at a window they had broken. The bottles filled with gasoline from the local gas station smoldered for five hours the night of new year's eve—the damage was discovered the morning of new year's day, and classes had been cancelled for the first week back from winter break.

"The fire had a lot to do with the school's combining," explained history teacher and Fort Hunt alumnus Don Beeby ('79). As a senior at Fort Hunt during that year, he said that the months following the fire had deeply affected the school and the rest of his senior year. Fort Hunt would not officially reopen until fall of 1980.

"It [Fort Hunt] just smelled like smoke. The whole place did. There was really no damage whatsoever, but the smoke just destroyed everything. It got to the

ventilation and the ceiling panels, they all had to be replaced. They had to paint all the lockers, just anything to get rid of that smell," he added.

For the next few months, Fort Hunt students were scattered across Route 1 in order to get to class, first sharing classrooms with Groveton students and then at Mount Vernon—scheduling conflicts and a decrease

in staff heavily hurt academics at the school. After that year, Fort Hunt—and soon Groveton as well—would never be the same.

As soon as word got out that one of the two close-knit communities would lose their school, a neighbor-against-neighbor rivalry ensued between Fort Hunt and Groveton. The Route 1 community was split into two sides, but a change in plans would increase the ongoing tension between schools. While a task force had originally planned for Fort Hunt to close, after careful consideration, in 1984 former Fairfax County Superintendent William J. Burkholder decided that Groveton High School should close its doors and reopen as middle school—citing that the majority of Fort Hunt students walk to school, decreasing the need for buses.

The following months included a rollercoaster of events and emotions which were felt strongly on both sides. By early 1985, task forces had formed in support of keeping either school open—Citizens Associated for Responsible Education on the Groveton side, and Neighborhood Schools Coalition of the Fort Hunt Area. Petitions were signed, rallies were held, money was raised and buttons were pinned on the t-shirts of hopeful high school students each fighting for their cause.

"The decision to merge was politically crammed down all our throats," said Fort Hunt alumna ('85) Mary Anne Marshall. "No one was happy and we all knew it. We had all worked tirelessly to keep our schools open, but the politics of the day won out."

The two schools couldn't have been any more different— one parent referred to Groveton and Fort Hunt of having a "heterogenous" nature while the other was "homogenous," respectively, in an interview for The Washington Post. Though only three miles apart, the socioeconomic status of the two ends of Richmond Highway contributed greatly to the differences in the communities. Sporting green and gold for school colors and the "Federalers" as their mascot, Fort Hunt had a reputation for being wealthy and elite— "a country club on the Potomac" as described in another article from the Post. Fort Hunt was known for their high standard of academics and sports teams, often competing with McLean and Langley for this reputation.

"A lot of the families that moved into the subdivisions surrounding Fort Hunt were government and military families," described Fort Hunt alumna and office assistant Beth Hofmann ('74). "Plus, the houses in the area were just built whereas the houses near Groveton had been there longer."

Dec. 7, 1984 - "Black Thursday" occurs at Groveton High School. After growing concerns involving low enrollment and finances in the southeastern part of the county, FCPS Superintendent Burkholder recommends that Groveton should be closed and converted into a middle school, and their students should be sent to either Fort Hunt or Mount Vernon

Dec. 17, 1984 - Citizens Associated for Responsible Education forms to unite against Superintendent Burkholder's proposal to close Groveton. At this point, a rivalry ensues between the Groveton and Fort Hunt areas in competition to stay open.

June 1958 - Groveton's first class of seniors graduate

June 1965 - Fort Hunt's first class of seniors graduate

Fall 1976 - Groveton moves to its 6500 Quander Road location

Sept 1956 - Groveton High School is established at its Popkins Lane Location

Sept 1963 - Fort Hunt High School is established where Carl Sandburg Middle School is located today

Fall 1971 - Groveton and then rival T.C. Williams face off in the game that would later be portrayed in popular football film *Remember the Titans*

Dec. 30, 1978 - Fort Hunt suffers major fire damage when three students throw molotov cocktails at the administrative wing of the school. Fort Hunt students are moved to Groveton and then Mount Vernon high schools for the time being.

Dec. 11, 1984 - Rally is held, 300 Groveton students and press attend to voice their concern against the proposal.



# A Year of Firsts

**Aug. 26, 1985 at 6:50 AM:** The first bell rings at West Potomac High School.

**Aug. 30, 1985:** The first home football game occurs vs Langley High School, 41-0

**Sept. 11, 1985:** First West Potomac SGA (Student Government Association) election occurs.

**Oct. 7, 1985:** West Potomac Wolverines score a victory of 10-7 against Hayfield High School at their first-ever homecoming game.

