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## School policy changes: Rumor or fact?

*Principal Case talks with The Wire to confirm or deny policy changes*



Principal Alex Case meets with the staff of *The Wire* to discuss potential policy changes at West Potomac. Staff Photo

**Taylor Haas**  
Reporter

"OMG, did you hear? Next year's freshmen are going to have four years of gym! I hear there's going to be extra Fine Arts credits added too. Those

poor incoming freshmen won't have an open elective until their SENIOR YEAR! They're going to fail AP World too, once the school gets rid of World History and Geography. Same with Physics 1. I'm glad we're not incoming freshmen!"

Rumors like those above have circulated throughout the grapevine of West Potomac's hallways for years, leading to unneeded stress and even a wild goose chase as students have attempted to root out the

truth about possible changes related to available classes and graduation requirements. The most common rumors this year include a four-year gym requirement, one additional fine arts requirement, and the removal of World History, Geography, and Physics 1 from the course offerings list. There has also been talk of the school restricting the number of transfer students, increasing class size, changing to a later school start time, and limiting teachers to assigning no more than 30 minutes of homework per class per week.

The question everyone is asking: how much validity is behind these rumors? In a recent panel interview with *The Wire*, West Potomac's newly appointed principal Alex Case answered questions about some of the unsubstantiated information from the grapevine, clarifying what is fact versus rumor and speculation.

Many rumors relate to actions that would be taken by the school as a way to save money, such as increasing the average

classroom size or cutting classes from the list of course offerings. It is true that in the 2014-2015 school year there will be an average class size increase of 1 student across the board for all Fairfax County high schools. Case noted that this is a compromise solution in the new proposed budget, and that several other actions will be taken to avoid even higher class size increases.

The largest change will be the likely removal of summer school from West Potomac, an action that will save the school about \$100,000, which is the cost of the program after tuition paid by students to attend. Explaining the decision further, Case told the panel "I asked myself: Do I want class sizes [to be] an average of 35 [students] or do we want to take the pain in summer?"

Students who need to recover failed credits will still be able to do so by taking summer school classes at West Springfield High.

*Continued on page 8*

## The rise of "Cyber Dangers" on social media sites

**Rebecca Tamblyn**  
Reporter

The Internet is both a blessing and a curse for American teenagers. This technology has opened doors for new forms of education and instant knowledge, but has also harmed a whole generation in multiple ways. Do the dangers of the Internet -- identity theft, cyberbullying, and even abduction -- outweigh its positive elements? Before you throw your laptop or smartphone out the window, you can protect yourself with good planning, discerning judgment, and anti-virus software you can still continue to reap the many values of technology.

Identity theft includes the use of any personal information, such as student ID number, bank account information, social security number, drivers license number by someone other than yourself, and it doesn't only affect

adults. Teens may even be more likely to have their identities stolen due to how much more they use online social networking websites, and because of their lack of education in the area of Internet safety. Anyone who has had their identity stolen can attest for it being a very unpleasant and difficult thing to deal with. "It really screwed up everything" says freshman Cassie Crotzer after her parents experienced identity theft. Most important step in preventing your personal information from being stolen is to simply be careful. Use caution when you post on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Make sure that you don't include any personal information in your comments and posts, even if your account is private. Even with restrictions on an account once something is on the Internet, it can never be taken away. Social media sites can vary in their definition of 'private' accounts. Be

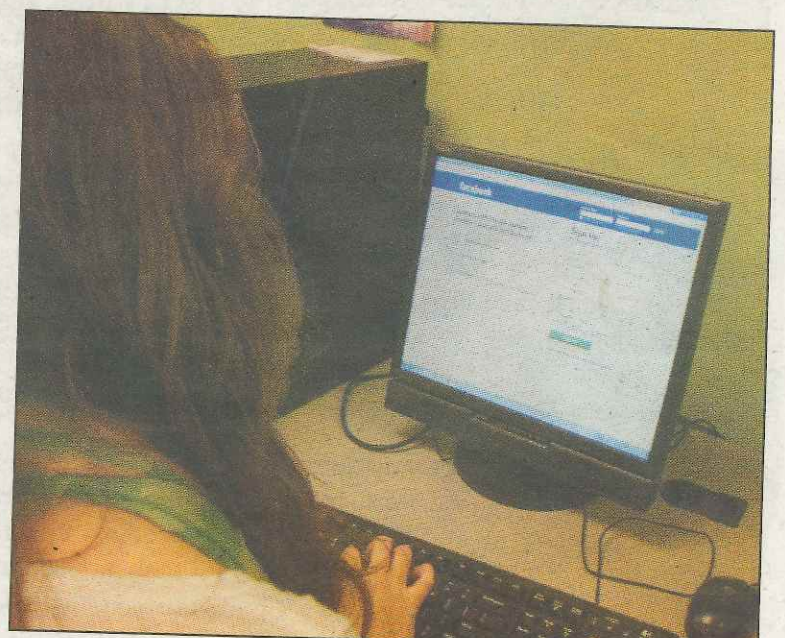
sure that as you are creating a new account you read the terms and conditions of the website. The small print of actually how restricted your 'private' account can be to others may not be what you think it is.

Cyberbullying is a major issue in our society. Cyberbullying includes any abuse towards someone with the through the Internet. We all have seen or experienced some kind of Internet based bullying before, whether it was through social networking, e-mail, or text message. Due to the fact that anyone can post anonymous comments on the Internet, cyberbullying is a big rising threat for teens of today. "I think people who cyberbully are too scared to confront people face to face," says junior Sabrina Bishop, "People who do it are cowards." adds a West Po senior. Because of the availability of technology all throughout the day, it is nearly

impossible for the bullied student to escape their tormentors. With proper measures to keep kids safe on the Internet most of these situations could be prevented. Another method of protecting teens is to stand up against the bullies, and

helping the bullied student understand that they are important and valued. The effects of cyberbullying include depression, lack of self-esteem, and possibly suicide.

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Staff Photo

Identity theft and cyberbullying have become major issues on social media sites like Facebook and Twitter.



# EDITORIALS

## New lights, new life, at Carl Sandburg Middle School

Rebecca Tamblyn  
Reporter

Carl Sandburg Middle School was a facility in great need of renovation and updating. In October 2012, the school began to make some necessary changes to the grounds and the building itself, using a \$44 million bond issue approved the year before by Fairfax County voters. Their plans include the renovation of the building's entire interior, re-doing the parking lot, changing the "kiss-and-ride" pattern, putting new sod in, and planting new trees. The building will become a much more pleasant environment for students and staff. "The building is going to be brighter, larger, and full of new technology," says Principal Terrence Yarborough.

Some of the benefits for the faculty will be a small addition for the new main office suite and staff rest-rooms throughout the building. New and improved rest-rooms throughout the school will include automatic toilets and hands-free sinks.

One important aspect of any renovation is the issue of safety and ensuring that everyone involved is protected. All faculty and members of the construction crew are required to wear identification badges at all times to ensure the security of students as they transition to classes in the trailers outside.

In order to keep the students, and staff safe throughout this process, temporary walls have been put up in order to block off the areas that could be hazardous. Because these changes are being made during the school year, some extra measures have been taken in order to keep the schedule running smoothly. Many of the teachers have switched class rooms, or have to move from room to room during the day -- in some cases, as

many times as the students do.

While most changes going on at the school are causing many issues for the students now, they will make a difference for West Potomac in coming years. "I think that although the Sandburg renovations may be inconvenient right now, they will be great in the long run," said eighth grader Jenna Martin. "They have taught us to adapt to changes, and to get to classes quickly and efficiently, skills that we will need to thrive at West Potomac." The adaptive skills that students are learning during this time of adjustment could prove very useful in the larger and fuller buildings of West Potomac.

With any kind of renovation there are many inconveniences for the people involved. Sandburg administrative assistant Lorin Clark says that "the biggest inconveniences so far were lockers being moved and teachers doubling up." Thankfully, there have been no unexpected obstacles or problems with the work going on, and students, teachers, and parents have all made sacrifices and adjustments. "I think we have all done a fantastic job of being flexible and adapting to changing situations."

When new areas are renovated, staff and students see that the inconveniences are worth it in the end" says Principal Yarborough.

