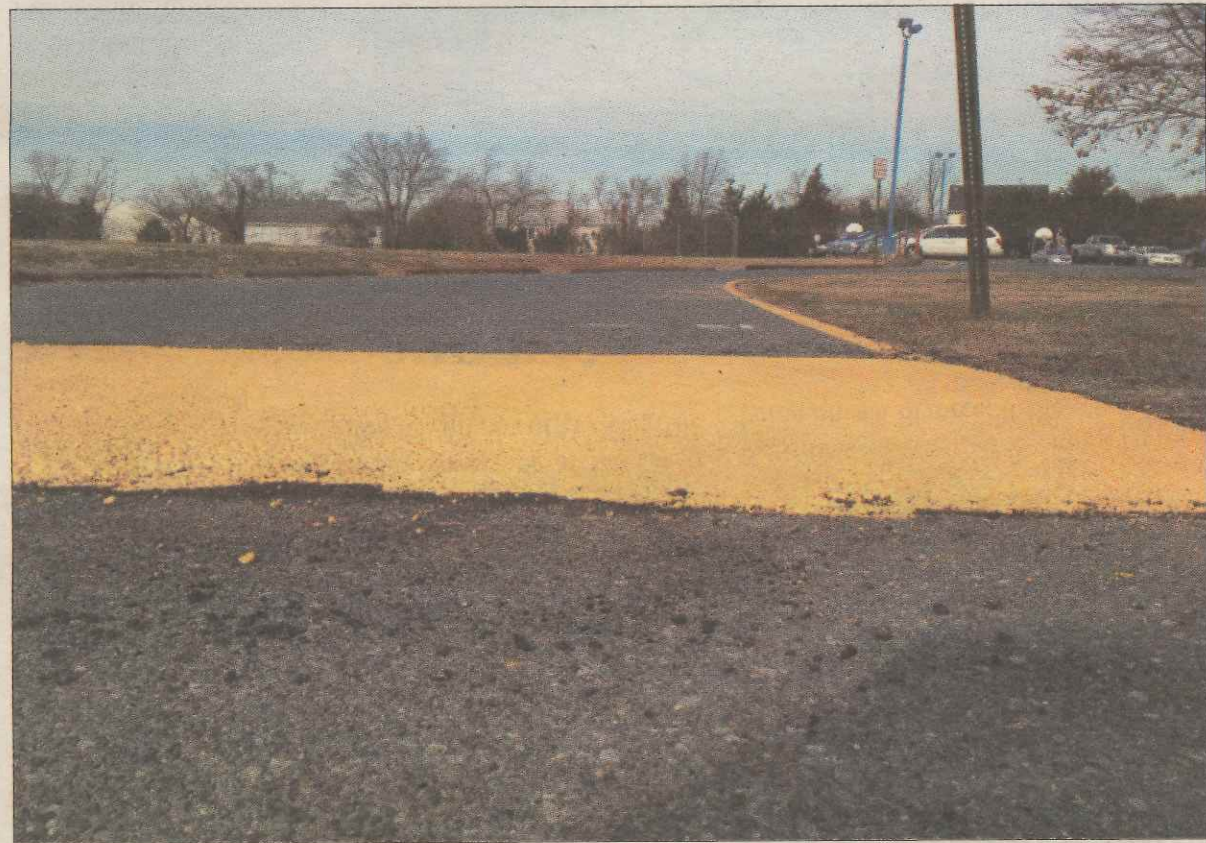


Just another bump in the road



Sophia Spriggs

When speed bumps are placed in the West Potomac parking lots, student drivers are bind-sided.

Josh Shelton
Sports Editor

The final bell has rung and students are racing to their cars. As most speed out of the back lots, they are stunned by a sudden jolt. Their car suddenly jumps into the air and slams down hard, leaving the student scared and dazed.

West Potomac has added a new feature to the parking lots: speed bumps. The speed bumps were made in early December and as of December 20th, the speed bumps were unmarked, black bulges protruding from the black pavement. They were later painted but for a while the lack of contrast made the additions hard to see, if at all. There was no official statement from the school regarding the implementation of the speed bumps to the student drivers but Mr. Walls a Security Specialist at West Potomac said "the speed bumps are for your safety."

Assistant Principal Melton also had a similar statement regarding the speed bumps. He said "The main reason for the addition of the speed bumps is safety and security. The second reason is bringing West Potomac up to other high schools in the area. If you go to almost any other school in the county, they have many speed bumps in their parking lots."

All of this said, most students agree that the speed bumps are a good idea and help improve safety of the parking lot. Junior Alexis Bignotti said "I think it's a good idea though because some people just speed out of the parking lot to try to get out in front of the buses, but its not safe because people backing

out of their spots may not see that car coming and then that's how crashes occur." Not only do they increase vehicle safety, but also pedestrian safety as it makes the walk from the school to your car less like a game of Frogger.

