

Seniors unleash the 13east

The Hype Squad is made official by their neon pink shirts and their undying school spirit



Amanda Parker

The Hype Squad cheers as the West Potomac football team makes a touchdown to win over Centreville 27-20.

Connor Phillips
Sports Editor

At school sporting events, student sections are identified by the unwavering energy they provide for their team. They cheer, dance, and show their spirit. Before this year the West Potomac's student section, always found in the last portion of the bleachers, was known for their lack of spirit. With a newly formed Hype Squad, however, the class of 2013 is changing the way West Potomac students support their school.

Formed over the summer through Facebook, seniors Alex Amico and Garrick Willis made sure that their class would improve the school's overall attitude at sporting events. Willis explains that a lack of school spirit from his peers was the motivation he and Amico needed to start the Hype Squad. Made up of mostly seniors, the group uses Facebook to communicate about events and plans for the Hype Squad.

Instead of reserving the Hype Squad for solely football and basketball games, the group intends to prove to the entire West Potomac community how much they support their peers by cheering on "every sport from football to volleyball to field hockey and golf, as well as all of the winter and spring sports," said Willis.

Although fall sports have just started, there have already been solid turnouts at games. On Thursday, August 30th, a large group of students traveled to Mt. Vernon High School to cheer on the Wolverines for their first football game of the season. The Battle of the Highway set a precedent for the volleyball game the following week, when dozens of students showed up for the home game against Hayfield.

The students can feel the change in the amount of spirit at West Potomac and have enjoyed this new atmosphere. Senior Karley Zdebski went as far as to describe the environment as "electric". Even administration has noticed the change. Athletic Director Aaron Helmick said he is "very impressed" and it is "good to see the school spirit."

Recognized by the hot pink "Unleash the 13east" shirts created by senior Wake Coulter and for their

enthusiasm on the sidelines and bleachers, the Hype Squad excites the players and gets other spectators involved.

From chanting "I believe that we will win!", "Let's go West Pot!" to athletes'

names, the constant roar from the Hype Squad helps to keep the players motivated throughout the game.

The football team's away game against South County was a complete success. The Hype Squad entered in a roaring caravan and continued to rave for the team all the way through their victory. This past Friday the 21st was just as amplified, however the outcome of the game was not as sweet. Despite the loss, the Hype Squad and other supporting fans will be traveling to Annandale tonight for another exciting game.

The Hype Squad looks to pass the torch once the class of 2013 graduates by getting underclassmen involved. The Hype Squad Facebook page is encouraging underclassmen to join the group and go to games. "We hope that we can start a tradition and pass [the Hype Squad] down to the class of 2014, who will pass it down to the class of 2015, etc", Willis said.

Teachers on strike

The teachers strike in Chicago ended in a compromise on Wednesday, September 19th.

Jayne Murray
Reporter

September 19, 2012 marks the first day of school for the 2012-2013 school year for the public school system of Chicago thanks to an agreement among the delegates of the teacher union and the Chicago school board.

This agreement came from a vote on Tuesday afternoon after the teachers-union agreed to call off their seven day strike. The teachers-union is made up of 800 delegates, all of which had an equal vote in the school boards compromise.

The overwhelming vote by the union's 800 delegates paves the way for Chicago Teachers Union (CTU's) entire membership to approve a contract in the coming weeks that will secure them a double-digit salary increase over the next three years, including raises for cost of living while maintaining other increases for experience and advanced education.

The CTU President, Karen Lewis, feels as though she claimed many victories in this strike. She argued that the union had successfully rejected Mayor Rahm Emanuel's attempts to institute merit pay, fought off more requirements in a new teacher evaluation system, and secured a recall policy for top-performing teachers who are laid off because of school closings. "We feel very positive about moving forward" Lewis commented.

In the agreement, Mayor Emanuel accomplished his main reform objective of lengthening what had been one of the nation's shortest school days and years. "This settlement is an honest compromise. It means returning our schools to their primary purpose: the education of our children" Mayor Emanuel said.

While the Mayor delivered his prepared remarks Tuesday night in the library of Walter Payton College Prep, he showed his frustration through a yearlong fight against the teachers union. That included directing city attorneys on Monday to file a lawsuit seeking an injunction that would send teachers back to school. A Cook County judge had set a hearing date for Wednesday, while waiting for the outcome of the union's vote.

Lewis and the union delegates said, "the potential for a judge to control their fate of their strike had no factor in Tuesday's decision."

Members of the union then explained that even though some teachers in their own schools still wanted to strike, the entire team made a decision to suspend the strike.



On Monday, Chicago's 26,000 public school teachers walked out of the classroom during their protest.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT: Oct. 9 for grades 9 and 10 at 7 p.m., Oct. 25 for grades 10 and 11 at 7 p.m.

FOOTBALL GAME @ ANNANDALE: be ready to cheer tonight, game starts at 7:30 p.m.

WALK FOR THE HOMELESS: October 26th during Wolverine Time. Get a form from Key Club or JROTC

EDITORIALS

Letter from the Editors-

By Laura Jacobs &
Leigh Orleans

With a new year, comes a new paper, new concepts, and a new staff. We are Laura and Leigh, this year's Editors-in-Chief of *The Wire*. For those of you who might not know, *The Wire* is a student run newspaper that is funded by donations and subscriptions. It is free to students and faculty, and is printed on a monthly basis.

As your Editors-in-Chief it is our responsibility to ensure that the paper is something that students are interested in and look forward to reading. Part of this process is considering the feedback we have received in past years and discussing how we can make changes for this year. Many of the comments we have received pertained to the lack of papers published during a year, and to the desire for greater event coverage. That is why we have decided to take *The Wire* somewhere it has never been before – online.