According to the PTA President and Sandburg parent Laura Fortsch, "the renovations seem to be running smoothly and the new spaces are bright and inviting and foster a successful learning environment for all students at Sandburg."

Not only will the changes be beneficial for those at the middle school now and those to come, but they will also making the students' transitions to high school smoother. The new and anticipated campus is expected to be completed by the Spring of 2015.



Exposed wiring and plumbing in Sandburg hallways illustrates to students the renovations in progress.

## When in Rome... bring a textbook?

Katie Dickinson  
Reporter

On a recent cruise to Haiti, Jamaica, and Mexico (unfortunately not Rome), I missed seven school days. With four AP classes weighing down my class schedule, it was sadly not a completely stress-free vacation. I was lucky enough to be able to do the usual tropical cruise activities, just with a twist.

The first jaunt in my journey was a flight to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Instead of taking advantage of the in-flight televisions available on JetBlue, my flight entertainment consisted of reading my AP Psychology textbook and taking notes on the chapters. I did not want to get behind, nor waste valuable pool time with a textbook because, after all, they aren't waterproof for a reason.

During my Caribbean vacation, I also had to finish reading a few scenes of "Hamlet" for AP English Lit. I tanned on the upper deck of the cruise ship, book in one hand, pen in the other. Annotating while tanning is totally normal, right? Although I put "Hamlet" in my pool bag every day on the ship, I of course did not get through it as fast as I would have had I been reading at home. What can I say? Who wouldn't be distracted by ping-pong, hot tubs, shows, and breathtaking ocean views?

We stopped at Labadee, Haiti, a private island owned by Royal Caribbean, and "Hamlet" came along with me. Coincidentally, my reading breaks were spent jumping in the gorgeous water and sipping strawberry smoothies. And as the cruise continued, I did manage to squeeze some time in to do some studying, but not as much as I think my teachers would have hoped I did.

Missing an entire week of school is hard to rebound from, no matter how much work one does during the time off. With textbooks weighing so much, it would have been nearly impossible for me to bring all of the necessary ones without paying the airline for overweight baggage. While I understand how important school is, to me, family time matters just as much.

We only have four months left in school so I cherish the time I have left to spend with my family. The stress of the makeup work may have caused me is worth the joy I felt on this vacation. Unfortunately, the 30-degree weather back home in Virginia will be hard to adjust to after the 80-degree weather I became accustomed to.

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## Hugh vs. the World “Crapple”

Hugh Moffitt  
Reporter

Today's smartphones, computers, and tablets have centralized many features that their users cannot seem to live without. For example, most smartphones are fitted with a micro-USB port for charging. This way, chargers are more readily available, making life easier for their users.

Most smartphones, that is, except for the iPhone. Apple does not use the same standard charger as every other smartphone company. This is because Apple wants to make more money by trying to control the accessories market as well. This is understandable, considering the main focus of a business is generally to make money. But Apple should not disguise what is an obvious competitive business move as “innovation.”

This is not Apple's only regressive feature on their products. They constantly release outdated products with flashy designs that come with even flashier price tags. In fact, Apple's flagship product, the Macbook Pro 13-inch, is priced \$300 more than the Sony VAIO Pro 13, with almost identical specifications. The computers have the same processor, the same amount of RAM, and the same amount of disk storage. Sometimes it seems that Apple thinks it has a license to overprice their products because of the sleek LED logo on the back.

It has not always been this way, however. Apple started off as a great company whose innovations and contributions helped push the world toward a new digital age. Once their products started getting beat out by superior PC products in the '90s, their stock price fell. New management and new business decisions were made at Apple that ultimately transformed it from a power-driven computing company to a cash cow that caters to the uninformed consumer, selling flashy portable devices, and starting a new suburban trend that, unfortunately, has not died out yet.

It is not only Apple that has changed their priorities from performance to design; in fact, there is probably a sleek new Microsoft retail store at your mall, selling computers that share a common interface with a smartphone, and a few comparable specifications as well. Computers are becoming tablets, tablets are becoming phones, and touch screens are replacing keyboards and mice.

This is how it goes with the two tech giants. The world of computers is changing, and not necessarily for the better. Companies like Apple and Microsoft are destroying performance-based consumer electronics by continuing to make products of lower and lower quality. So, the next time you are shopping for a new laptop, phone, or tablet, look at its specs before you consult with an Apple “genius” about buying it.



## Life may not be fair, but school should be

Fiona Penn  
Focus Editor

At a public school in America, all children are supposed to be guaranteed a good education. As someone who has been through the public school system, I can tell you that we aren't getting the most amazing educational experience. I'm okay with that. My family isn't spending thousands of dollars per year toward my education, in addition to taxes, like many families with students in private schools. So, no, I don't expect the top technology to be in my school. I don't expect a college prep curriculum and a variety of electives on par with that of universities. And I think that's okay.

But what I am entitled to is a fair education. I should have the same opportunity to succeed in my classes as my peers. This is not the case at West Potomac.

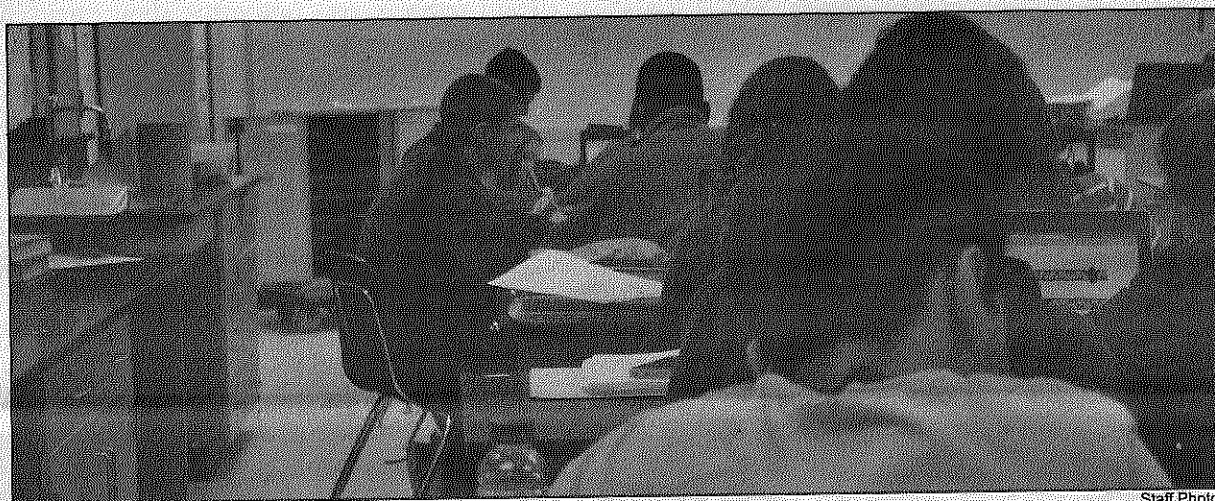
Let me give you an example. Last year, I had a great chemistry teacher who stayed after school to help us and tried to explain everything to us one step at a time. Although I hate chemistry with a passion, I know it wasn't in any way due to my teacher's competence. Many students in that class

went on to take AP Chemistry, in part because of their teacher's dedication to helping them succeed.

But another chemistry teacher, who has since left West Potomac, did not give students the same level of commitment. My peers in that class frequently told me stories of not learning anything for an entire class period, or of the teachers trying to explain something and just getting frustrated and stopping. Most of them were eager to learn and actually wanted to understand chemistry, but weren't getting the support they needed.

I gave a close friend of mine my Blackboard password, just so she could access my teacher's notes, to supplement the shoddy ones her teacher had given. The students in that class didn't learn chemistry, or if they did, it was through strenuous effort outside of school. Some students with the less-dedicated teacher, such as junior Josh Shelton, felt that the caliber of learning was so low that it wasn't a chemistry class at all. “I didn't take chemistry, I had a free period,” remarked Shelton.

*Continued on page 8*



Students take notes in their classes to use for at-home studying or to assist their peers.