Junior Stephanie Fiedler sees the pros and cons of the speed bumps. "I'm glad they [speed bumps] are there because I've almost been hit walking to my car on more than one occasion," commented Fiedler. "But they're really big and so if I go a certain speed over the speed bump that I thought would work and it doesn't, well, my car will have had some interesting things done to it."

Damage done to the car is even more likely with the lack of contrast between the speed bumps and the road. Driving too fast over one of the speed bumps can mess up the alignment of the car. The question is if the damage done to a speeding students car is just for the crime committed. Speeding, no matter where it is done, is still considered reckless driving.

Mr. Melton said in response to why the speed bumps took so long to get painted, is that there is a small crew that is responsible for installation of speed bumps for all the schools in the county. This being said the company responsible for the speed bumps have to attend to every school making what seems like a quick and simple task long and dragged out. It is expected that the wait will be worth it.

Split the family, double the love

Exploring two divorced families at West Potomac, and how parents seperating can affect students.

Sophia Spriggs
News Editor

Double the holiday celebrations, double the clothes, double the room and half the parenting force. Some may think that children of divorced parents have it made, but this is not necessarily the case. There are many different kinds family of situations that can arise through parent separation. Especially over the holidays having two celebrations can be overwhelming for children. Here at West Potomac we can compare the lives of students with very similar situations.

Age can have a huge effect on the well-being of a child during and after the divorce. It also can depend a lot on their place in the family. Seniors Austin Griggs and Max Leonard are both students at West Potomac whose parents have been separated for the entirety of their high school years. Griggs, the oldest of two siblings, said that having divorced parents made him tough early. He said, "I matured a lot quicker than all of my friends did." Leonard, the youngest between him and his sister, said that his parents divorce had little to no affect on him at all.

There is a stereotype that children with divorced parents get away with more unsavory activities than do children whose parents are still together. When the parents communications are still sound some kids find that they're not able to get away with as much mischief as they may have thought. The classic house switch; where the kids tell mom they will be at dad's house and they tell dad they will be at mom's house, only works if the divorced couple does not speak to each other. Austin says that nothing ever gets past his mom. Austin's parents share custody of him and his younger sister, Sophomore Marcelina Griggs, but they primarily live with their mom. On the other hand Max Leonard whose mom is remarried says, "I do get away with more than some of my friends can," this is despite the fact that he has three parents now. Another deciding factor in the kids well-being after a divorce; if the parents have started dating again or are getting remarried. Max's parents also both hold custody but he switches back a forth often. He says that he has fun with his larger family and thinks that the situation has done little to affect his school work. Griggs seems to feel the same about his mom's boyfriend who he is on good terms with describing their relationship as "cool."

There is no standard equation for a functioning family. For kids a divorce can be taken many ways and can potentially take many years to adjust. If there is one misconception it is this; that children of divorced parents have it easy.

WP Upcoming Events

Jan. 15 Applications due: VCU, VTech, George Mason, JMU	Jan. 17 Tri-M Musical Honor Society Induction Ceremony: 7:00 pm	Jan. 19 Science Fair located in Cafeteria 8:30 am - 12 pm	Jan. 24, 25, 26 Night of the Living Dead Thursday/Friday: 7:00 pm Saturday: 2:00 and 7:00 pm	Jan. 30/31 Monster Ball: Night of One Acts 7:00 pm
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EDITORIALS

Faking it to buy it

Instead of going from 13 to 31, students are going from 17 to 21. It seems like nowadays everyone from McLovin to your neighbor has a fake ID. To fully understand the process, various students were interviewed and granted anonymity.

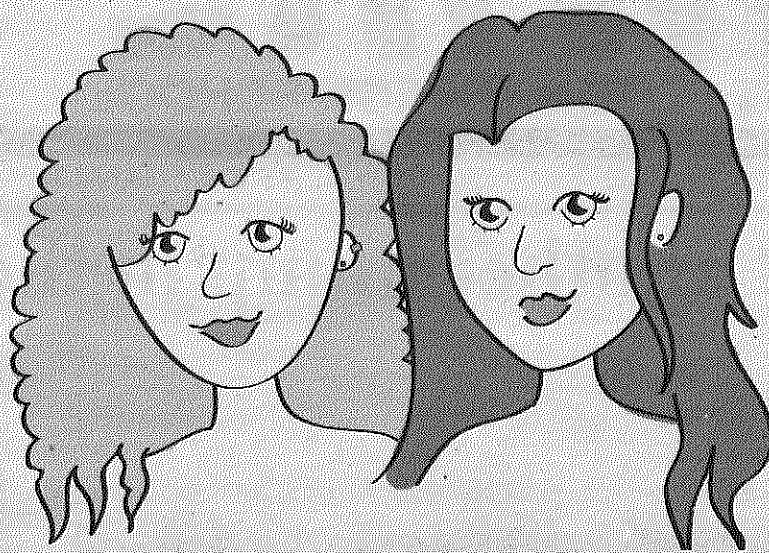
With just a google search for "Fake IDs" 1,789,000 results were found. Customers can either choose from a plethora of available websites, most based in countries outside the United States, or make a fake themselves using template kits. "Most people got them online. I know 5 people including me who have a fake." With the available technology, these fake IDs have become more advanced with available choices such as holograms, official state seals, and bar codes. "You just have to know the right people to get them. They range from \$50 to \$100 depending on how well they are made."