With our new online site, you will have access to the latest articles on a weekly basis, in addition to the physical paper that will continue to be passed out at lunches once a month. Having

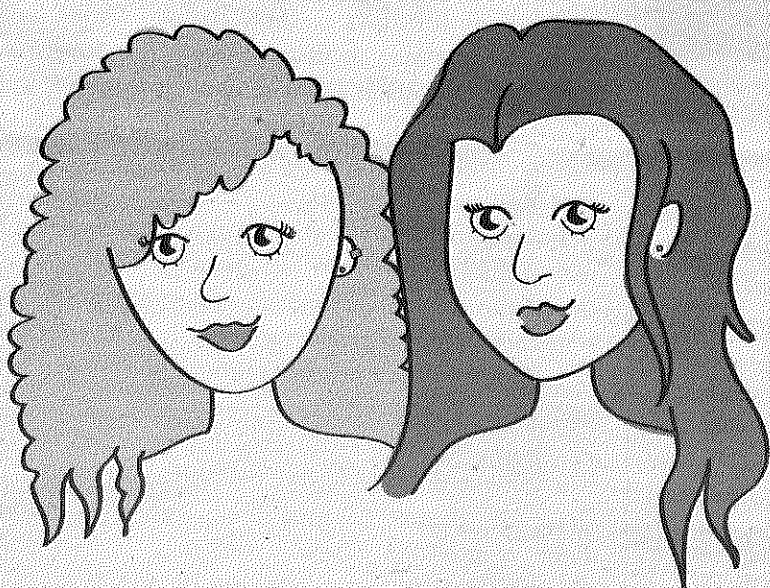
an online site allows us to cover more sports, plays, club meetings, and current events as they happen. Living in a world that is constantly changing and growing through advances in technology, it is important to keep up with the times. Not only will we be online, but the site is also optimized for mobile devices.

Our goal this year is to tailor topics towards things you, as our readers, are interested in. If you have any questions, comments or ideas pertaining to *The Wire*, please submit a letter to the editors at thewpwire@gmail.com or connect with us on Twitter at @thewpwire. Also, we welcome submissions of artwork, poems, riddles, and Op-Ed's. We would love to hear from you. Let the new school year begin.

Follow us on twitter @thewpwire to hear about any upcoming articles or issues.

Find online articles on our new webpage: www.thewpwire.com

-The Wire Editor-in-Chiefs



View from Above:

Alex Case, Assistant Principal-

The familiar moniker "excitement is intense" certainly comes to mind when asked to share and reflect on the 2012-2013 school year at West Potomac. This is particularly true with some of the changes underway this year. First and foremost, we are excited about the new faculty and staff that have joined the ranks of the experts and veterans that our students already know and love. Teachers worked throughout the summer to plan and ensure your lessons are engaging and exciting throughout the year.

To maximize your learning, a new focus on attendance was adopted by the faculty over the summer. Attendance was in fact the teachers' primary concern with students last year. After reviewing all policies and processes, a Dean of Students position was created to provide more timely feedback and redirection to students who commit attendance infractions. During our hall sweeps last spring, many students commented that it was frustrating that administrators were enforcing school rules that students had not been questioned for breaking earlier that year. Though it is never okay to break school rules, our Dean of Students, partnering with counselors and administrators, will now help us respond to attendance concerns early so that infractions do not pile up and lead to more severe consequences for any student. And, research is clear that attendance, not only student but also teacher, does impact learning.

Partnered with our focus on attendance are two additional changes—to lockers and our treatment of electronic devices in the hallways. Additional lockers were ordered this year and even seniors have been asked if they would like to make use of a locker this year. This is because with the focus on being on-time to

every class, everyday and our v to curb students leaving cam without permission, we can no ger allow students to use thei during the school day. While change may be unpopular, it help ensure a safe learning e ronment for all. If you still nea locker, please visit Student Servi

Most popular, our school is ognizing that you are 21st cen learners and so we have expan the privilege of using cell pho and electronic devices from in cafeteria to the cafeteria and hallways this year. So long as dents comply with teacher expetations for appropriate technology in their individual classrooms, the privilege will be extended all y long. Related, students will be vited by teachers to bring persona owned computing devices to th classes more and more this ye. Finally, you are strongly enco aged to register electronic devices the library to receive a certified V sticker and rights to our high-spe bandwidth and wireless netwo

At the end of the summer, stud leaders in the Student Governme Association (SGA) previewed the changes and discussed with teach ers and administrators efforts th are on-going to make West Potom school culture even more positiv enjoyable, and supportive. Stu tuned for news about our Renai sance Program which will repla ROAR, our old positive behavi support program, and the Wolverin After-School Comprehensive In tiative to help organize and ensu teachers are always available to yo Please do not hesitate to speak to m or any member of the administrativ team as we continue to make im provements to help you achieve yo graduation goals while enjoying yo high school experience to the fullest

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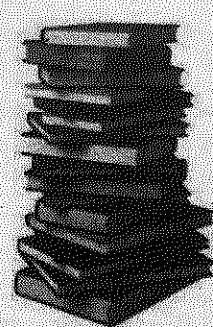
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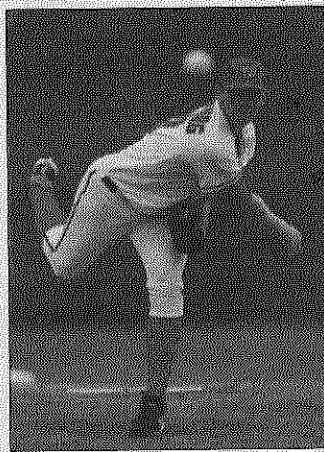
The Wire is currently seeking patrons for the 2010-2011 school year. As a patron, you will be helping us print our newspaper so that we can continue to distribute it to all the students, faculty, and staff free of charge.

As a patron of *The Wire*, your name will be published in every issue. If you are donating \$15 or more, you can opt to have *The Wire* mailed directly to your home as well.