## Room for electives absent from class schedules

*Elective classes are phased out of class schedules in order to make room for numerous added required courses.*

Jensen Wainwright  
Focus Editor

With recent additions to required classes, students are facing difficulties when it comes to picking classes, and choosing ones they would like to take. Last year, personal finance was added to the already long list of required classes deemed “vital” by the school board. With all these new requirements are students losing their ability to choose?

Every new class of freshman bring back the rumor of the dreaded required four years of gym, but are these rumors only rumors? For now, the kids of West Potomac are free from four years of dressing out, but who knows what the future may hold? Since the addition of personal finance to the graduation requirements, anything could be possible, especially more classes that feel like a waste of the students' time.

High schools are losing participation in arts and music programs, some of which can make or break a high school career for some. According to a study by the University of Michigan, students in music programs have a higher average GPA, and are more likely to continue on to college. Unfortunately, with requirements piling up, continuing through four years of a music program is nearly impossible. To get the proper amount of credit to graduate one

needs 24 credits in total, three for math and science, four for history and English, two for gym, three for world languages, and one for fine arts. These credit requirements leave you little room as to what you take, or what you may want to experiment with through high school.

For someone that wants to become an artist, those fine arts credits will roll in easier than anything, but to someone who wants to be a mathematician, taking a year of studio art is a waste of time. This is where the school system has failed dramatically, requiring so many classes and a certain number of credits students must have to graduate is only producing more “easy A classes.” These classes are weighed down with busy work curriculums and students who just care enough need to pass. So instead of learning something, you are walking away with just a bunch for papers for your recycling bin.

Tying every student to the same core schedule is like asking a fish to climb a tree: it is impossible. Trying to engage your students with monotonous classes designed solely to earn a mark on a paper is a waste of time and resources. A school system in which you are required to take fewer classes on what you do not care about, and more on what sparks your mind would produce more productive students, and would lead to fewer failures and dropouts.



WOLVERINE  
WARRIORRA'SHEIKA  
GREGORY

Ray Rhatican

Varsity basketball player Ra'Sheika Gregory (left) scores for West Potomac at a home game against Centreville.

**Ray Rhatican**  
Sports Editor

This season was the best West Potomac Girls' Basketball has played in years. Prior to this season, the team had won more than three games in a season just once in the past five years. That came in 2012-13, with six wins. This season, the girls won nine games, a vast improvement after years of seasons only garnering one or two wins.

Powering this great Lady Wolverines season was senior Ra'Sheika Gregory. A versatile forward, Gregory was the team's best scorer, averaging almost 13 points per game. Her ability to drive to the basket and draw fouls, more than 50 of them, is accompanied by her lethal perimeter scoring ability. Gregory's 17 field goals were far and away the most on the team.

When asked about Gregory, Head Coach Kenny Farmer was very high on his forward's scoring ability. "We're not as good of a shooting team as we need to be. The skill level just isn't there yet. But Ra'Sheika is definitely the most consistent outside shooter."

A four-year varsity starter, Gregory was thrilled to end her high school career on a high note. "This is the best year that we've had. We'd only won like two games throughout my four years. But this year, we had a pretty good season."

Asked about what is different this year, as opposed to the loss-filled seasons before, the talented forward cited the team's chemistry. "We played as a team. We worked harder," said Gregory. "We had a belief in winning."

Gregory grabbed the attention of Shenandoah University coaches while playing AAU basketball during the summer with her travel team. Impressed with Gregory's shooting ability, scouts asked her to come to their campus for a visit. Gregory felt that Shenandoah was the right fit, and has decided to play for their varsity basketball team next year. She hopes to sign her letter of intent by the end of March.

## High expectations for West Potomac baseball

### 2014 baseball season promises to exceed all previous records

**Ray Rhatican**  
Sports Editor

The consensus among this year's Wolverine Baseball team is that this season's squad will be the most promising one that the school has trotted out in years. Headlined by four college commits Michael Barnes (US Merchant Marine Academy), Billy Lescher (University of Pennsylvania), A.J. Melvin (Washington & Jefferson College), and David Wagner (New York University), the team looks to exercise its playoff demons and win a regional playoff game, a feat not accomplished by West Potomac in decades.

Last year's team came very close. After hanging with a powerful Centreville team for much of the first round regional playoff game, things fell apart en route to a 6-1 defeat, ending their season. The team's lineup also suffered with the graduation of seniors Paul McClure and Jayme Murray. McClure, the program's all-time single season strikeout king, and Murray, the longtime fixture at first base, are now playing college ball. Despite these two key losses, the team remains very optimistic about their chances this season.

Their high hopes are not unfounded. Even with the departure of McClure, the pitching situation looks to be very sound. The bulk of innings will likely be split between Lescher and Barnes. Lescher made noise in the area last season, when he pitched a perfect game against Mount Vernon in his first trip to the varsity mound. Wagner noted his team's edge is focused, but "very relaxed."

"I see us being the best team in the district and traveling far in the regional tournament," said Melvin, "with serious contention for a state berth." The top challengers to that goal will likely be Lake Braddock, who finished with a 14-2 record, and South County, 2013 District Champions. The Wolverines were unable to take down the Bruins in their two meetings last season, losing by tallies of 8-2 and 4-1,

mustering no hits in the latter match-up. West Potomac split the series with South County, winning one in extra innings and losing by one in the other.

Last season, the team played well enough to earn top four-seed in the district, decent enough to enter regional play. But if they are to realize their goal of winning the district and earning a first-round regional playoff bye, the Wolverines will need to finish strong. In 2013, West Potomac started hot, and boasted a 7-4 mark at the midway point of the season, but went on to win only five of their final eleven games, dropping three of their last four.

The lone win in that stretch was their extra inning triumph over South County on Senior Night, when then-sophomore Rocky Iboleon blasted a shot to left field to score Andrew Smith. Prior to that game-winning swing of the bat from an unlikely hero, the Wolverines had been held without a hit through a 15 innings the team had played that week.

In order to make the postseason noise they hope for, West Potomac will need to play their best baseball late. They will face both Lake Braddock and South County in their final three games. A strong finish would not only be a statement to put the region on notice, but also put them in prime position to finally get that elusive regional playoff win.



The 2013 West Potomac varsity baseball team gathers with Coach Sullivan to concoct a last-minute game plan against South County.

## Finding the balance between athletics and academics

**Taylor Haas**  
Reporter

Aaron Locks of the National Academy of Athletics writes that, "One of the most challenging aspects of sports is commitment. Anyone who has played sports knows there have been times when you've just wanted to walk right off of the court or the field and never look back."

Many student athletes can attest to the fact that juggling school and athletics can be difficult, especially with the time commitment required to truly excel. It's evident that success requires dedication and commitment, but how much time does one really need to put in to be the best at what they do?

All eyes were on West Potomac graduate Ashley Wagner at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. She came out with a bronze as a part of the U.S. women's figure skating team. Wagner began skating at the age of five, training rigorously while attending school, and is today ranked No. 1 for women's figure skating and No. 2 in the world by IceNetwork.com.

Another West Potomac skater is senior Masha Dubograeva. Prompted by her ice hockey playing brother and father, Dubograeva first strapped on a pair of skates at the age of four. Recalling her first day, she commented, "I was afraid they were going to make me do a triple axle, so that first day was nerve-rack-

ing! But from then on I've loved the sport."

In describing ice skating and the incredible time commitment that goes along with it, Dubograeva said that, "Before tenth grade I skated everyday but then it was SATs and you have to keep your grades up, so I skated a lot less than usual. Many girls at home schooled so it's definitely hard to be in school and do it [ice skating]" She added, however, "[Wagner] is number one in America and she went to West Potomac, so that says something."

Ice skating is an incredibly competitive sport, she added that "you still have friends...at the same time they're your competition." Regardless, Dubograeva has won numerous regional and even national competitions. Dubograeva hopes to continue skating in college, providing wherever she goes has a rink and would love to pursue a career in skating such as coaching.

Between those who are fiercely dedicated and those who simply are not, senior Daniel Walder falls somewhere in the middle of the spectrum. He has played basketball since the age of five and explained, "I enjoy the competitiveness and I have fun at the same time."

He originally began playing in a rec league because his father wanted him to join a sport, then joined the travel team at the age of 13.