The authenticity is a major player in the price customers are willing to pay. "Mine is not

scannable, but it was only \$50, but I go to Maryland where I can buy anything from the liquor store." Another source says that multiple peers are chipping in to buy one. According to the Washington Post, nearly 50% of high school students to college-aged students have a fake ID. "I know a lot of other people who have them. I want one so that I don't have to go through other people and plan ahead whenever I want to get alcohol."

According to the Alcohol and Beverage Commission (ABC) of Virginia, if a person is found just having a fake ID, it is considered a Class 1 misdemeanor. If a fake ID is used with the intent to purchase alcohol, it is considered a Class 3 misdemeanor which could result in convicted individuals of losing their license to up to a year. "I am never worried about getting caught I know people who have gotten it taken anyway, but haven't gotten in any trouble from it."

-The Wire Editors-in-Chief



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Shoutout to Chris Blewitt!

He recieved a letter from Senator Mark Werner congratulating him on being recognized as an All-Met athlete. Chris was the kicker on the West Potomac football team and was recruited by the University of Pittsburg.

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The BCS System: Explained

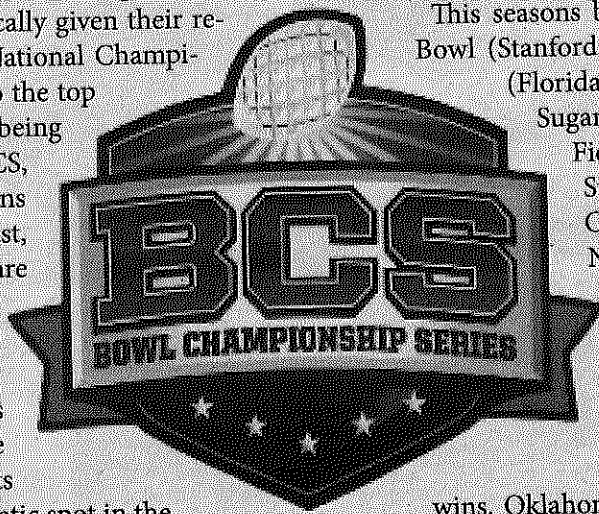
Jayne Murray
Reporter

Since 1998, the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) has been the foundation for college football.

The BCS is a system in which the top ranked teams in the NCAA Division I Football Subdivision (FBS) compete against each other in five bowl games. The top two teams compete head to head for the victory in the National Championship Game. A very specific set of rules are used to determine what teams are eligible to be in consideration for the BCS. The top two teams in the country are automatically given their respective spots in the BCS National Championship Game. In addition to the top two teams automatically being granted with spots in the BCS, the regular season champions in the ACC, Big 12, Big East, Big Ten, Pac-12, and SEC are also given spots.

However, there is a very unique rule known as the "Notre Dame Rule" which is also currently in effect. The "Notre Dame Rule" grants Notre Dame with an automatic spot in the BCS if they finish the regular season ranked as one of the top eight teams in the country.

Notre Dame has many fans within the West Potomac student body, one of which is senior Patrick Schurr. Schurr stated, "I think Notre Dame will win, the entire game will be a defensive grind, and Notre Dame has proven time and again that they are one of the best defensive teams in the league." Schurr also believes that in order for Notre Dame to get the win, they have to put points on the board early in the game.



In 2004, there were heavy debates about whether or not the University of Southern California (USC) should be ranked as the top team in the country at the end of the regular season. The argument in this situation was that people accused the polls having a heavier influence than the computer rankings on the national rankings. This controversy initiated a complete remodel to the computer system and how officials rank teams nationally.