**Oct. 7-11 1985:** West Potomac celebrates their first homecoming week.

**Oct. 11, 1985:** Vol. 1 No. 1 of The West Potomac Wire (the school newspaper) is released.

**Oct. 13, 1985:** West Potomac hosts its first homecoming parade.

**November 1985:** The drama department performs first ever fall production, "Fools."

**March 29, 1986:** West Potomac Crew rows in their first regatta - the Cherry Blossom Regatta.

**April 29, 1986:** West Potomac Band travels to compete in the National Tournament of Bands at Circus World in Orlando after winning first place in the Virginia State Marching Band Competition.

**May 1986:** The Predator (The school yearbook) Vol. No. 1 is released.

**May 16, 1986:** The Mosaic (Literary-Art magazine) Vol. 1 No. 1 is released. (Today it is called Syzygy.)

**June 10, 1986:** The first class of West Potomac graduates. (Class of 1986)

**June 1988:** The rock is dropped by a crane in the front of the school. It was a senior prank from the Class of 1988, done by a male senior whose dad worked at a rock quarry. Today, we use the rock to congratulate teams, promote events, and commemorate happenings at school.

## 2014

February 2014 - West Potomac alumna ('08) and figure skater Ashley Wagner competes in the Olympics in Sochi, Russia and wins a team bronze medal.

February 26, 2014 - West Potomac announces its new closed status to transfer students due to overcapacity.

August 2014 - The new turf on the football field is complete and ready for use in the 2014-2015 school year.

September 2014 - With the help of Principal Alexander B. Case, West Potomac acquires a new motto "World's Greatest High School," during Case's first full school year as principal.

In stark contrast, Groveton was described as a blue-collar, working-class community that was much more socially and racially diverse. With school colors of black and gold and the "Tigers" as their mascot, Groveton believed that differences are what pulled them together.

"Diversity in all forms...race, income, creed, co-immersed in Groveton. The community unites to defend Groveton," is written on the inside cover of Groveton's last yearbook, called Tigerama. The theme for their last volume, Volume 28, is "Common Bonds," even showcasing hands of different races holding each other in a circle.

"We share it, we live it. It is our common bond."

However different the two schools were, March 14, 1985 would be a historic day for Federals and Tigers alike, when the decision came to close Fort Hunt. Members of both communities met at Fairfax High School where Lee district member Tony Lane proposed to close Fort Hunt, which had won the majority vote.

"A roar came from the Groveton side and soon all were cheering, embracing, and even crying of happiness," described the 1985 Groveton yearbook of the historic day. "Meanwhile, the Fort Hunt supporters, looking drained and haggard, shed tears in sadness and frustration. Their institution was gone, and their community, as well as the Groveton community, would never be the same again."

Once tears were shed and hugs were shared, both schools had to move on to the next step—naming the school, deciding a mascot, and picking the colors. A month after the decision, a committee comprised of three student government officers from each school met to discuss a new name and a mascot. It was important that the students themselves chose their new identity, according to Marshall, who was one

April 23, 1985 - The Fairfax County Advisory Committee recommends West Potomac High School to be the new name of the Fort Hunt/Groveton merger school. Suggestions such as Lafayette, Gunston, South Potomac, and Springbank High School are turned down. The new name for the middle school to take the place of Fort Hunt is suggested to be Carl Sandburg Middle School.

of the members of the committee. As a member of the last graduating class of Fort Hunt High School and vice president of the school's student government, she said the process and the impact of their decision was huge.

"We were very honored and proud to pick the new school name and mascot and took that honor very seriously," she said. "This is our legacy."

The committee had met in the Home Economics room of Groveton High School to pick the name and mascot. The task was not easy—the name and mascot had to be an alliteration, the name and colors—something new and common to both communities, but could not include the legacy of either.

"We decided to steer clear of military influence and farm community influence, Fort Hunt and Groveton's heritages," explained Marshall. "West Potomac was chosen not overwhelmingly by the committee, but it identified a large community west of the Potomac river. Both schools had ties to the river. We were connected by the river. The river was why these communities were here."

The colors, blue and silver, were chosen as part of the river theme as well. The mascot, the Wolverine—was an alliteration with the school name and partly inspired by the University of Michigan Wolverines—you can even see the logo being borrowed in earlier versions of West Potomac football helmets and even on sweatshirts.

And so the first day of West Potomac High School came and went, and soon enough the scars of the past healed, and eventually students couldn't remember what the former schools were like—none of them had attended them, these students would be dubbed the first "full-bred wolverines." With time, the school began to form its own identity far from the legacy of its predecessors, and the school began to grow.