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## A “rags-to-riches” story for one New York band

Lilly Lane and Taylor Haas  
Reporters

There are many tried and true ways through which up-and-coming bands seek to promote themselves. They record an album, play small local gigs, create a web presence through social media, and hand out CDs like crazy hoping to catch peoples' attention. But how many bands stage robberies on unsuspecting stores and restaurants in order to spread the word?

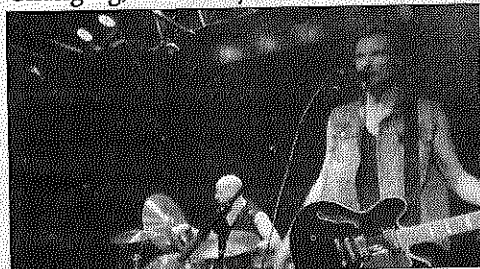
In 2011 The Kin arrived in New York city and began holding “musical robberies,” or impromptu performances, in bars, delis, on ferries, and anywhere else they wanted to surprise patrons. Australian brothers Isaac and Thorald Koren, accompanied by former street performer Shakerleg, captured patrons' attention with their self-proclaimed “gritty punk-rock” music and unconventional performances. Dressed in black and often covering their faces with dark bandannas, they either drove up or ran into these establishments. They would then yell “This is a musical robbery!” and energetically burst into one of their songs. “We’re looking to surprise people and give them a musical experience,” Isaac says. “Or maybe we’re just adrenaline junkies, because it feels like a drug the body is releasing when we make that connection with other human beings based on our music. Even if it’s just for a split second, it’s a rush for everyone involved.”

Isaac and Thorald came to New York as members of separate groups then decided to join together and create their own band. They produced one album together, with

Thorold on vocals, keyboard and guitar and Isaac on vocals, keyboard, and didgeridoo (a native Australian instrument). The band didn’t truly form their band’s identity until Shakerleg joined the group.

Shakerleg, who’s given name is Mark Nicosia, is a street performer who spent ten years playing drums in his own unique style on New York’s subway platforms, sans drumsticks and often with makeshift drums. “I hate drumsticks,” he explained in an interview for Modern Drummer Magazine. “I love the way they sound, but not when I operate them, or rather, the way I am unable to operate them.” He was making over \$300 per day and even recorded an album on a subway platform before the Koren brothers approached him and asked him to become a part of the Kin. His unconventional drumming, on any available surface, added a unique sound to subsequent musical robberies.

These robberies have worked for The Kin, who were picked up by famous producer Tony Visconti and are currently on tour throughout the U.S. with P!nk, performing their new E.P. “Get on It” which includes songs “Get on It,” “Boy You’re a Pretty Girl,” “On the Rise,” “Mary,” and “Everything’s Changing,” currently available on iTunes.



The Kin perform at one of their famous musical robberies.

## Book Review: *The Fault in Our Stars*

Claudia Santa Anna  
Reporter

What’s your favorite book? Chances are any group of teenagers asked would reply their current favorite is *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green. With its movie adaptation, starring Shailene Woodley and Ansel Elgort, slated for release in June 2014, combined with innumerable book quotes, reviews, and discussions plastered all over many popular social media sites, *The Fault In Our Stars* seems to be the book everyone is talking about.

*The Fault In Our Stars* follows 16-year-old Hazel Grace Lancaster, who was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 13 and enjoys staying home, watching “America’s Next Top Model” and analyzing her favorite book, “An Imperial Affliction.” Going to Cancer Kid Support Group is never enjoyable for Hazel, but her mother insists she makes an appearance.

Things are going along as normally as they can in Hazel’s life; thanks to her “Cancer Miracle Drug,” until she meets Augustus Waters at a support group meeting, a handsome and charming boy she soon falls for. From the hilarious scenes of Hazel and Gus joking around with Isaac, their blind friend from support group,

to the final chapters and its heart-rending tragic ending, *The Fault In Our Stars* is an emotional rollercoaster of a love story that will leave readers in tears.

What is so great about the book is that it appeals to everyone, no matter who the reader is; regardless of their likes, hobbies, or interests are, it is an entertaining read for all readers.

With its easy-to-read, yet metaphorical writing style, *The Fault In Our Stars* is an engaging read, appealing to both females and males. Every reader will be touched by the love story of Hazel and Gus, and its clever and intriguing storyline will have readers both laughing and crying all at once.

So why else is *The Fault In Our Stars* so popular? To begin with, Green already had a large fanbase from his previous best-selling young adult books, including his first novel *Looking For Alaska*, published in 2005. In addition, the author co-hosts “The Vlogbrothers,” a popular YouTube channel Green started in 2007 and updates regularly.

Along with great book reviews and press, and the rapid spread of fans recommending the book to friends, it’s easy to see why *The Fault In Our Stars* is a well-admired novel and a must-read for everyone.

## The Witty Fools bring Shakespeare’s plays to West Potomac and beyond

Noor Javaid  
Opinions Editor

English teacher Colin O’Grady has helped several students organize a Shakespeare troupe as a student activity with the intent of bringing the Bard’s plays to life for West Potomac’s student body. The activity is open to all students interested in being involved, and meets after school.

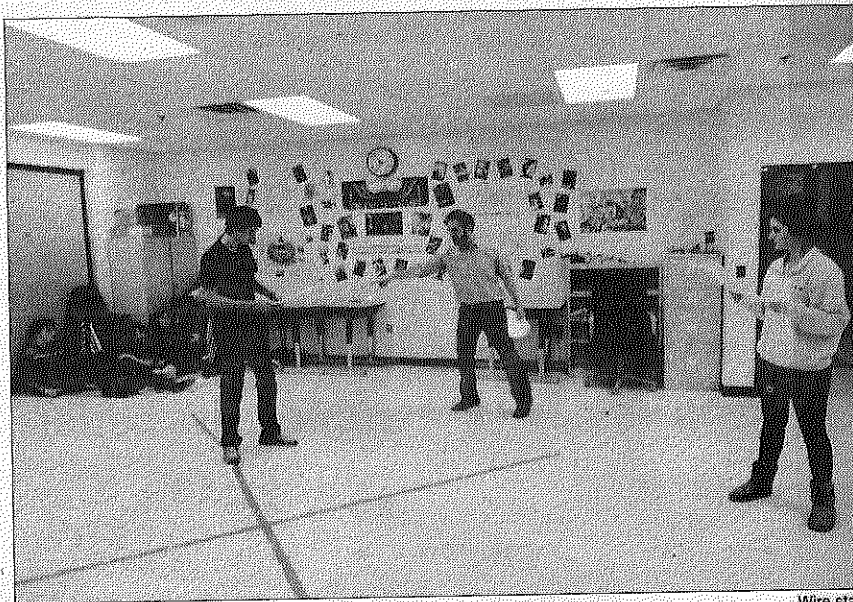
**Mr. O’Grady, how would you describe this student activity?**

“The student activity is essentially a Shakespeare program that includes many elements and components. One is my Shakespeare studies elective class that anybody can take. Although it does not give credit to be an English class, it complements the AP Lit and Lang curriculum Shakespeare wrote plays which were meant to be performed, rather than reading it as a book and making annotations, we turn them into the plays they are meant to be. We put them on their feet and make them move. Another part is the after school troupe, called ‘The Witty Fools.’ With the group of 15 members, the goal is to create performers who can take Shakespeare’s plays and perform them to the English classes that are studying them. The play will be taken to students.”

**What prompted the start of this program?**

“Shakespeare has used words to accomplish things better than anyone in the history of humankind; no one has ever used language better than he did. As an English teacher that’s what I’m teaching, how to look at words and interpret what people are trying to show us. Shakespeare’s getting you to think and feel things that you might not have experienced.

Starting a Shakespeare program is really just me embracing my passion. The Elizabethan era is what I’m trying to bring back, doing things the way they did sort of democratizes everything. The actors in that era were never told how to act out certain scenes, so



Mr. O’Grady goes over blocking techniques with students in preparation for the upcoming Folger Secondary School Shakespeare Festival.

as a teacher I don’t want to tell anyone what to think, I want to see students explore and come up with their own ideas.