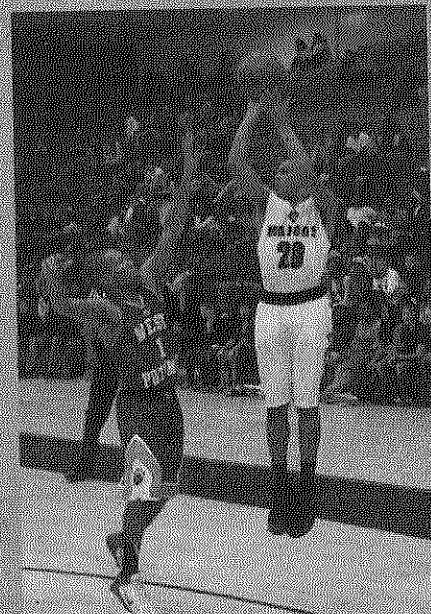
This seasons bowl games include: The Rose Bowl (Stanford vs. Wisconsin), Orange Bowl (Florida State vs. Northern Illinois), Sugar Bowl (Florida vs. Louisville), Fiesta Bowl (Oregon vs. Kansas State), and the Discover National Championship game with No. 1 Notre Dame competing against No. 2 Alabama.

As for the amount of appearances for each team, Ohio State leads all college football with nine appearances and six Bowl Championship Series

wins. Oklahoma has played in the BCS eight times with three wins. USC, Florida, and Florida State have all participated in seven BCS games. Virginia Tech, a hometown team, has gone on to play in the BCS six times with one victory.

The Bowl Championship Series will be replaced by a four-team playoff beginning in the 2014-2015 season. In order for this change to be enacted, the BCS Presidential Committee located in Washington, D.C. had to give their final approval.

WOLVERINE WARRIOR: Brandon Pressley



Brandon Pressley (1) jumps to defend a shot.

Josh Shelton
Sports Editor

It's a great accomplishment for a player to lead their team in one or two statistical categories, but it is an even greater feat to lead the team in all major stat categories. One player on the Boys Varsity Basketball team has done just that, his name is Brandon Pressley.

Not only a leader on the court, Pressley leads the team in Points (172), Points Per Game (15.6), Three-Pointers (16), Free Throws Made (54-61) and a AAA Patriot District leading Free Throw Percentage (88.5%). This is his third year on the Varsity Team and second year as captain. He has played with a majority of the players since 8th grade on the rising freshmen team and he said "I've basically been the leader of this group of guys since the beginning."

Pressley's teammates think very highly of him as well. Joseph Richards, a junior and a Guard on the Varsity team, had this to say about Pressley, "He is very persistent at getting better, very hardworking, and definitely a leader on the court. He takes time to explain stuff to juniors like me and Conrad Jenne, and overall he's a great teammate." This is further shown with Pressley's second time being voted as team captain.

Off the court Pressley is an exemplary citizen. On July 10th of 2011, Pressley was coming home from the movies when he noticed a smoke coming from his apartment complex. Instead of running away from the building, he ran into it pulled the fire alarm and knocked on people's doors telling them to wake up since there was a fire. Pressley was featured on WUSA9 and was called a hero by residents of the apartment.

Pressley has high expectations for the remainder of the season. "I believe we are going to very well," commented Pressley. "We have a good mixture of experience and skill to win Districts and advance further into the Regional playoffs."

Redskins Out, Caps In

Connor Phillips
Sports Editor

On January 6th, the Redskins were defeated by the Seattle Seahawks in the first round of the Playoffs, 24-14. On the same day, the NHL Lockout ended, allowing the 2013 Season to begin and more importantly allowing Washington fans to root on the Capitals.

The Redskins entered their first playoff game since 2007 as the underdog to the 11-5 Seahawks. They maintained a 14-13 lead into the fourth quarter, but would never see the lead again after a Marshawn Lynch 21 yard run put Seattle up 21-13 after a two-point conversion. To add insult to injury, the Redskins star rookie quarterback, Robert Griffin III, suffered what is believed to be a partially torn ACL, as well as a partially torn LCL, in his right knee.

Thankfully, the 113-day NHL lockout was finally ended on the same day. After months of debate and the cancellation of just over half of all regular season games, the NHL and the NHL Player's Association finally reached an agreement on a new collective bargaining agreement (CBA). The NHL and NHLPA still have to individually ratify the proposal, but the new season is set to start on January 19th. The regular season will consist of 48 games, just over half of the normal 82 game season.

WINTER SPORTS UPDATE

Boys' Basketball:
6-5 overall, 2-1 in district play

Girls' Basketball:
5-7, 1-2 in district play. The 5 wins are the most in 12 years!

Swim & Dive:
Girls are 4-1 and Boys are 1-4

Wrestling:
JJ Perez is the 6th ranked wrestler in the region at the 126 lb weight class, Ian Thompson is 4th at the 132 lb weight class, Zach Prinzbach is 4th at the 195 lb weight class, Will Rupp, 6th at the 220 lb weight class, beat the top wrestler in the state, and is now undefeated.