Beeby attributes the growing amount of pride and identity in the school to the success in the sports teams, which he said were successful "right out the gates." He says the school's first state titles from 1989-90 were a pivotal moment for school pride.

Since then, West Potomac has accomplished so much in every aspect the school has to offer—from the collection of Cappies the theatre department brings home every year to the varsity football team's trip to the playoffs this fall, the community has taken on its own identity and has grown so much in 30 years time.

"West Potomac's growth is due to the high quality of education by the teachers and administrators. The impact that teachers have on students is fantastic," added Hofmann.

While some rivalry may still exist between the Fort Hunt and Groveton alumni that work at West Potomac, she insists the occasional name calling and teasing is "only in jest."

"Honestly, I think the staff from both schools have a blast teasing one another," she joked.

30 years later, West Potomac has made its mark on the community, one that was once divided, and today is an eclectic mix of culture and background that set the school apart from the rest of the county. "A Clean Slate," was the chosen name of the Predator Volume 1, because "West Potomac had no history. It was a school without a past, a slate without writing." In Volume 30, the theme [R]evolution was chosen because "We have evolved into the confident, proud owners of this school. We have made the changes necessary to evolve. We have revolutionized ourselves through our evolution."

In celebration of the 30th anniversary, we see parallels of the past replicated in the present, but we also see how far we've come. While the term "World's Greatest High School" was coined this year, we must also remember that we have gone from a school where "The Tradition Starts Now" to "Excellence is a Tradition."

## 30 Years Go By

March 14, 1985 - Mount Vernon district member Olivia Michener proposes a motion to close Groveton High School, which is ultimately turned down. However, Lee District member Tony Lane votes to close Fort Hunt and the vote passes. It is ultimately decided that Fort Hunt should close and reopen as a middle school under a different name, and Groveton and Fort Hunt students merge into a school under a different name at the Groveton location.

May 11, 1985 - Former Groveton principal Paul G. Douglas is named first principal of West Potomac, which causes controversy due to his lobbying efforts to keep his school open. John Travis, acting principal of Fort Hunt, becomes associate principal of West Potomac

October 2015 - West Potomac hosts its 30th homecoming week with the theme "1985" to commemorate the milestone. Festivities included a homecoming game victory

# 2015

# HUGH VS. THE WORLD

Colleges Aren't Supposed to be "Safe Spaces"

## Hugh Moffitt

*Opinions Editor*



As someone applying to colleges next year, the events of the past two months have horrified me. Major American universities like Columbia, Yale, and Missouri, among many others, have been struck by a tidal wave of vicious protests which have resulted in layoffs, resignations, and policy changes. About exactly what, the protests vary, but the prevailing sentiment is anger, mostly over perceived insensitivity on campus. The activists demand that their campus be transformed into a "safe space" for the easily offended--- whether through diversity initiatives, mandatory cultural sensitivity training, or revisionism. This paradigm, aside from being deeply illogical, threatens the value of college education.

The catalyst for the movement were the protests at the University of Missouri. Unsubstantiated claims of racism on campus led to a hunger strike, the football team refusing to play, and the University president stepping down. At Columbia, students demanded that classical poet Ovid's work be removed from all classes due to his "triggering" account of Hades' kidnapping and rape of Persephone. Yale's outrage was over a professor asking students to "just look away" if they saw a halloween costume that offended them. Students at Harvard protested the school's 379 year-old logo, which happened to be designed by a slaveholder. Unlike the college protesters of the

1960s, modern student activists seem to want less freedom of speech, not more. What's doubly alarming is that colleges seem to be giving in to their ludicrous demands. In politically correct atmospheres like 21st century campuses, hurt feelings have become a false rationalization for censorship. The sum of the justifications given for these protests is essentially "we are right because we are offended!" The fact that respected academic institutions are accepting this cry at



face value paints a dismal picture for the future of higher education. In this day and age, when college degrees leave millions of young Americans in debt with uninspiring job prospects, the last thing universities should be doing is limiting the scope of their curriculum or the free speech of their students by turning classrooms into so-called "safe spaces."

The modern university student body is already so incredibly sensitive that the idea that mandatory diversity courses could solve anything is ridiculous. Even liberal comedians like Chris Rock and Jerry Seinfeld refuse to perform at colleges because of the toxic political correctness they encounter there.

As black Columbia professor John H. McWhorter wrote in a recent Wall Street Journal editorial, "anyone familiar with the college campus scene knows that in private moments, undergraduates of all colors tend to wryly dismiss the 'diversity' workshops they had to attend at the start of freshman year as hollow exercises."