Contact Thom Ingram at tsingram@fcps.edu

Playoff Baseball returns to the District

Jayme Murray & Josh Shelton
Reporter & Sports Editor



waiverwire.com

Strasburg pitches for the Washington Nationals.

that finished last place in the National League East five times in the previous seven years, this is an exceptional feat.

The Nationals are currently in sole possession of 1st Place in the National League East, with only 6 games left in the regular season. If they can keep it up, the Nationals will either host the Atlanta Braves or the St. Louis Cardinals in the playoffs.

This past offseason, the Nationals made significant moves to improve the overall quality of their team. They updated their starting rotation and bolstered their bullpen by adding starting pitchers Gio Gonzalez and Edwin Jackson in addition to adding reliever Michael Gonzalez. Gio Gonzalez is considered to be one of the best young pitchers in the game with a league leading 19 wins, while Jackson has plenty of playoff experience from playing with the St. Louis Cardinals, the 2011 World Series Champions. General

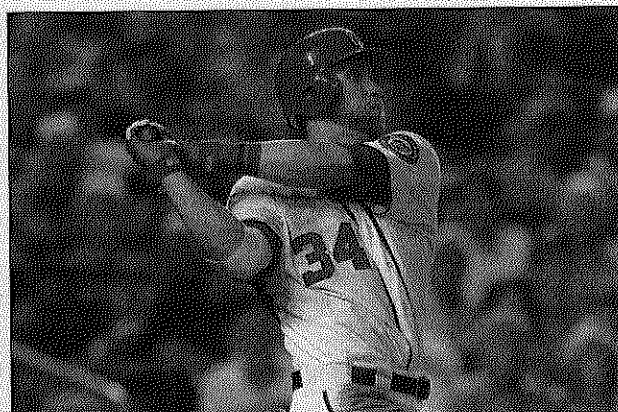
"Another curly 'W' is in the books for the Washington Nationals" is a phrase heard more often than not at Nationals Park as they continue to improve throughout the 2012 season. There is no doubt that this season the Nationals have exceeded fan and front office expectations earning their first play-

off berth since their return to Washington. For a team

Manager Mike Rizzo knew he had to sign a pitcher with playoff experience because it would pay off significantly later on.

The Nationals have also upgraded from within the organization. They have developed a strong farm system and transformed young players like Danny Espinosa and Ian Desmond into team leaders. Smart drafting has also lead to more talent young talent with the first round draft picks of the fireball pitcher Stephen Strasburg (2009) and teenage phenom Bryce Harper (2010). The organization has also strengthened its bullpen with key players like Tyler Clippard (30 saves) and Sean Burnett (team leading 2.49 ERA).

The Nationals, however, will be at a slight disadvantage because star pitcher Stephen Strasburg will not be competing with the Nationals in the playoffs. The team shut him down on September 8 after completing 159 1/2 innings. He underwent Tommy-John surgery and that caused him to miss nearly all of the 2011 season. The Nationals as a team, however, are confident in their play as a whole and will strive to play well in October despite the absence of Strasburg.



Patrick McDermott/Getty Images

Rookie Bryce Harper carries the Nationals to victory.

By the Numbers

10 Touchdowns scored by junior running back Demor-nay Pierson-El in the football team's first three games.

2 Members of the golf team are going to the regional tournament, Ben Levy and Greg Sniger.

1 Freshman on the varsity volleyball team, Annie Mason.



Craig Sterbutz

Pierson-El impresses crowd during SoCo game.

Young Stars Shine Bright in the Nation's Capital

Josh Shelton
Sports Editor

Two young players fresh out of college have been welcomed into our Nation's Capital and are performing above and beyond expectations. Bryce Harper and Robert Griffin III immediately became recognized as superstar athletes in their respective sports.

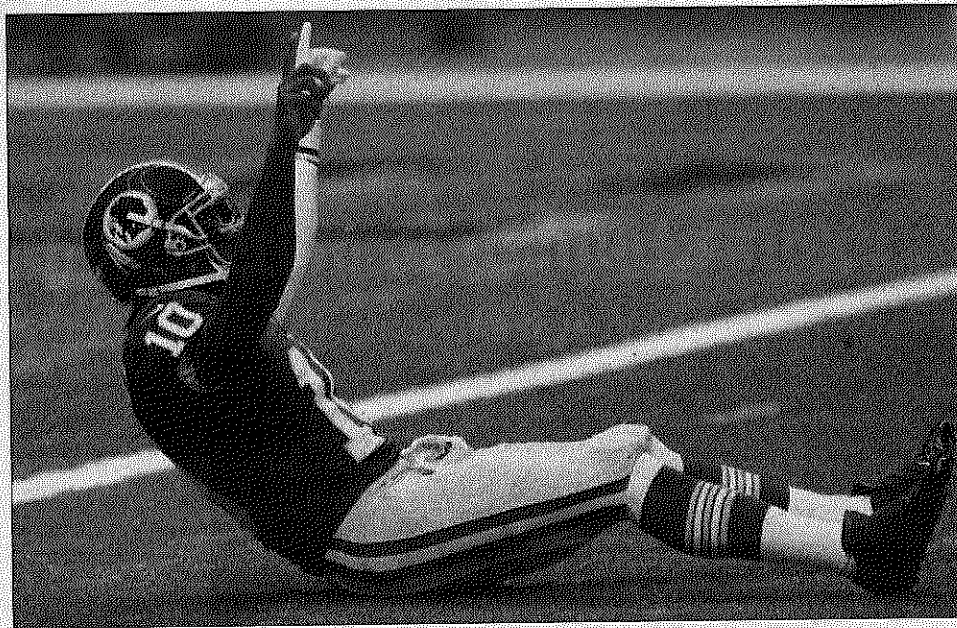
Bryce Harper has hit 19 home runs this year, surpassing Ken Griffey Jr. for most home runs as a teenager. He is arguably one of the greatest teens to play baseball with his powerful swing and determination to win.