*I like hitting the club
with my mom!*

SLEEP IN THE MORNING,
WORK IN THE AFTERNOON,
hang out with friends in the evening!

GO OUT AND DO SOMETHING AROUND TOWN!
BEING STUCK IN THE
SUBURBS GETS OLD,
so I like to go out to national harbor and DC!

WATCHING MOVIES ON
NETFLIX
— OR —
BABYSITTING

I usually start out with an
Sometimes I even have two
*Then I put seeds in the bird
the squirrels use*
Then I go back inside and
and display it on the balcony
any visitors will see it.
Then I finish off the
of Battle

**SATURDAY
NIGHT
LIVE**

After an arduous week at school
freedom they have to enjoy. We
make fun plans for Friday and Saturday
to them. These are just a few of

MOST OF MY
I usually spend
ON THE COMPUTER
I need to do so I'm
THEN I HAVE MORE
such as watching
ON



ebbie's Chocolate Brownie.
hen it's kind of hard to sleep.
r and throw peanut shells at
peanuts in them.
structure out of Lincoln Logs
binet in my living room so
a new one each week.
with a rousing game
th my cat.

*Spending time with my
girlfriend.*

I work from 5 to 9, either read or do homework
till 11:30, then pass out on the couch.

RDAY
HT.
VE?

WE
RAGE.

i like to sleep
&
chill with friends

ers are grateful for the two days of
tle time they have, they scramble to
ght, but what each student does is up
that teens celebrate Saturday night.

I sleep away the rest of my Friday.
I catch up on all my tv hows on Saturday,
AND IF I HAVE THE ENERGY, I SOMETIMES DO MY HOMEWORK.

DS AREN'T MUCH.
iking with my friends
E FINISHED THE HOMEWORK
ded up for the weekend.
O DO THE THINGS I LOVE,
y favorite TV shows
STORIES.

I WALLOW IN
SELF PITY UNTIL
COLDPLAY SONGS
apply to my life.

*All quotes from anonymous sources at West Potomac

The marvelous Murrays

A little sibling rivalry doesn't hurt when it contributes to the success of Katie and Dan Murray

Kristi Snow and Josh Shelton
Reporter and Sports Editor

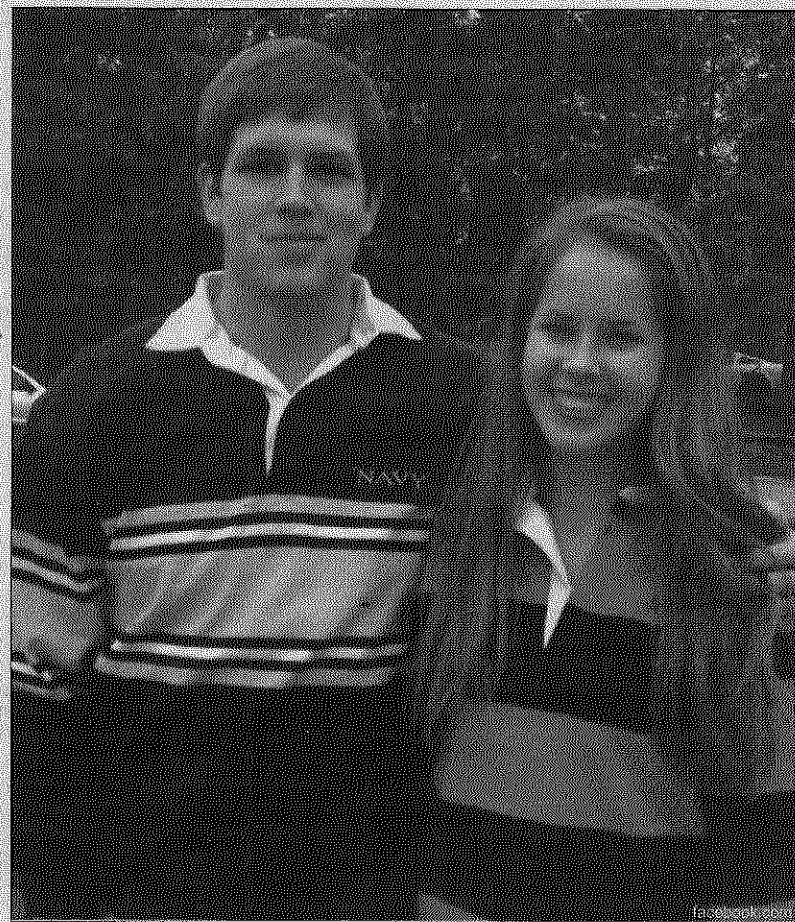
In every school, there is a select group of students who have an incredible amount of determination and self-motivation. Along with getting exceptional grades, these students are usually the ones who are involved in multiple clubs, participate in after-school activities, and succeed at most anything that they try.