"Hollow exercises" may be an understatement. The protesters who demand these courses are the same activists who want white people to "check their privilege," or acknowledge the supposed inherent advantages of being born white. A great irony, that the same people who claim to be marginalized because of their skin color seek to do the same to the challenges and achievements of their white peers, based on the same factor.

The entire movement, though, is just a nasty type of collectivism. True diversity encompasses opinion, as well as social background and race. Obviously, though, that's not what the protesters want. At the nationally renowned liberal arts college Claremont McKenna, a coffee house run by students went as far as to bar white people from entering. Just imagine the outrage that would arise if the same was policy was directed towards minorities.



Alan Dershowitz, a Harvard Law professor, said to Business Insider, "[The activists] may want superficial diversity, because for them diversity is a code word for 'more of us.' They don't want more conservatives, they don't want more white students, they don't want more heterosexuals."

The aim of a college education is to foster intellectual growth. How can that happen when anything that upsets the unique sensibilities of a select few is deemed too offensive to teach? It can't. Protecting the sensitive by controlling what students are allowed to think and say isn't education; it's indoctrination. If any academic integrity is to be preserved, colleges must refuse to comply with these radical demands.

# The String

## A Gentlemen's Bathroom Guide: Editor's Choice

by Hugh Moffitt

This new school year has brought about numerous changes to the West Potomac student schedule: an 8:10 AM start, an earlier wolverine time, and a later school breakfast. These factors, when combined with holiday foods (and excess thereof), have the potential for a dangerous colonic cocktail that is sure to leave many students stomach-knotted and stumbling for the bathroom pass.

But don't worry, guys. We've got you covered, so when duty calls, you'll know exactly where to head.

### Lower Springbank Bathroom

Editor's Choice: Best Overall

Grade: A+

Colloquially known as the "band bathroom," this lavatory is West Potomac's best-kept secret. Located in the distant music hallway of Springbank near the Junior lot entrance, it boasts two immaculate toilets, three urinals, two properly-functioning sinks, and a paper towel dispensary that is almost always fully stocked. The nicest feature of the bathroom, however, is the tasteful atmosphere. While taking care of business, if you strain your ears, you may be able to hear the masterful melodies of West Potomac's very own band!

### Cafeteria Bathroom

Editor's Choice: Best Value

Grade: B+

The beauty of the cafeteria bathroom is its convenience. Unlike some of the high-tier spots on campus, it's in a central location that you visit daily. Also, due to our preciously short lunch, few students are willing to use the facilities, and as a result, the bathroom is adequately clean, and relatively light in traffic. Be forewarned, though, that while it has more urinals than we care to count, there are only two stalls, so you may have to show up early in your lunch period to claim a john. Also, paper towel supply is questionable at best, so it might be wise to pick up some napkins in the lunch line before heading over.

### Science Hallway Bathroom

Grade: B-

If you ever need to drop out of the lab to make your own chemical reaction, the science hallway bathroom is your best bet. A cozy, two-stall latrine with a semi-opaque view of the tennis courts, what the bathroom lacks in square-footage, it almost makes up for in character. The toilets usually need a little TLC, but nothing too bad, and toilet paper and paper towels are in no short supply. The one stainless steel sink is reminiscent of a juvenile detention center, adding a quaint touch of home for many students.

Look for more bathroom reviews at [thewpwire.org](http://thewpwire.org)

## Gunston GATEWAY

by Jenny Sutton

On December 7th, Sophomore Lindsey Alhorn slipped out of her Geometry class determined to make her 4th period on time. Alhorn did all the right things to be successful in her commute: walking alone, pushing freshman around for no apparent reason, and listening to her "Hallway Walks" Spotify playlist.

"Now that my AP World History teacher is cracking down on tardies, I really have to pick up my game," Alhorn explained while trying to mask her sudden heavy breathing. "My class is only upstairs Quander, but I would hate to be sent all the way to my subschool (also in upstairs Quander) for a late pass. It just isn't worth it."

Lindsey was going strong, making it halfway down the math hall when her long strides slowed to small shuffles. Hundreds of less-motivated students clotted together in front of Alhorn. The freshman boy she elbowed so long ago was suddenly right behind her.

"Why is this happening?" Alhorn yelled out to no one in particular. "Why aren't we MOVING?"

Unfortunately, this kind of hallway congestion is

considered normal by West Potomac standards. Popular pathways like the one Alhorn found herself in are frequently filled beyond capacity, taking even the speediest students over 2 minutes to round single corners.

"I don't know what she expected," the freshman boy behind Alhorn conferred to his squad. "It's the Gunston Gateway for crying out loud! Even I know this stuff."