The students make their own decisions in terms of how to act throughout scenes, they use their own ideas they interpret the language of Shakespeare, and I want my students to own everything that they’re doing. Going back to the old school Elizabethan model of performance allows me to give students a process to find their own ideas, and with this activity they can do just that.”

**Can you tell us about the troupe’s participation at the Folger Shakespeare Festival in D.C.?**

“As of now, we are scheduled to perform at the Folger Festival on March 12th. It is a big festival that draws students from literally all over the world. It’s a complete student festival, a mix of English and theatre classes, it’s all devoted to words. It’s about language not so much acting; the way the students come up with what needs to be done around the language. It is almost entirely student run. So my students are currently working on four plays, “As You Like It,” “Henry IV, Part 1,” “The Comedy of Errors,” and “Twelfth Night.” All four of the scenes we will be doing are comic. The festival is about a block from the Supreme Court and the U.S. Capitol, right on Capitol Hill. Our group performs at around 12:30 pm but the festival itself goes all day with eight schools that perform each day.”

Senior Sarah Peterson, a member of The Witty Fools, said she joined because it was a great opportunity to read and perform Shakespeare plays. Speaking about her

most enjoyable moment thus far, she exclaims, “The best part of this club I think is when you are first blocking a scene. There are so many ways that we as a group can play out a scene. Everyone has great ideas and we all work together to make it happen. It’s a lot of fun!”

In the future, the group intends to travel and perform together at other events like the Folger Festival. “I’m really looking forward to the Folger Festival,” Peterson said. “We get to perform on a really cool stage in a competition in front of a panel of judges.”



Key

||||| Walk

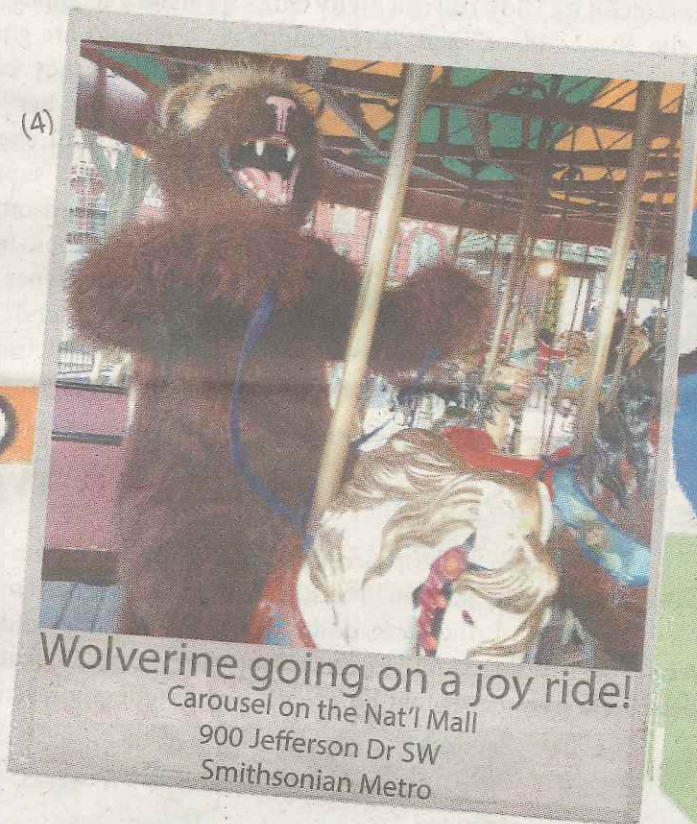


Metro Stop

# Metro Washington D.C.

# Metro

## A Wolverine's Guide to W



**Quick Tip**  
Riding the Metro can be confusing, so don't be afraid to ask a station manager where to go. Even though you will look like a tourist, it's better than getting lost!



Thanks to Gabe Perkins, junior, for playing the Wolverine. Follow Perkins on Twitter: @goooooob.

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(5)

(4)

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Metro Center

Federal Triangle

Smithsonian

Pentagon

Pentagon City

Chinatown Metro

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# Adventures in Washington D.C.

Need to escape Alexandria? D.C. is the perfect place to run to and it's just a Metro ride away. Despite what most students think, D.C. is not only monuments and crappy tourist food. Our dedicated Wolverine found some hidden gems in our nation's capital and has made sure they are up to Wolverine standards.

## STOP HERE!

Chinatown has lots of interesting food and great culture. Wolverine loved It'Sugar (1), the Aveda Beauty Salon (2), and the National Portrait Gallery (3), all located at this Metro stop.

Chinatown

(3)



Wolverine ponders life on the Portrait Gallery steps

## STOP HERE!

National Mall is the perfect spot to enjoy nice weather or hide away from the sun at a museum. The National Carousel, the National Sculpture Garden Ice Rink (5) are great for kids and adults alike.



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ddock Road

enhower

Huntington

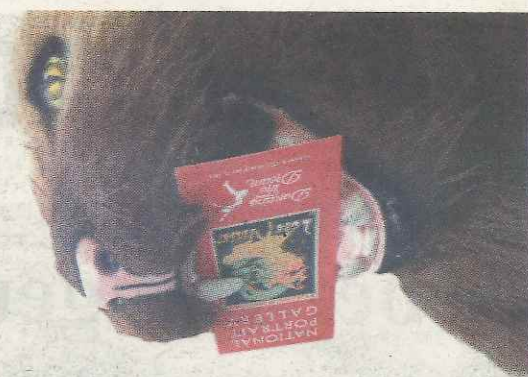
## START HERE!

Start your journey at Huntington Metro. The best way to ride is with a SmarTrip card, which costs five dollars. The plastic card will last a long time and you'll get a reduced ticket price.



Satisfy your wolverine sized sweet tooth at IT'SUGAR, a new candy store with every gummy and chocolate you can think of. You can fill up a bag for on-the-go snacking, or grab one of their gift-worthy items, such as this giant chocolate syrup bottle

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## Cyber Dangers

Continued from page 1

Rebecca Tamblyn  
Reporter

One of the more serious internet threats is predators. These predators join online chat rooms or other websites, engage in conversations through the internet with young, unsuspecting minors, all the while with sexual or violent intentions. As they engage in conversations with the teens, they are deceptive about who they really are. If someone you don't know contacts you on the internet, don't ever give out any information about yourself, and NEVER agree to meet anyone in person that you come in contact with on the internet. The consequences of not being cautious with strangers on the internet include kidnapping, sexual abuse, and even death. The easiest ways to avoid coming in contact with internet predators is to not talk to people on chat rooms. These cautious steps may seem like overreactions, but weighed against your life, how big of a deal are these changes?

Just because the internet holds many dangers and risks for today's teens, we don't need to completely separate ourselves from technology. Cell phones and computers include many wonderful benefits such as homework help, and staying in contact with friends that don't live nearby. In order to make sure that you are safe when surfing the web, above all use discernment and caution. If you see any signs of an identity thief, cyberbully, or predator, tell an adult or someone you trust immediately. Help our generation by standing up against these forms of internet abuse! By reporting suspicious internet behavior you could protect other peoples personal information, help students feel better about themselves, and possibly save a life.

## School policy changes: Rumor or fact?

Continued from page 1

Taylor Haas  
Reporter

As overcrowding becomes more of an issue at West Potomac, there has been talk, especially among transfer students themselves, about possible limitations on the number of transfer students admitted. Technically, West Potomac is closed to transferring students, yet it has still allowed many transfers from other nearby high schools or students who have moved. "When does it become a real problem," Case responded, "that we can't just make up solutions around?" When asked about transfer students and how they affect overpopulation. "When you look at the crowding in the gym lobby or the math hallway, there's nothing we can do about the size

and the width of our hallways...if it comes to it we're going to have to ask hard questions like is it appropriate to keep taking student transfers?" He did confirm, however, there will be no immediate changes made to the transfer policy and regardless of future changes the school will remain open to students already enrolled at West Potomac or with enrolled siblings.

Another source of hallway gossip has been the potential removal of World History and Geography for freshman as well as Honors Physics classes. The state of Virginia requires only three years of History and Social Studies for high school graduation, but West Potomac requires four for an Advanced Diploma. Combining freshmen History with AP World was also considered as one cost-cutting method.