Katie and Dan Murray are both examples of this type of student. They are both members of the National Honor Society and Math League. Katie is currently the Social Chair for the Spanish Honor Society, as well as a member of the Spanish club, environmental club, and Social Studies Honor Society. Last year she placed second at the regional science fair in the environmental category. She tutors multiple students after school, and is a part of the cross country, winter and spring track teams. Last spring she finished third place in the girls two mile run at districts, which earned her a varsity letter. She also received a varsity letter this year in cross country, and is working on qualifying for districts, regionals, or states, which will certify her for a Varsity letter in the winter track season.

Dan Murray was this year's fall scholar athlete, with a first quarter GPA of 4.857. He also made the 2012 first team All-District for foot-

ball as center. Dan also was the Co-Captain of the All-State Rugby team last year, which he said was a great honor. Along with his accomplishments in sports, Dan received the Pillar of Scholarship Award from NHS. He is also a member of the symphonic and jazz band. As Dan finishes his senior year, he maintains high grades and participates fully in extracurricular activities and excels in school sports. Another key character trait of both the Murrays is their modesty. This is very important for people who excel at multiple aspects of life, because it also makes them very well-liked.

Since both of the Murray's are successful in both sports and in school, it seems as though maybe there's some sort of family competition. When Katie was asked whether or not her brothers' accomplishments were a part of what motivated her to do well, she replied, "I try to be self motivated, but there is a bit of healthy competition between Dan and I." For some people, staying motivated is easy. For others, they might need some sort of an incentive or competition to keep them motivated. It seems as though there's a mixture of both self-determination and competition in the Murray household.



Senior, Dan Murray and his sister, junior, Katie Murray are exemplary West Potomac students. Not only do they excel in academics, they also excel in after school clubs and sports teams.

New year, new goals

Making reasonable resolutions and accomplishing them

Ian Thompson
Reporter

2013 is already full of many empty promises. It is the start of a new year, meaning many students at West Potomac will be making plans to improve their lives over the next 12 months. While students may be saying now that they will make changes, do new year's resolutions really work?

According to the Huffington Post, 55% of people interviewed had not achieved their resolutions of the previous year. "I usually give up on my resolution after a couple months," said senior Raina Pilkenton. The problem is that for many, the bar is set too high. Often, these resolutions are unrealistic and difficult. There are many techniques to use to help keep your resolutions.

Saying your resolution out loud and in front of others can help you accomplish your goal. Your friends can encourage you to keep your resolution. Experts say it is important to be specific. Give yourself an exact budget to follow or a certain amount of weight to lose per month depending on your personal goal.

Another reason why people give up on their resolutions is because they are trying to do too many things at once. It is best to focus will-power on just doing or giving up one thing at a time. Instead of quitting smoking and trying to cut out junk food, only chose one resolution to focus on, then add on the rest.

There are many tools available to help people avoid temptations of lapsing on their resolutions like startaresolution.com, that helps with self control. Other websites have more severe methods, for example, if you break your resolution, an email is sent out to your friends or you have to pay a penalty. With all of these resources available maybe this year will be the year you keep your resolution.

Teachers, teaching, techniques, and technicalities

What students look for and need to see in a teacher in order to be successful

Laraib Ilyas and Margaret O'Meara
Opinions Editor and Style Editor

High school nostalgia is filled with the mere memories of teachers who taught well and those who did a horrific job of it. But, what makes the good teacher "good" and the bad teacher "bad?"

When evaluating their teachers, students take many components into consideration. They sometimes feel busy work is taking up their education time and they would rather hear their teachers lecturing and actually teaching something, rather than giving them busy assignments that they have no interest in. Freshman, Ulman Asfa shares, "Busy work is done out of boredom for me. I don't pay much attention to it because I get distracted easily. If the teacher were to teach, I would more likely be more focused."

For some students, teachers are valued more when they can have a personal bond and connection with them. A few teachers take into consideration a student's personal life, understand, and empathize with what problems he or she is going through. "There are other sides to some of my teachers. I like them better if they can relate with me, joke around, and have an outgoing personality," says junior, Kaitlyn Conger.

Others do not favor their teacher when they feel as if they are not fully prepared for tests. "This is true 80% of the time with my teachers. We learn the basics in class and for homework, but when it comes to tests and quizzes, the questions are oblivious. That irks me so

much," said junior Lindsey Page.