Alhorn looked behind herself in hopes of finding another way to class, but found she was already one with the mob. She took a deep breath to calm herself down.

"I mean it could be worse," Alhorn reflected. "At least I am surrounded by the familiar West Potomac scent of AXE body spray. And the tall people next to me don't have that many boogers up their noses."

After exactly 92 seconds of slow progress through 15 feet of hallway, traffic began to pick up. This only left Alhorn four more minutes to get to class and was late. Everyone else that also came from her 3rd period was on time.

"Curse the Gunston Gateway!" Alhorn cried, beginning the long trek to her subschool two doors down.

# Steps To Writing A Better ESSAY

by Andrea Lugo

**1** Don't talk to your teacher about any questions you may have, because you know exactly what you're doing (obviously).

**2** Make sure you start your essay as close to the due date as possible, because that way will know as much of your topic as possible.

**3** It is extremely critical that you work on a hungry stomach to push yourself to finish quicker, because everyone knows that food is the ultimate incentive.

**4** Be sure to have your phone at hand, because it's very important for your mental health to have breaks every three minutes or so.

**5** During a brainstorm, it is of the essence that you email your teacher no earlier than 11 p.m asking for an extension, because by that time he or she likely will be doing nothing important. They'll appreciate your concern dearly.

**6** Experts at BuzzFeed recommend you cry between six to eight times during the writing process to help clear your mind and let new ideas flow, and to release stress.

**7** Definitely don't use spell check, because you definitely know how to spell everything.

**8** Once your essay is printed, it is dire you spill coffee on it, and shove it down your backpack to wrinkle it. This is so that you add a personal touch and your teacher can pick out your paper from the stack. He or she teaches over a hundred kids—make life easier for her. Put yourself out there, citizen.

**9** Lastly, always turn in your paper right at the end of the marking period because this will instantly make your grade soar.

# Butting Heads

National debates have begun over the College Board changes to the AP US History curriculum. Our own staffers don't agree about whether the curriculum is un-American or not.

## Daniel Rayder

The GOP has the right idea; change the curriculum back

Where has patriotism gone? Every day, I see fewer and fewer citizens of this great nation proud to call themselves American. A lack of national pride has crippled many a country in the past, and now the decisions of the College Board threaten to remove all traces of American exceptionalism from our AP US History classes.

In the past, the College Board would issue a topic packet, only a few pages long, that contained a vague set of guidelines on what APUSH teachers should have their students learn to prepare for the test, but nothing was promised to be on the actual AP test. However, in more recent years, these topic packets have become larger and larger, and the information in them has grown much more specific. Now the packets are almost 100 pages long, and educators are finding themselves having to change the way they teach in order to remain inside the guidelines of the new curriculum.

But why is a more specific curriculum a bad thing? In my opinion, the more structured the course is, the more susceptible it is to bias. In this particular situation, the College Board created a very blatant anti-American bias for their APUSH course. For instance, negative events in our nation's history such as the Trail of Tears and the Japanese internment camps are highlighted as required knowledge for the exam, but classic American heroes such as Benjamin Franklin and Martin Luther King Jr. are somehow deemed not important enough to guarantee inclusion on the test.

Although these prominent historical figures are not in the topic packet, they are not banned from APUSH classrooms. Teachers are allowed to introduce people such as Mr. Franklin into their own curriculum, however it is not required for them to do so. Although I'm sure that most teachers will end up finding a way to include Ben Franklin and MLK in their classes, is that fair to the students who

may not learn about these great people just because a sheet of paper said that they didn't need to? Is it really more important for students to learn about the violent Black Panthers, instead of the peaceful Rosa Parks? I think not.

And as if the College Board's exclusion of the aforementioned Americans wasn't a heinous enough offense, I think that the way the new coursework encourages students to look at our nation's past is even more of a crime. To the College Board, history is no longer about American achievements, it's about American atrocities. Instead of focusing on the hard work and perseverance of the first American colonists, the course chooses to emphasize how the settlers attacked the poor, defenseless Indians and stole their land. When learning about Andrew Jackson, students don't necessarily learn that he was the only US president to ever pay off the entire national debt, but they do have to know that he was behind the Trail of Tears. For the World War II unit, the APUSH framework gives more attention to internment camps and segregation than it does to our triumph over the Axis Powers. If I didn't know better, I'd think that the APUSH curriculum was anti-American propaganda.

Numerous lawmakers at the local, state, and even federal levels have noticed this injustice in our schools, and they want something done about it. The Republican National Committee has spearheaded this effort so far, adopting a resolution calling for a redrafting of the APUSH curriculum. Their goal is to work together alongside the College Board to revise the curriculum in order to teach students American history in a more unbiased way. They seek not to rewrite history, but instead to portray it in a way that allows students to see America as it really is, a country that does have some faults, but is still truly exceptional.