"I really enjoy watching Harper play," said sophomore Aidan O'Connor. "He shows great love, respect for the game, and hustle on the field." There is no doubt that Harper leaves everything he has on the field. Harper has even said that the person that he puts the most pressure on is himself.

Robert Griffin III was a first round draft pick for the Redskins in 2012. The Heisman winner from Baylor may be just what the Redskins need to make the playoffs. He threw for 4,239 yards and 37 touchdowns and ran for

699 yards and 10 touchdowns. In perspective, the three starting quarterbacks for the 2012 Redskins combined for only 4,058 passing yards and only 19 passing touchdowns. Griffin also had more rushing yards than any running back on the Redskins and more rushing touchdowns than all Redskins running backs, combined. Naturally, he has been named this year's starter and every football fan is on the edge of their seat to see what he will accomplish this year.

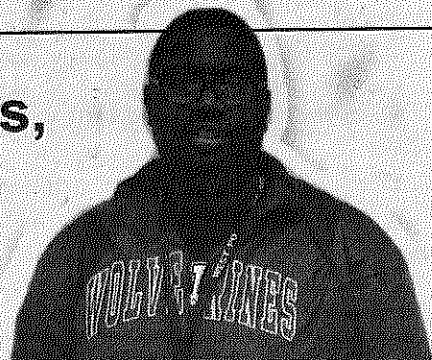
Griffin proved to the sports world that he was meant to be here with his stellar performance in the regular season opener. He completed 73% of his passes for 320 yards and 2 touchdowns while also running the ball 10 times for 42 yards. After his game, the other rookie prospect, Bryce Harper, tweeted this: "Congrats to @RGIII for a great start to his NFL career! It's great to have him here in DC! God bless and continued success!" Not only are these two representing DC, but they are also supporting each other.



Ronald Martinez/Getty Images

Griffin III celebrates his first touchdown pass in a game against the Saints.

Shout out to head football coach Jeremiah Davis, deemed "Coach of the Week" by the Washington Redskins. Congratulations! Go WP football!



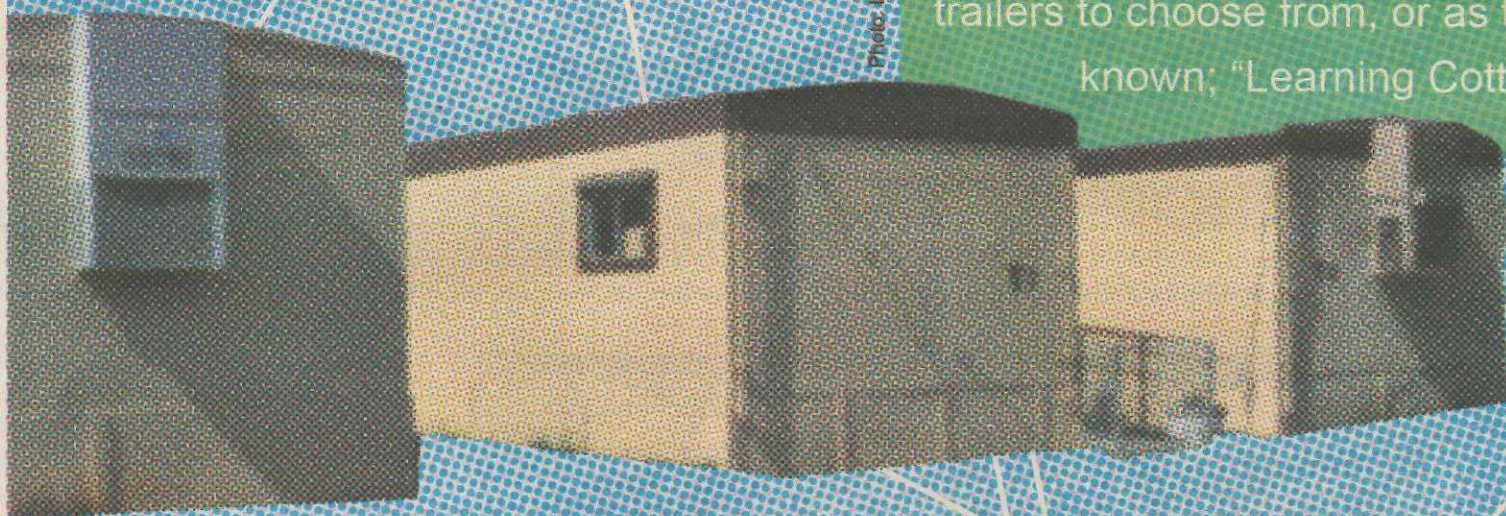
NEW AND IMPROVED

It's a fresh new year at West Potomac, and with a new year comes a myriad of updated policies, new rules, and needed changes put in place by the administration. Here are some of the countless new updates to expect this year.

TRAILER TRAFFIC

The trusty 6 trailers outside of Gunston have added two new members to the family, and now there are 8 trailers to choose from, or as they are officially known; "Learning Cottages".

Photo: Laila Fleischman



PARKING PROBLEMS

A new parking policy set in place by will deny students with serious attendance problems from the previous year from buying a parking spot. Also, security has been increased during lunchtime, so no more sneaking out in your car to grab a quick burrito. A rule has even been enforced that bars students from accessing their cars during school hours, so if you use your car as a locker, you'll have to rethink your storage strategy.

Photo: Laila Kelson



BRING THE CODE

Code came about because teachers, parents, and the school were concerned about cheating that has been the school without consequences. Once you break any of the rules it sets out, you may face suspension if it's your first offense. A second offense will be taken off any honor societies and has to be taken off any prior societies. The third offense is a recommendation for suspension along with the consequences mentioned. Don't break the code!