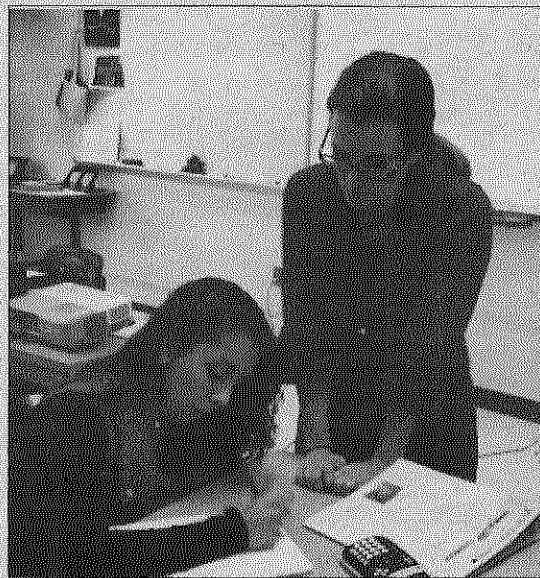
Then, there are those teachers who students feel cannot teach at all. They teach themselves from the textbook or with a tutor. "I wonder how some teachers at this school are hired. They do not teach properly and expect us to learn the information on our own. Last time I checked, I was in high school, not college," expresses sophomore Liam Hunning. Strong opinions like these are heard in every frustrated conversation among friends and peers.

Looking through the perspective of teachers provides insight that students are reluctant to see.

But the perspective of the employers are important too, administrators Mr. Hardison and Mr. Case both agree that energy and involvement are key characteristics for a teacher at West Potomac. "I have met many brilliant people who know their content, but what I want for our students is someone who is creative, able to explain things in multiple ways, and who knows how to connect content that may or may not be naturally interesting to students and translates that in ways that inspire and build interest," explains Mr.

Case who wants the best for his students. Mr. Hardison agrees believing that a teacher should inspire and engage students.

A wise person once said, "In years to come, a child may forget what you taught them, but will always remember how you made them feel."



Kristi Snow

Ms. Satterwhite, a teacher in the mathematics department, was voted one of the most technologically savvy teachers and demonstrates exceptional teaching skills and care for her students.

Attending and Pretending

Ian Thompson
Reporter

Is it really worth it to go to class anymore? Students who fall asleep or don't pay attention in class are often still able to get good grades. Those that don't show up or skip do fine on tests. It is not that the material is easy, because then everyone would pass, but some students are able to work the system. Today's teachers spend the majority of class going over the homework, going over notes, and doing practices problems for the next day's homework. Wash. Rinse. Repeat. It seems school has turned into going through the motions. Senior Jackson Toth said, "School really is not that hard for me. The way school is set up, it is easy to get good grades even if you don't understand the material."

Often times, students are graded solely on the completion of their work and not the effort or accuracy. Students can not put any effort into busywork and worksheets, knowing that as long as they are complete it they will get an A. In many classes, there are so many worksheets or so many participation points that it doesn't matter if students know the material for the test. Senior JJ Perez said, "To get good grades you just have to do all your work. I don't get perfects on everything but even one or two zeros can really bring your grade down."

This can play to the advantage of students who don't come to class because they can just do the work at home and turn it in late. Although they may not understand the material it doesn't really matter. Teachers make it easy for students to get good grades. They allow retakes, test corrections, late work and alternate assignments. While this does make it easy for students to get good

grades, it may not be the best way to do things. It can be frustrating for students who try hard in class and do everything they are supposed to when they are outshone by less dedicated students. If the school system was less worried about everyone's grades, then more students would have a better understanding of the material. Understanding the subject matter is challenging for some, and it just gets more confusing when taking classes that build on each other in later years.



Is school so easy that you don't even have to go to class anymore? Some students are able to do well in school without paying attention.

Up in Arms

Connor Phillips
Sports Editor

Our country has reached a crossroad. In the past six months, we have had to face two of the deadliest shooting sprees in our country's short history. The one in the movie theater in Aurora, Colorado was an eye opener. The most recent shooting, at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, was the breaking point. We must finally give up our personal beliefs and come together to help turn things around and pass a law on gun control.

The Second Amendment to the US Constitution specifically gives us the right to bear arms. Although, I don't think that when this was passed they anticipated buying more than 6,000 rounds of ammo without a hitch as James Holmes, the Aurora shooter, did. They also were not aware of the powerful of weapons that were to be developed.

I don't see why anyone needs a gun like the Bushmaster-X15, modeled after the AR-15, which is a gun used by the military. This was the gun Adam Lanza, the Sandy Hook gunman, used. Some say it is fun to shoot this weapon, some say it is a good way to release anger, but I see it as a tragedy waiting to happen. Maybe getting rid of guns will not help, but it's something that needs to be looked into. There are no massacres that occur in just minutes where a handgun or hunting rifle is the sole weapon used.