## Shahtaj Ali

The new curriculum highlights American history perfectly

The AP U.S. History curriculum has recently been awash in controversy because of allegations made by the Republican National Committee and educators around the nation that it isn't "patriotic" enough. The controversy surrounds the new changes made to the curriculum by the College Board in October 2012. The changes would enable teachers to teach further in-depth on specialized topics. This allows for a looser style of teaching, so students don't feel pressured to memorize a list of facts for their exam.

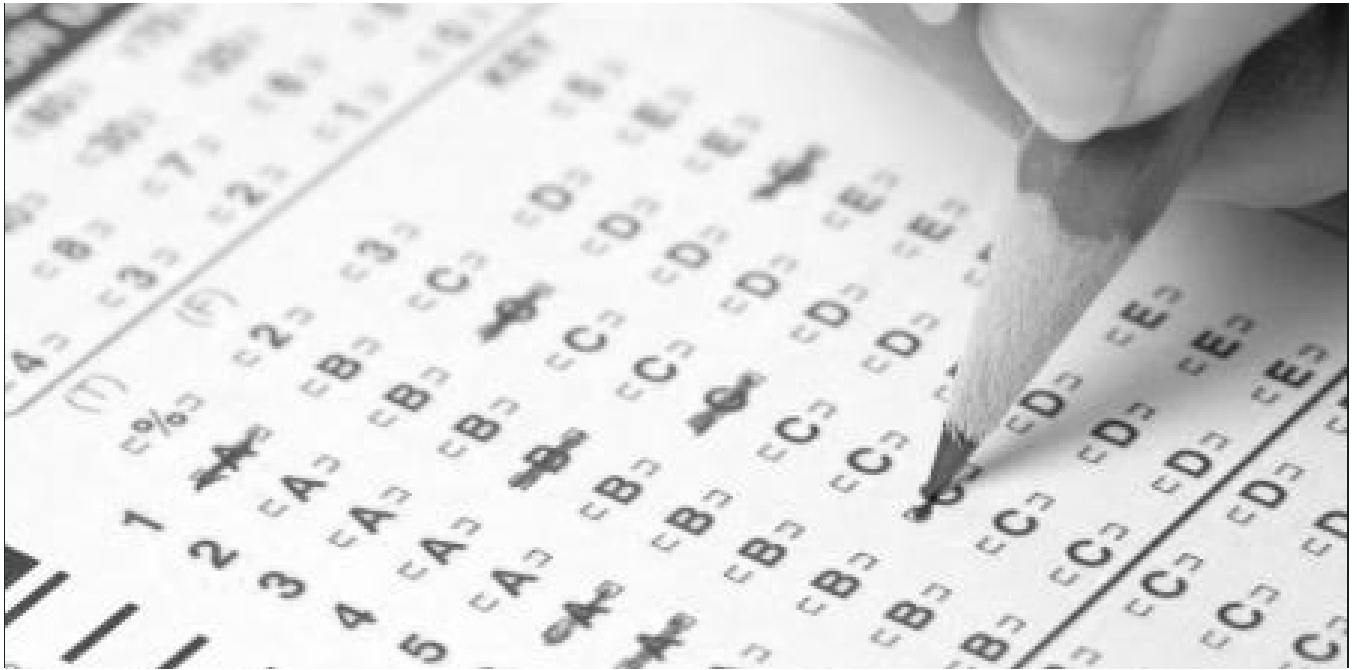
These changes were first protested by former APUSH teacher Larry Krieger, who believed the curriculum was putting a dark spin on American history. Krieger's protests and the changes made to the APUSH curriculum didn't gain any major attention until July 2013, when Texas State Board of Education members worried these changes too closely resembled the Common Core. Common Core standards were notoriously banned from Texas with House Bill 462 in 2013. After this the backlash against the changes were brought into the national spotlight. Conservative groups and leaders were proposing changes to the curriculum, going so far as to attempt taking legislative action to change it.

The protests against the APUSH curriculum were loud and prominent. Students were walking out of classes to protest curriculum changes made by their schools; educators and lawmakers were proposing to ban it in its entirety. All of this unrest was being caused in schools across the nation, and for what? The changes made in 2012 to the APUSH curriculum made no significant change to what students would be learning. The changes didn't suddenly have the course focusing only on certain aspects of American history, while completely ignoring other events. The changes were made to benefit the students. Teachers are given a list of essential topics to focus on while teaching, topics that had

always been essential in the courses history, rather than forcing students to memorize a list of facts and figures. The course now used a variety of sources to teach U.S. history, it did so to get the least biased look.