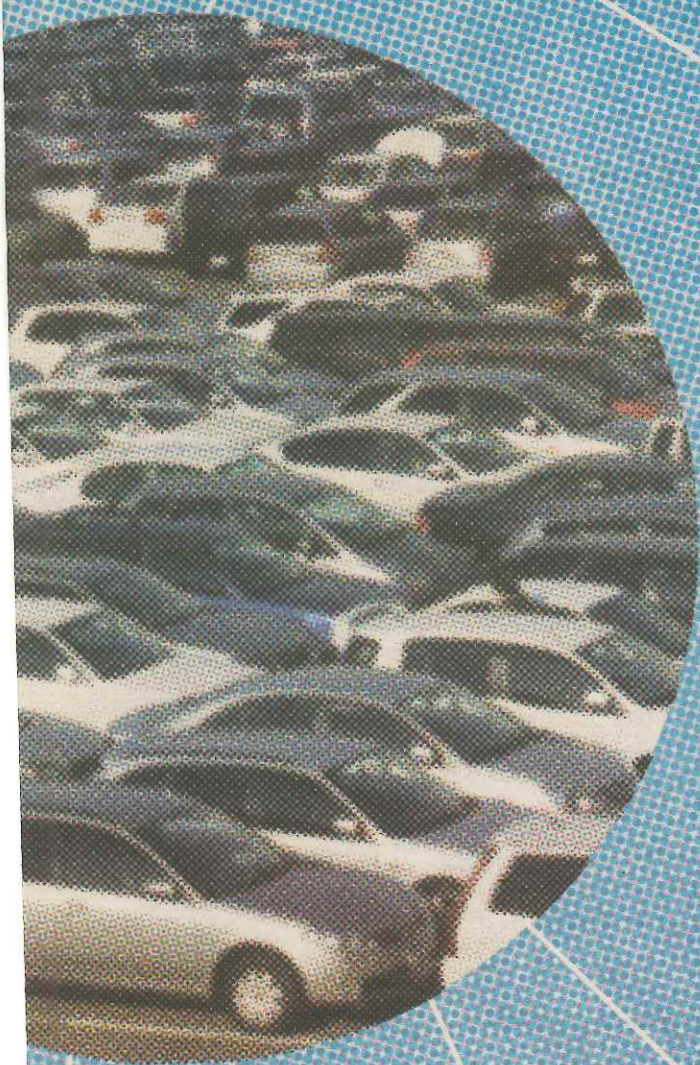


DEAN OF STUDENTS

The school has appointed a "Dean of Admissions." Ms. Gloria Robinson is here "to insure appropriate instruction and curriculum, attendance, and support the Assistant Principals." She stated that her complete focus will be on student attendance. She will be, "meeting with students and assigning detention(s) to students who had excessive tardies, unexcused absences, and class cuts." So if you're one to skip class, you may get introduced to Ms. Robinson the hard way.

GOODBYE A & B

The old routine of alternating between A and B days has been shattered, with their brand new names, Silver and Blue days. For the most part, teachers will most likely still refer to 'silver' and 'blue' days as 'A' and 'B' days.



STYLE

Fun for all ages

Sophia Spriggs
News Editor

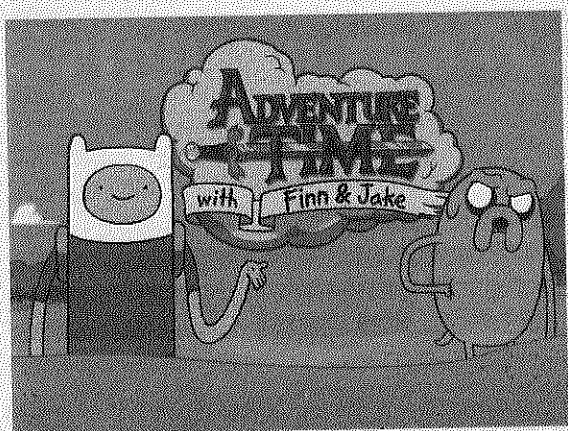
Sometimes the best way to relax is to go back to the things you enjoyed as a kid. The new hit children's cartoon "Adventure Time," on cartoon network, has captivated audiences of all ages. The main characters Jake-the-Dog and Finn-the-Human go through a series of adventures that are entertaining for children as well as young adults. But what is it that makes this show diversely popular?

As a child, watching cartoon television shows and movies, you are only able to enjoy the plot. Once viewers mature, they begin to recognize innuendos that are inappropriate for the oblivious young children. This tactic makes kid's programs more entertaining for adults who are viewing them with their children; a smart ploy to acquire a wider audience.

A similar method is used by the writers of Adventure Time. They use this tactic to make their show entertaining for a variety of audiences. For example, in one of the episodes there is a reference to "adult fun", a phrase a teenager might find amusing, but a child on the other hand, would not think twice about.

For many, Adventure Time is show which brings out their childlike side. Senior Emma Wright watches this show with her two younger siblings. Although their ages span over a nine year difference, they all enjoy watching the show together. "I think we all share a sense of quirkiness," Wright admits. "I like that we still watch cartoons together, it reminds me of how much I love them - their weirdness and all."

This new show instills a sense of childhood nostalgia to many students. With the burden of school work and other problems on the shoulders of many high schoolers, it is no wonder they turn to "kid shows" as a means of escaping their hectic lives.



Students of all ages watch Adventure Time with great enthusiasm.

The latest and greatest gadgets to get

Zach Day
Reporter

This year has been huge for technology. With the unveiling of the Samsung Galaxy S3, starting it all off, the new iPhone 5 and Windows 8 are following closely behind as people are trying to get their monies' worth in the technology industry.

The new iPhone 5 has attracted the attention of people everywhere. The new upgrade for the iPhone consists of great technological innovation. According to Apple.com, "it is thinner and lighter than any of the other models before."