## Life may not be fair but school should be

Continued from page 3

Fiona Penn  
Focus Editor

Students shouldn't have experiences like this. Fortunately, this teacher doesn't teach at West Potomac anymore, but problems like these still exist. Some teachers have been known to choose favorites and not give help to those they aren't 'friends' with. As one junior who preferred to remain anonymous said, "It's annoying when teachers are busy socializing with students instead of giving individualized help."

Whether or not a student succeeds in classroom shouldn't depend on the their teacher's competence or their teacher's opinion towards them, but rather the student's work ethic. On top of that, when one teacher teaches a class differently than the rest of the department, it makes life harder for the other teachers. I've had teachers not be able to give back the hard copy of our tests so we can start corrections because another class is far behind and hasn't taken it. I

assume for the really dedicated teachers at our school that this must be extremely frustrating.

I say all of this with extreme caution. When trigger-happy bureaucrats hear a hint of dissatisfaction with teachers, they immediately say that the answer is standardized testing. If anything, standardized tests have made this situation worse. In all honesty, I don't know a solution to this problem. More department meetings? Easier way to fire teachers?

All of these solutions seem like either too much or too little. In a recent interview with *The Wire*, Principal Case observed that he saw a lack of uniformity within departments as a problem as well.

So if we're all agreeing that there is a problem, what's the solution? This is a problem I see as just as important as budget cuts and security. I'm asking the administration the administration to change this situation before it negatively affects any other student's education.

## Finding the balance between athletics and academics

Continued from page 4

Taylor Haas  
Reporter

Today, Walder plays basketball twice a week in between school, college applications, and rowing, as a way to get exercise and spend time doing the sport he loves.

Walder believes that the amount of time an athlete has dedicated to their sport decides how successful they will be, because if one person were to slack off in their own dedication and competitiveness, another would be waiting and practicing in order win or move up in the ranks.

Junior Nick Vance similarly believes that not being dedicated to one's sport acts as a disadvantage. "People who are more dedicated try harder and get better quicker." While Vance is more dedicated to tennis, he participated in and enjoyed track for part of his sophomore year.

Vance joined track as a way to keep in shape during off-season as well as to distract himself from the stresses of school. He never approached track with the same commitment and dedication as he does tennis. A little over halfway through the season, he was forced to quit the team. "Grades are more important and I didn't have

any time for track, so instead, I had to exercise when I actually had time."

Although Vance was unable to finish the season, it was not a waste. He loved having the chance to race against other schools alongside his teammates and believes that competing, especially in relays, improved his teamwork.

Many athletes feel this way about their sport. Rather than a way to be the absolute best or get into college, it is an opportunity to be active and participate for fun. This is why athletes of every level of dedication can be found participating in West Potomac sports.



## West Potomac welcomes back Hamlin and McMahon

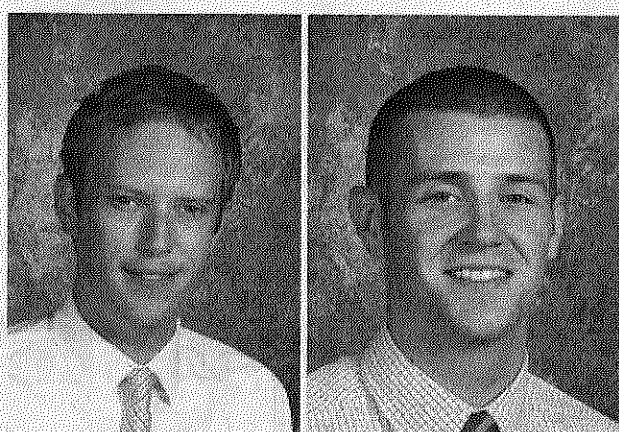
**Laraib Ilyas**  
*Co-Editor in Chief*

West Potomac saw a wave of staff departures as the 2012-2013 year came to an end. Amongst it were Social Studies Department Chair and AP Psychology teacher Drew Hamlin, and Student Services Counselor Kevin McMahon. Both Hamlin and McMahon have returned to West Potomac to wear new hats as Administrator and Director of Student Services, respectively.

Hamlin moved to New York City in June to be closer to family and start his Ph.D. in Educational Administration at Fordham University. He found the opening Administrator position to be opportune as his family transferred back to the D.C. area this past January.

McMahon looked for diverse experiences in a different school setting, so he branched out and became a counselor at South County for the beginning half of the school year. His interest in the Director of Student Services position eventually landed him the job back at West Potomac.

Some of Hamlin's priorities, in conjunction with Principal Alex Case's improvement plan for the school, are to improve the communication and collaboration around West Potomac. "The communication piece is something we need to hone and refine. We've gotten better, but there's a ways to go with how



Drew Hamlin and Kevin McMahon return with high hopes and visions for West Potomac. Hamlin is the new Assistant Principal and McMahon has taken the role of Director of Student Services.

we communicate our ideas and thoughts. But my biggest vision would be to collaborate with the West Potomac community to ensure we give the best academic, athletic, and social experience for all students," he explained.

McMahon hopes to work with Student Services to support students at West Potomac. "We're here to be a resource for our students and look at areas students are having challenges so we can help them. I want to make sure that is one of our main priorities."

The transition from teacher to Administrator has not been difficult for Hamlin due to his previous experiences leading meetings as Social Studies Department Chair, and schools outside and inside of Fairfax County. "Being Department Chair helped me realize that it's not about being top-down, it's about working with your colleagues to make the best decisions for your team." His background in these types of work environments is helping him transition into the Administrator role.

As a former counselor, McMahon understands the needs of his department. He looks forward to making more time on their agendas so they are easily available to students.

Students and staff members who have known Hamlin and McMahon are overjoyed with their return. Senior Sage Miska had Hamlin as her AP Psychology teacher junior year, and McMahon as her counselor throughout high school. Miska is excited about the new, young leadership starting at West Potomac. "I love that they both are good at communicating and relating to students; it really makes a difference," Miska stated.

With the appointment of "alumni" faculty to key staff positions, along with the appointment of Alex Case as Principal, one cannot help but be very excited for the future of West Potomac High School.

## QuizUp: A new kind of trivia game

**John Shoupe**  
*Reporter*

When browsing the "Top Charts" of the app store, the same style of games is shown. This style indeed dominates the market. Included in these apps is the increasingly popular QuizUp.

QuizUp is an uprising trivia game where you quiz friends on categories of your choice. Designed by Plain Vanilla Corp, it claims to be the biggest trivia game in the world. And it very well may be.

QuizUp has over 280 topics to quiz friends on and over 100,000 questions. With topics such as trending books and movies, or music from the 60s to the modern pop of today, Quiz Up dives deep into the customization of categories. The company is constantly updating their category options, and these usually pertain to trendy subjects such as Holidays or Game Days. Plain Vanilla Corp goes as far as to even let you suggest categories.

QuizUp, with the diverse selection of categories, appeals to a very wide crowd. If the player is a bookworm, the selection is wonderful. If the player is a music lover, he or she can choose the exact generation of a certain genre they enjoy the most. The game even offers a rather strange array of categories, including "Logos" and "Herbs and Spices." That isn't even scratching the surface of the questions and categories.

The game itself is set up in an organized fashion, and not at all difficult to maneuver. It starts off with choosing a

friend or a random opponent to go up against for a game of wits. Afterward, it allows you to specify on which category you wish to be quizzed on.

When entering the quiz, a series of questions are asked about the chosen topic. For instance, if The Hunger Games is chosen, the game would ask questions like, "What was injected into the arms of the tributes before the beginning of the Hunger Games?" In only 10 seconds, players must quickly choose one the four answers available, hoping for the right one. If the chosen answer is correct, points are earned.

The amount of points earned per question varies on how quickly the answer is chosen. When the game is through, the player with the most points wins. If the game is continuously played, the player can unlock perks and titles for their profile. The more games played in a certain category of trivia, the harder the levels and opponents will be to beat.