I believe that the national ruckus caused over the APUSH curriculum was a waste of everybody's time. It gave the nation's politicians the opportunity to appear on television to tell everyone how their opinion will truly change America, and then have those words reiterated by lower level politicians. The only negative thing to come out of the curriculum change would be the reaction by the GOP. This reaction led to students missing crucial instructional time, with students from a school in Colorado staging a walkout to protest their administration attempting to change the APUSH curriculum. The only true drawback of changing the APUSH curriculum would be for students in states like Texas and Colorado, where schools were attempting to completely change the course. Thus denying students a quality education because of their state's conservative leanings.

The main argument against the changes made to the curriculum is the claim that it isn't "patriotic" enough. This claim raises a serious concern. How do we define patriotism? Is it teaching students that the only way to love your country is to declare a blind and undying love for it? That no matter what has happened in our nation's history, we must close our eyes to any negative events? That we should rewrite our textbooks and make it seem like nothing bad has ever happened? This doesn't sound like patriotism to me, and it shouldn't be the way we define it. We should think of patriotism as looking at our country for what it is. For seeing our history as it happened, accepting the positives and the negatives. After all as George Santayana said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."



## **Amanda Gholini** *Reporter*

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Since the passing of No Child Left Behind in 2002, standardized testing requirements have grown steadily, but the reign of terror has nearly ended. A bill is currently heading to the Senate with bipartisan support to reform and gut the bill. However, the bill has been dying a slow death for years.

In 1983, 17 year olds across the country participate in a US Department of Education study to determine the results of the education. The study showed that 13% of teenagers were functionally illiterate, which meant they did not have the reading capacity required for most jobs. 25% of the math classes taught in the country were remedial, and SAT scores had been consistently dropping. These learnings formed a basis for the major education reforms coming over the next decade.

In 1994, the Improving America's Schools Act (IASA) passed providing more funding to low performing schools in poor areas. The bill also introduced new content standards, and three

years of required standardized testing. These tests were meant to improve the rigour and regulation of curriculum in schools.

In 2002, George W. Bush signed No Child Left Behind into law which introduced higher standards than IASA, and added repercussions for low performing schools in states. It expanded on standardized testing mandates by requiring reading and math standardized tests for grades 3-8, and further increased funding to low performing schools and special education programs.

However, due to the rigidness of the requirements harming some education systems scores, states were offered limited flexibility from no child left behind's requirements if they could prove that their test scores were improving. By 2012, 52% of states had received exemptions from the requirements of No Child Left behind, effectively killing the program.

In 2015, No Child Left Behind received a final blow, when the House of Representatives passed a bill to restore control of education to

the states, marking the end of an era of federal control of education.

As of publication date, the new education bill has passed Congress and will be sent to the President's desk where he is expected to sign it. The new bill allows state to define adequate progress on their own, but still includes the distribution of funds to areas with high poverty rates.

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# Winter Wolverine Warriors

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## Anna Penkiunas



This year's Varsity Dance Team has had many achievements, including dancing at all of the home football games and collaborating with the non-profit company Artspire to support the community. Dance Team is a two season sport, performing for both football and basketball games, as well as competing in National competitions late winter.

Freshman Anna Pekinuas has shined and proved she has the talent to be on the Varsity Team.

"I feel happy and proud that my hard work was paid off. I hope to have lots of fun and become a better dancer during the rest of the season."

Dancing since she was three, Pekinuas

has enjoyed meeting new people and the opportunity to dance at West Potomac for the first time.

Her highlights so far have been dancing at football games and performing in general.

"[The hardest thing I did all season was] perform the kick dance, because it was exhausting," Penkiunas said.

In February, the Dance Team will be heading to Florida for the National Competition. The team will be bringing their Pom and Hip-Hop dances, the latter being Pekinuas favorite dance of the season. She also starred if the Alexandria Community Nutcracker as the Snow Queen, as well as performing in Tapping Soldiers, the Arabian dance, and Waltz of the Flowers.

## Sam Wainwright



Sophomore Sam Wainwright, a member of the Boys Swim and Dive Team, has been swimming for nine years.

"I started to swim because a lot of my friends were doing it and that's why I enjoy swim, I have my friends on the team."

He hopes to earn a varsity letter this year and plans to swim after high school.

"I swim freestyle because it is the fastest," says Wainwright, "We had a lot of people go to states last year."

The hardest thing Wainwright has done this season was the I.M. sprints.

"I.M. sprints are is when you swim four laps and each lap is one of the four strokes. You are required to sprint all of them," Wainwright explains.