If that was not enough, it has ultrafast wireless internet, downloads, and streaming, as well as an added A6 chip which makes the performance and graphics up to twice as fast.

The Apple Industry did not stop there. They designed a new camera that lets one shoot with panoramic views, as well as taking videos and photos. The phone also features the iOS 6 "the worlds most advanced mobile operating system," according to the Apple Industry.

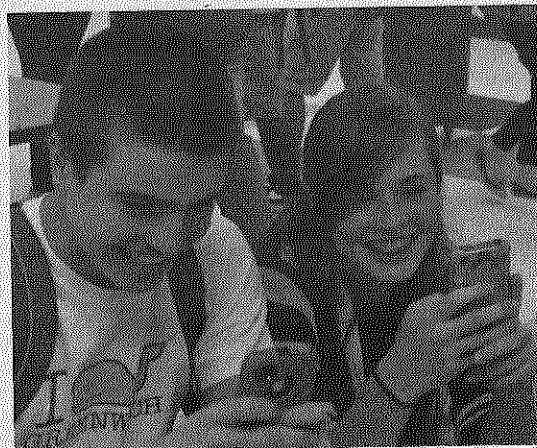
Walt Mossberg of the Wall Street Journal says "the iPhone 5 has only one drawback, which is the map app. It offers a severe lack of information, and is a step down from Google maps." Apart from that, Mossberg says this smartphone is an "excellent choice, and would recommend this phone to the general public."

The New Windows 8 features the HTC smartphones for the first time. This time, Windows 8 has gone to great lengths to get it launched as fast as an iPad. The company has also made sure to include tablets, along with computers, when they were upgrading.

This way a customer is able to get the best of both worlds. Microsoft says that this time "there is no com-

promise."

Lastly, there is the Samsung Galaxy S3. Like other smartphones, it has undergone some notable changes. It has made its screen much wider, averaging about 7.6 centimeters. It also has a removable battery, un-



Students Ward Anderson and Kylie McPherson enjoy spending time on the iPhone 4 during their lunch period.

like the iPhone. The improved pixel density results in sharper and clearer pictures.

One of the major criticisms though, is the back of the phone. It is a thin layer of plastic that covers the entire back half of the device making it really easy to crack.

It is also "not a device for small hands," says Trustedreviews.com. On a positive note, the Galaxy S3 is a huge step up from its predecessors, and according to some, is the best phone out to date.

As the years have gone by, technology has become ever more important in a high school student's life. It is good to know how much students use their phones, how much they need their phones, and what technology is the best to use. Senior Maddie Bolger states, "technology is a major part of our lives, and everyone wants what is fast and easiest".

Freshman Faye Javaudin pointed out that "having the newest technology makes life easier, and it is fun to have".

With all of these changes going on in the communication industry, it is clearly affecting customers.

of the biggest reason school students are fascinated by these phones, is because they want the new, best thing.

Along with this comes the pressure to buy these devices, so that one can be in the loop. However, high school students do not feel pressured, as they are content with the devices they have.

When asked if he felt pressure in getting the best device, sophomore Nicholson replied, "No at all." As for the up-freshman Jackson Kos says, "The new updates

ninitely improved the devices like them a lot."

There are also some who think that having the newest technology makes you stand out of the crowd. But, many students who already have smart phones feel that it does not make them "cooler" or "better" because a phone is a phone to their lives easier.

If one is looking to buy one of these phones, the Samsung Galaxy S3 has already been unveiled. It can be bought for 200 dollars. For the iPhone 5, it will be available in stores on September 21, and the price ranges from 650 to 850 dollars. Windows 8 will not be available until October 26, and the pricing will be anywhere from 100 to 1300 dollars.

There is always something coming around the corner. These gadgets are sure to leave a lasting impression for future advances in technology.

Students sink their teeth into the new production of Dracula

West Potomac's Theater Department hopes to put out the production of Dracula this November

Leila Fleischman
Reporter

Students of West Potomac are ecstatic about the drama club's upcoming play, Dracula. The story revolves around Count Dracula who wants to become a permanent resident of England. Dracula hires a lawyer and holds him hostage until Dracula becomes an official citizen of the country. The lawyer, however, escapes and Dracula seeks revenge.

The scary plot line was not the only thing shaking sophomore Emma Norville's nerves during her audition. "It was really nerve wracking and I felt intimidated and nervous around all the other actors. Once I did it, it was great to not have the burden on my shoulders. I think I did pretty well."

Her courage ultimately paid off, as Norville was cast as one of the main characters, Lucy.



Rehearsing diligently for the upcoming production of Dracula, Emma Norville and Alyssa Denton, practice their lines.

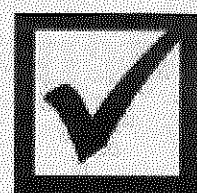
The rest of the cast includes Joe Quinn as Van Helsing, Pete Serle as Dracula, Eddie Perez as Renfield, Dan Evans as Sewerd, Ethan Lyon as Harker, Runner/Alex Toone as Waiters/Attendants, Norville as Lucy, Alyssa Denton as Mina, and McKeown, Kat Krammer, Delaney Clauser, Garay as Vixens.

This production will be performed on November 8th and 9th, at 7 p.m., and November 10th at 7 p.m. So, if a show is missed, than one will have many opportunities to see this West Potomac production.

The drama department hopes to see school support by student attendance at The Night of the Living Dead, A Monster Ball, and the spring production of Young Frankenstein.