The characteristics of this game make it addicting. Immense satisfaction is gained when a friend is beaten in a favorite category. Those highs and lows make the game that much more fun. Plain Vanilla Corp put in copious amounts of effort to make this app flow, fun, and time consuming and it has paid off. QuizUp shares similarities with previously popular apps such as Draw Something and Words with Friends, where the need to be better than friends is heightened after playing one time through. This entertaining app is well worth the download. (Available in the Apple App Store)

## Flappy Bird mania

**Arnold Siaw-Sappore**  
*Reporter*

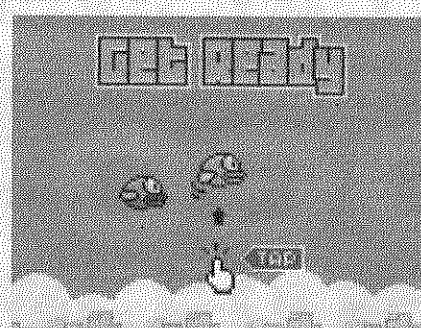
"Flappy Bird," a smartphone game that recently went viral and seemed to grip the whole world, was developed by Dong Nguyen, a resident of Vietnam, and uploaded by him as a free, ad-supported app onto both the Apple App Store and Google Play in May 2013. The game quickly became the most popular download on both app stores, getting more downloads than either the Facebook and Twitter apps. But the gaming sensation ended quickly when Nguyen pulled the game off the app stores, claiming that its popularity had overcomplicated his simple life.

Similar to the Nintendo game "Super Mario," Flappy Bird was a simple game in terms of graphics, but very difficult to master. Players tapped the screen of their smartphone to make an animated bird with obnoxiously huge lips fly. There were no instructions for the game, and players had to quickly learn by trial and error how to make the bird fly.

Players soon realize that in order to stay alive, they needed to tap the screen rapidly to keep the bird in the air, maneuvering the bird through the Mario-like pipes. That's the hard part. After multiple tries, players eventually figured out how to get the bird through the holes...and that's when the addiction to it began.

Though this game might have been one of the most popular games ever created, it has sparked incidents that grabbed national headlines. Just recently in Chicago, 16-year-old Gary Wright was stabbed to death 17 times by his 17-year-old brother Jaban over the younger brother's score of 17 in the game. The stabbing was preceded by Jaban teasing Gary who got a high score of only 6. His answer to why he did it was "Anyone who has played that game would know why I did it."

Events like these probably troubled Nguyen, who pulled the game off the



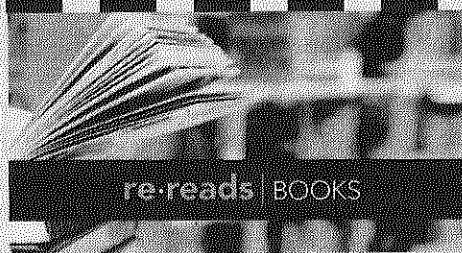
app stores after sending out a Tweet saying "I am sorry 'Flappy Bird' users, 22 hours from now, I will take 'Flappy Bird' down. I cannot take this anymore." He did this, despite the fact that he was earning an estimated \$50K per day in ad revenues from the game.

There are rumors, though, that Nintendo and several other game companies were about to file lawsuits against Nguyen for copyright infringement, with accusations that "Flappy Bird" bore too much resemblance to games like Super Mario. Rather than face lawsuits, that might also explain why Nguyen abruptly pulled the game down.

We may never know the whole story behind "Flappy Bird," but one thing is for sure: it is only a matter of time before the next Internet app craze comes along to dominate the headlines.



# ADS



## Re-reads

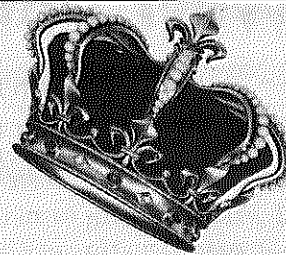
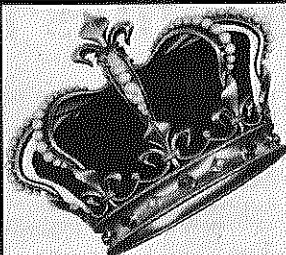
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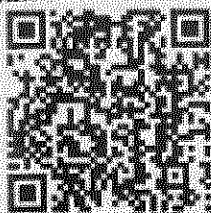
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## One last farewell to Paul Russell, 1946-2014

**Richard Cuminala**  
English Teacher

I first met Paul when I came to West Potomac as a student teacher in 2010. This may surprise those who knew him, but he actually really intimidated me at first. He was the veteran, the cool guy, with the earring, the goatee, and the swagger. As an observer, I asked all the different English teachers to allow me into their classrooms, but because I was intimidated I asked Paul last, toward the end of my stay. When he said, "Sure, come on in! Any time!" and started immediately giving me a ton of material he was using for his classes, I thought to myself, "The cool guy likes me! I'm in!" It's funny to me now, because I don't think I could have misjudged this more.

It wasn't that I was "in," because the great thing about Paul is that everyone was cool to him. The man taught for more than forty years, but for the brief time I knew him I never saw him worried about carving out his space, protecting his territory, or playing workplace politics. I did see him helping anyone who asked (or didn't ask - there are many of us with a unit on prefixes that he gave us multiple times), and also I saw

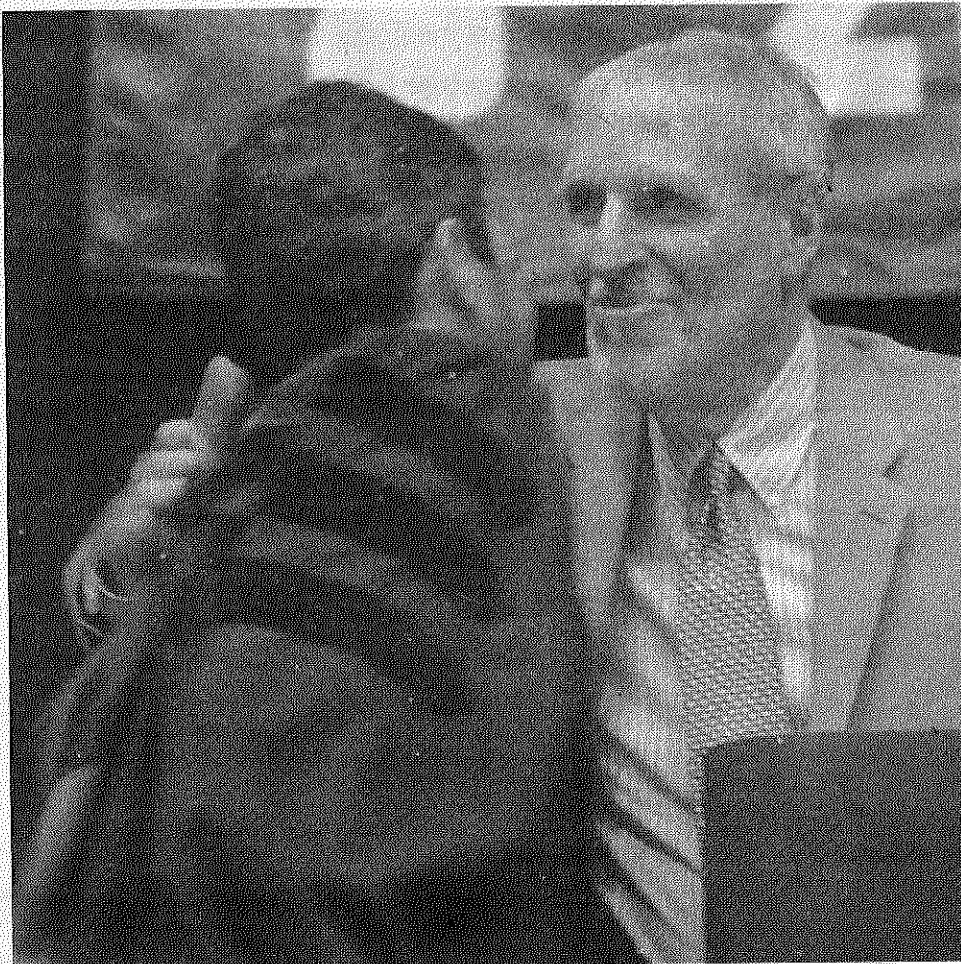
him care deeply about the craft of teaching. Now, the combination of his teaching skill and natural helpfulness has made many, many colleagues better teachers, but I nev-

ertheless think it's Paul's character that is his greatest legacy.