The Founding Fathers did not have as deep of an understanding of human psychology. If somebody was mentally ill, they were sent away to an asylum because they were seen as unfit for their

society. In today's society, we interact with people with mental illnesses every day. Chances are you already have met one today, knowingly or not.

Adam Lanza, the Sandy Hook shooter, was believed to have a personality disorder, as well as Asperger's Syndrome, which makes it difficult for people with these conditions to interact in the social manner we believe is normal. Seung-Hui Cho, the gunman who shot down 32 people at Virginia Tech in 2006, had major depressive disorder as well as a severe anxiety disorder called selective mutism.

This is not to say that all those with mental disorders are killers. What I am trying to say is that it should not be as easy as it is to obtain firearms. Cho was able to purchase two handguns without disclosing that he had court ordered outpatient treatment, something which Virginia law states would prohibit him from purchasing weapons. We need to make it a point to not just limit guns themselves, but to also create scenarios where people like Cho will not have access to guns just because he left off some key information in his background check. The process needs to be more difficult.

Taking on the issue of gun control is a very difficult project. It's tough to tell those Americans who have been safely using guns for years that they cannot use them anymore. It is equally difficult to limit a freedom given in the Bill of Rights to only certain citizens. This issue needs to be tackled before another tragedy occurs.

The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly Truth



Courtesy of Noor Javid

Why public schools are better than private schools

Laraib Ilyas
Opinions Editor

Fairfax County has one of the top school systems in the country. To me, it doesn't make sense why a few select parents in this area send their kids to private schools, other than the religion aspect to it.

One, the same level of education can be attained in both types of schools. However, public schools have more benefits. Most private elementary schools do not administer the math placement test students are supposed to take at the end of his or her sixth grade year. The test gives those who demonstrate strong math skills have the opportunity to be one class ahead of their classmates, whereas private school students do not get this chance. So is spending 15 to 30,000 dollars a year really worth a private education?

One of the ways to express oneself freely comes from their sense of style. Public school students are able to show their personalities through the clothes, jewelry, and shoes they wear. Nothing inhibits them, other than a few dress code exceptions, to make a statement about themselves. This freedom allows individuals to send a very personal message to their peers. Private schools on the other hand, wear preppy uniforms all year long and everyone looks exactly the same. Where is the uniqueness in this? Or the opportunities to break away from the crowd?

In my eyes, being a part of diversity plays a vital role in having a broader mind set. Public schools are great because students get to meet people from various countries and cultures. They get a taste of peers who come from all types of socioeconomic backgrounds and are able to surpass the differences among them. Looking at private schools, more than three fourths of the population is Caucasian, wealthy kids. There is virtually no diversity at all.

Lastly, when I view private schools, there is a clear cut message that speaks out like, "We are wealthy and you're not." There is a class status that is illustrated from attending these schools and that is not how it should be when it comes to education.

Parents probably feel this sense of prestige sending their kids to these costly institutions. But, is the prestige worth it? That money spent on their children's education can go to charities and other non-profit organizations. There is nothing wrong with Fairfax County Public Schools or any other public schools for that matter.

Flying high



My interest in flying began as a young child. I started lessons during my sophomore year, and have been flying ever since. In the future, I hope to have an aviation career in the military, or just for fun.

In April, part of my family and I are going on a dog-sledding/cross-country skiing expedition to the North Pole. My family is very adventurous and outdoorsy and we have gone on numerous canoeing/biking/backpacking trips in the past.

My dad has been a huge inspiration in my life for outdoor adventures and lifelong fitness. This past November he completed his eighth Ironman Triathlon with my oldest brother completing his first alongside him. The Ironman Event is such an inspiring spectacle of mental endurance and physical strength and is possibly a goal of mine for the future.

This past year, my dad, an avid mountain climber, attempted to summit Mount Everest. Although his expedition was halted mid-way for safety concerns, he plans to return in 2014 to finish what he started.

I plan to go to college somewhere on the west coast and major in something in the science field.

This summer I hope to work at Philmont Scout Ranch in Chimmaron, New Mexico—a backpacking camp for boy scouts and adventure scouts.

Hobbies: hula-hooping, salamander-sketching, chocolate-milk drinking, basketball-dunking, jazz, and globe enthusiast.



The Year in 2-0-1-3

2013 is the first year with four different digits since 1987.

2013 is the first year to be composed of four sequential digits since 1432 (581 years ago).

65 percent of Americans make one or more resolutions each year. By the second week in January, 25 percent resolutions have been broken.

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