West Potomac rocks the vote

Jayne Murray
Reporter



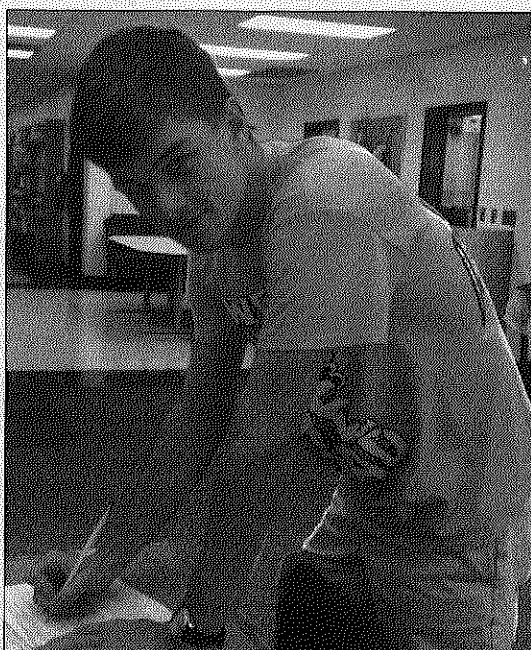
There is no doubt that the upcoming 2012 presidential election will be one of the closest in recent history. For some seniors, this will be the first year that they can vote.

The Republican candidate, Mitt Romney, is pro-life and believes in withdrawing the U.S. troops in Afghanistan as quickly as possible. Romney supports Reaganomics, the plan of cutting taxes in hopes of economic growth. If elected, Romney will initiate ten major actions on the first day of his presidency, consisting of five bills and five executive orders.

As far as the workforce percentage and unemployment rate are concerned, Romney plans to cut welfare benefits in order to help people go back to work. In fact, the current unemployment rate for teenagers is 24.6 percent.

Romney plans to deal with terrorism straight on by preventing any attacks using advanced intelligence work and state-of-the-art security measures. Romney wants to pass provisions that were used when he was a high school student.

His vision includes giving standardize testing to every student and giving our teachers with the best record and best scores the opportunity for advancement. Health care is a very tricky and awkward issue for presidential candidate Romney, essentially though,



John Hebert fills out his first voter's registration form

Romney is a supporter of universal health care.

On May 23, 2010, President Obama implemented his health care reform plan, formally known as the, "Patient Protection and Affordable Act". This plan requires all citizens to purchase healthcare insurance while it also pays health care for the individuals who

are unable to afford it.

President Obama also passed a stimulus package to help jump-start the U.S. economy in 2009. In the 2012 State of the Union address, President Obama stated that if you are making more than \$1 million dollars a year, than you are considered rich.

Obama prefers negotiating to make peace agreements with our enemies, rather than using arms. Obama ended the "don't ask, don't tell" policy in the military. This consists of homosexuals having the right to serve in the military.

Senior John Hebert said, "Neither candidate is perfect, but I'll be voting for Obama. I don't agree with him on all of his economic policies, but I support his stance on social issues and the concept of his health-care plan. No candidate can accomplish anything in just one term, so if we want to see any improvement in this country, we need to let him finish out a second term so he can follow through on the promises he campaigned on."

This 2012 presidential election marks the first time that the seniors can vote on national basis. Student voters have mixed feelings about who they are going to vote for, because they know this is election is going to come down to the wire and as of now, this election could go to either candidate.

To the left

Sophia Spriggs
News Editor

This will be a huge year for politically involved students at West Potomac, particularly members of the Young Democrats Club. With the election activity to come, the Young Democrats Club will be doing more than ever around our community.

The club is now asking themselves if they can pull it together in time to make a difference for the upcoming election.

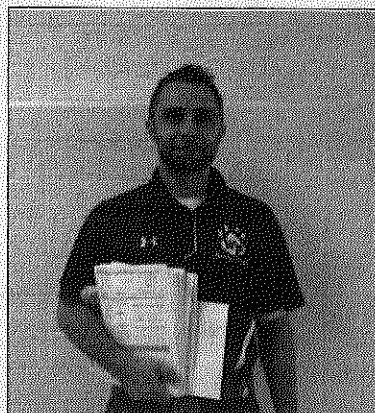
"Opportunity today, prosperity tomorrow; and it starts with education" These were the words of Julian Castro, Mayor of San Antonio and one of the speakers in this years National Democratic Convention. Castro's speech was powerful because he was able to convey the importance of investing in our education and showed that he promotes equal opportunity for all students.

He explained what could only be described as "the trickle up method." In other words, investing in the lower class childrens' education now, so that they can benefit the future in the form of more jobs and advanced technologies. In his speech, one of his main points was pertaining to the investment in education and how it can help the work force, our economic situation and even the environment.

This past year the Young Democrats Club has had trouble recruiting participants. The West Potomac population is broken down into three groups, the Democrats, the Republicans, and the majority of students who do not care either way. Students find it hard to focus on politics when they are consumed by constant school work.

West Potomac senior Meghan Mallon, commented that her family holds up democratic ideals and she would join the club if she had time. Mallon said, "Most students haven't even thought about voting yet because it just seems so far away," knowing that the majority of students are not even going to be of age to vote by the time of the election.

This year, according to the leadership of Young Democrats Club, will be a big year for politically involved students. The club hopes their changes will bring in more students to get involved and start caring about the upcoming election since it will affect students futures. The Young Democrats Club is also about deciding what ideals they agree or disagree with. The Young Democrats Club knows that being a youth is about developing personal opinions based on new experiences, and being involved in the election will do just that.



Mr. Fink is the Young Democrats Club sponsor and advisor

To the right

Zachary Day
Reporter

As the new school year is on its way, the Teenage Republicans Club is getting ready to pick up where they left off last spring, working to raise support for the Republican platform.

The Young Republicans Club is encouraging new members to join this year. The overarching goal is to help Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan, as well as other republican politicians, get elected into their respective offices this November.