There's one night that really represents the kind of man Paul was. Before he retired, many of Paul's

friends and colleagues wanted to surprise him with a boat trip on the Potomac. Mr. Bodaghi and I were charged with keeping him occupied until everyone arrived. It was funny, because when we finally brought Paul to the dock and everyone shouted his name, he just stopped right in his tracks. I can't say for sure what was going through his head, but at the time it seemed to me that he just couldn't believe it. I don't think he ever would have thought that so many people would come out just for him.

It's this humility that I will remember most. Paul was never more Paul than on that night, surrounded by so many people. Everywhere he went there was someone calling him over to catch up or share a story. Some people he knew for decades, others not nearly so long, but on that boat it seemed like it didn't even matter: he talked to everyone like they were an old friend. He never stopped talking, actually - not for the entire night. I've honestly never saw him happier. And that's the thing about Paul - he just really, really liked people, and to him, nobody was better than anyone else. He was just here to have fun.



Mt. Vernon Gazette

Paul Russell congratulated by former student Delegate Scott Surovell after his retirement speech at West Potomac's 2013 commencement.

## Reflections on Russell's 45 years of teaching

**Laraib Ilyas**  
Co-Editor In Chief

**Editor's Note:** This article is a reprint from *The Wire's* May 2013 issue, reporting and reflecting on Mr. Russell's retirement after 45 years of teaching.

When classroom trailers first came to West Potomac, English teacher Paul Russell went to assistant principal Dale Eaton asking for one.

"At first, he and his students painted the thing with polka dots," recalled Eaton. "Not only that, but later on he literally turned it into an apartment with this huge refrigerator and a grill right outside."

Memorable glimpses like this depict the illustrious 45-year career Russell has had with his students and colleagues at this school. He retires at the end of this school year leaving behind a legacy.

After graduating from Fordham University in 1968, Russell was looking to be a biology teacher. However, he landed a job as an English teacher instead at Groveton High School, the previous West Po-

tomac. He was soon on the journey of influencing the lives of thousands of his students to come.

"I just wanted to be some type of teacher, so I didn't mind becoming an English teacher instead," said Russell.

Alum Scott Surovell '89, current member of the Virginia House of Delegates representing the 44th District, and Russell's former student, has shared many fond memories in Russell's class.

"He was probably the coolest teacher I had at West Potomac," Surovell claimed.

Once, Russell required Surovell's class to teach a latin word. Surovell was assigned the latin root "phil." For his presentation, Surovell had the entire class sing "All We Need Is Love" by The Beatles and dubbed the word 'phil' every time The Beatles sang 'love.' Surovell recalled that the classroom lights were turned off and a device projected clovers, diamonds, hearts, and stars on the walls.

"He was emphatic that our presentation had to be memorable," re-

called Surovell. "Until I graduated, the members of that class called me 'Phil' Surovell and my classmates still remember it today 21 years later."

"By the way, I got a B+," said Surovell.

Russell is known throughout West Potomac for his laidback teaching style and a unique sense of fashion. It is not uncanny to see him walking around the halls with jogging pants, a t-shirt, and flip-flops on.

"I enjoy his laidback style very much. I don't think there is a 'casual' Friday in his book; it's casual every day," expressed junior Kelly Slatery jokingly.

"You wouldn't recognize him back then because he actually wore suits with ties. He wasn't always a casual dresser as students see him today," said Eaton, who has been Russell's student, colleague, and evaluator.

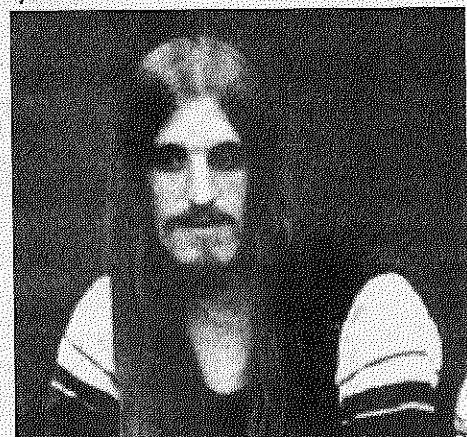
In addition to writing and fishing, Russell loves to travel. He plans to tour South America and Africa during his retirement. Russell also loves to play music and is looking forward to recording songs in his

personal recording studio at home.

"Mr. Russell has clearly touched thousands of children over the last 45 years and taught them how to write. While he projects a laidback demeanor, he is also clearly someone who has a passion helping children find and express their inner muse," said Surovell.

Junior Destiny Webb has enjoyed Russell's charismatic personality throughout the year. "His constructive feedback has helped me grow as a writer. I'm really gonna miss him."

Surovell added, "His presence at West Potomac High School will truly be missed."



Russell posing for the Groveton 1973-74 year book English department photo.



# Joseph & Erin

## Richards Conway



### What is your favorite memory?

E: We had to work really late one night and after we got off we went out to eat with our coworkers. Then I drove him home and we ended up just sitting in my car talking until like three in the morning, just getting to know each other.

J: There are too many great memories for me to name just one.

### What did you do together for Valentines Day?

E: We went sledding in the morning with his friend, and then that night he took me out to Landini Brothers for a late dinner. Afterwards, we went back to his house and watched a movie.

J: We went to a restaurant in Old Town and then we went home and watched some movies

### What is your favorite thing about the other person?

E: Not many people have the same sense of humor as I do, but he does, which is great because we are always making each other laugh.

J: Her sense of humor and how pretty she is.

### What is one thing you and Erin agree on?

J: We agree she is better looking than me.

### What is one thing you and Joseph disagree about?

E: He thinks he's better than me when we play pool, which is not true. I'm so much better. I have a pool table in my garage and I always win when we play.

### What was your first date?

E: We went to Noodles and Company, I think. I remember he made me laugh because we were getting up to go and he spilled his food all over the floor.

J: We went to the movies.

### What is the most challenging thing about being a senior in a relationship?

E: I think just worrying about college and not knowing where we are both going to be in the fall. We both applied to UMW, but we still don't know exactly where we are going.

J: Definitely deciding where to go to college.



## Passion for Fashion: Kaitlyn Crosby

Matavin Williams  
Reporter

As I was looking around the hallways one day, searching for a fashion muse, sophomore Kaitlyn Crosby caught my eye. As a true fashionista, she applies three types of style to her wardrobe: the "girly girl," "skater chic," and the "fan girl."

Kaitlyn says her personal girly style is "embodying what I feel girls represent. Elegance, beauty, and coolness!" The girly style is something I see in a lot of female students' ensembles. They wear tops in gorgeous and graphic prints and throw simple jackets over their outfits. Forever 21 carries a lot of clothing in this style with quite the selection of bags, tank tops, and jewelry. They have many pieces that would work for other styles as well, but Kaitlyn only shops

for her girly choices online. "I do most of my shopping online anyways. I even taught my parents how to shop online so all I have to do is send them my wish list." Kaitlyn manages to infuse her own personality into this classic girly style.

Kaitlyn also loves to work the skater chic style, and she proves that you don't necessarily need a talent for skateboarding to make it look good. "This style is similar to a male skateboarder but mine adds a feminine touch." The skater look was popularized in the '90s but there are slight influences



from the '80s as well. It isn't as popular now as it was in the early 2000s, but it's still relevant in the fashion world. "My go-to stores for skate clothes are DrJays.com and Tillys.com. With the skater look its not hard to look awesome but somehow everyone who wears it stands out in their own awesome way."

The third style Kaitlyn claims is an unusual one, even for fashionistas. "The fan style is considered new but people are really starting to recognize it. It is using your style to show off

something you like or love." Any shirt with a band on it, or a TV or movie reference can be considered part of the fan style. The store Hot Topic is a great shopping option because they have a great variety. "When I want to show off my love for 'Doctor Who,' I'll wear my shirt from Amazon, my TARDIS earrings, my lanyard that says 'bow ties are cool', and I'll keep my fake sonic screwdriver in my backpack."

Kaitlyn Crosby is the embodiment of the fashion trifecta. Her fabulous girly style makes all the fashionistas swoon in delight, her edgy yet feminine skater style is a look all her own, and her fan girl style shows she'll do whatever it takes to show that she's a "No. 1" fan.