Although the workouts are tough, Wainwright and the team still has fun.

"My favorite memory of swim at West Po is going to the team dinners because of the people on the team. It's fun hanging out with all my team members and friends."

## Haleigh Hopper



Haleigh Hopper, a junior on girls varsity basketball has shown superior talent so far this season. She has been playing since the 4th grade and has played basketball for West Potomac for 2 years, both on the varsity team.

"I play Center and Post, and I like playing Post because it is a challenge trying to get a shot off under a lot of pressure and defense but it is also really rewarding and fun," she said.

Hopper is not sure if she play in college, but she is thinking about playing club or intramural sports after high school.

"I like playing basketball because it is a really fast paced game and it is really exciting and a high scoring game!"

While practices are difficult, the conditioning and hard work pays off in the games as you Varsity Girls Basketball team works towards another great season.

## Jamie Sara



As basketball season begins, one dedicated varsity player who has been playing for three years has shown a good work ethic, talent, and a great attitude. Senior Jamie Sara, who plays forward, has had a great start of the season. His positive attitude showed at tryouts, earning him another spot on the varsity team.

"The hardest thing so far was that the tryouts were three weeks long," said Sara. At the first game, Sara made an exceptional two handed dunk, helping the wolverines win the game.

Sara he has been playing basketball since he was 12 and has had many highlights in games in past seasons. The thrill of the game is what keeps him motivated and

returning to play season after season.

"I like playing basketball, it's exciting and I like the home games."

As for this season, Sara has high hopes for his team.

"I hope we win districts," he said.



# Case Discusses Interior Camera Potential With PTSA Members

## **Duncan Hoag & Jonathan Milam** *Reporters*

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At the October PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association) meeting, Mr. Alexander Case revealed possible plans to install 10 interior cameras in several school locations. The plan included a timeframe, budget plans and a map of each camera position. The new plan has not yet been approved as it is still in the decision stage and Case wants PTSA support.

At the meeting, Case highlighted some of the positive aspects of installing cameras in the hallways.

“Students who witness incidents will no longer be pulled out of class to be asked what they saw and will instead be able to continue in class without any interruptions to their education,” he said.

He also emphasized the importance of the cameras as a deterrent, saying that the hope is that students would refrain from committing infractions because of the presence of surveillance cameras.

According to Case, the cameras would not receive constant attention, but would only be analyzed after an incident. The cameras would not record audio and would only be for school use. Additionally, The footage would only be viewed by FCPS personnel and guardians of students involved in an incident.

Phillip Flint, a senior, believes the cameras could have a positive impact on the school population as a whole.

“I think the cameras are a good thing because people shouldn’t do illegal things and, if they don’t have anything to hide, there is nothing wrong with being monitored.”

The prospective plan includes the use of ten digital cameras that would be installed in highly-trafficked areas of the school.

The new system would cost the school \$20,000, but Case informed the PTSA meeting attendees that a \$10,000 grant from FCPS would cut the final cost of the project in half.

If the plan is approved, it would mean that ten

cameras would be installed by the end of the 2015-2016 school year.

The newly announced project received mixed reactions from the PTSA meeting attendees, with some approving of the camera installation and others who were unsettled about the idea of recorded surveillance.

With surrounding schools like Mount Vernon, Hayfield, Edison, and Lake Braddock all implementing the use of security cameras, the trend could continue at West Potomac. However, Case showed interest in hearing feedback from parents, guardians and students as the plan has not gone into effect yet and is still up for debate.

# UPCOMING CONCERTS DEC



December 13 - Mac Miller @ The Fillmore, Silver Spring, MD

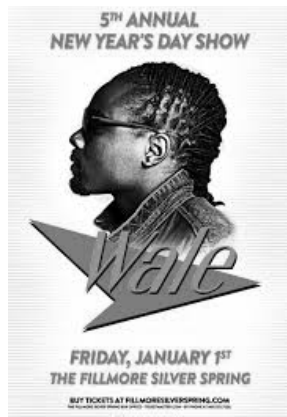
December 14 - Jingle Ball @ The Verizon Center, D.C.

December 26, 27 - Skrillex @ Echostage, D.C. (18+ ONLY)

December 31 - Baltimore Conic Con, D.C.



# UPCOMING CONCERTS JAN



January 1 - Wale and Friends @ The Fillmore, Silver Spring, MD

January 9 - White Ford Bronco @ Rock and Roll Hotel, D.C.

January 12 - Dancing With The Stars Live @ Modell Performing Arts Center at The Lyric

January 16 - Ratatat @ Echostage, D.C.

January 21-23 - Grace Potter @ 9:30 Club, D.C.



