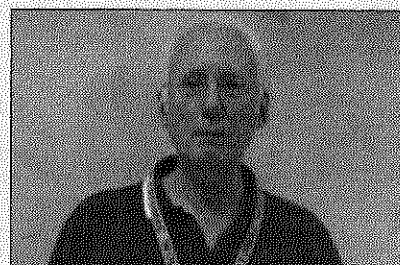
Mr. Dobson, the club's sponsor, and student leaders, Maddie Bolger, Alex Paros, and Shannon Hamer are working to organize meetings. They encourage anyone at West Potomac with Republican ideals to join the club. President, Maddie Bolger, is encouraging politically involved students to go to the meetings to learn more about their club. So far, fifteen people are planning to attend the club's first meeting.

Alex Paros likes getting involved in the club because "it makes me feel like I have a say in the upcoming election, even though I'm not old enough to vote." The Teenage Republican Club talks about volunteer opportunities, such as handing out flyers on election days, passing out stickers, and having Republican representatives come to talk at meetings.

As all eyes turn to the presidential election in November, the teenage republicans are making a huge effort as they try and raise support for Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan around the community. There is a lot of work to be done this fall, like making phone calls, going door to door handing out fliers, getting more members for the club, and gaining support for Mitt Romney.

The Teenage Republican Club activities consist of going on field trips to Washington D.C. and possibly being able to get into the Capitol building. Also, guest speakers will be scheduled to come in and speak in front of the club.

The Teenage Republicans Club has high hopes for this coming year. They are going to be busy for most of the fall and throughout the rest of school. For those who are interested in the Republican party, look into going to the clubs meetings this political season and rest of the year.



Mr. Dobson is the Republican Club's Sponsor and Advisor

Students obligated to sign the new honor code

Paola Flores
Reporter

Everyone has heard of the Honor Code but does anyone really understand its true meaning? An unfortunate problem that exists in schooling is the presence of cheating in the classroom and on homework. This has concerned parents, faculty, and students due to a lack of real consequences. Cheating can apply to tests, quizzes, research papers, labs or any other school work. Using universal codes in regards to cheating and plagiarism as well as punishments from previous school rules and other county's honor codes, the faculty and administration drafted the code we are to follow as students at West Potomac.

Moral values and high standards for oneself and classmates is the basis for a good education. By signing this form the student pledges to never plagiarize or cheat by giving out or receiving unauthorized information. Teachers are responsible for enforcing the honor code and making sure students have an understanding of what it is. If a student violates the code they will be written up and receive a consequence

depending on the violation and the student's history.

Ms. Bowdring, a faculty member who helped outline the Honor Code, stated "there is no reason for students not to follow the code and that it was created to promote a culture of academic integrity."

It is also good for parents to be informed and to attend meetings so they can play a part in making their children's education a positive experience. Parents should also talk to their child about the importance of being honest and having integrity. Students/Parents can get more information about the Honor Code on the school website or blackboard.

Bowdring says this will help

teachers have a better understanding of what is expected of them if a student is dishonest in his or her classroom. Once a student violates the honor code the teacher will follow the outlined procedures and document the situation. The case is then presented to the honor council which is made up of West Potomac teachers and peers. Finally, the student

must fill out a form explaining why he or she violated the code then will have to go up in front of the honor council and argue whether they are guilty or not, after hearing all sides and reviewing documentation the council will give the student their verdict.

The outcome of the verdict will decide the consequences. If a student is found guilty of violating the honor code they may resubmit an assignment if it is their first offense and this will be reported and kept on file by the honor council. A second time offense will remove said student from any honor societies and have to wait 12 months before they may reapply. A record of their violation will be placed in their discipline and academic record file. A third offender will receive a recommendation for suspension in addition to consequences stated for the second offense.

Once the student graduates from West Potomac the file will be destroyed and will not remain as a permanent mark against their academic achievement.

The code is here to help us as individuals learn to live by a code of honor and should be respected and adhered to. It can benefit us all to show good judgment throughout our years here at West Potomac and will

"The Honor Code was created to promote a culture of academic integrity."

RANTS & RAVES

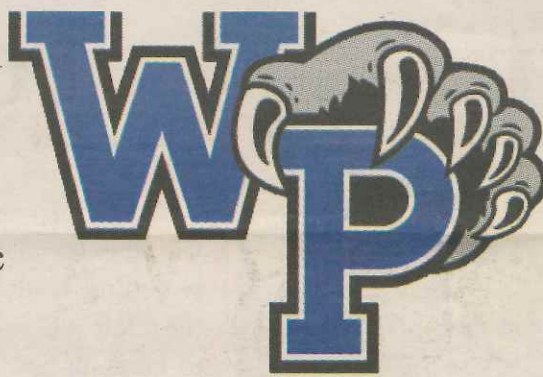
A **RANT** for snapchat glitches

A **RANT** for the NHL lockout

A **RANT** for new parking policy

A **RANT** for Quander Rd. traffic

A **RANT** for being sick



A **RAVE** for Coach Davis

A **RAVE** for the Hype Squad

A **RAVE** for fall television

A **RAVE** for RGIII

A **RAVE** for Student Voters

HOROSCOPES



LIBRA... September 23 - October 22

It is your time, be outgoing, make the first move.



SCORPIO... October 23 - November 21

There's a smile playing at the game of life



SAGITTARIUS... November 22 - December 21

Is it really worth it!



CAPRICORN... December 22 - January 19

Look at your life from the outside. Start from scratch, collect \$200, pass go.



AQUARIUS... January 20 - February 18

By thinking quietly today, you might speak without thinking.



PISCES... February 19 - March 20

You know that inside each task you're given is the exercise that improves your tomorrows.



ARIES... March 21 - April 19

Regrets?



TAURUS... April 20 - May 20

Turn your faults into assets.



GEMINI... May 21 - June 20

Don't hold back.



CANCER... June 21 - July 22

The pressure is off. Live life.



LEO... July 23 - August 22

Know your assets and share your confidences with others because you're feeling so rich within.



VIRGO... August 23 - September 22

Chill out. Be patient. Breathe.