

# The Oracle

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Student Newspaper Of Shaler Area High School

April 2019

## Shaler Area promoting Respect for All campaign

by James Engel

This April, Shaler Area School District launched a brand new program called “Respect For All”. While this phrase may sound common, this program brings a whole new set of plans to show respect at our schools and throughout our community.

“I was really thinking a lot in early September about the importance of respect, and especially about issues like diversity, ethnicity, gender and how we get along within the school district,” Superintendent Mr. Sean Aiken said.

One of the driving factors behind the development of the program was the shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Squirrel Hill. This event pushed Aiken and other staff members to help develop a way for students and the community to understand each other’s differences and respect them.

“I was really wrestling with this idea. I started talking to some people about it, then the Tree of Life situation happened and it really resonated with us. We thought we really had to teach the importance of respecting others and their beliefs,” Aiken said.

From there he began developing the program in more detail and started the Human Centered Design process that Shaler has implemented in recently.

“We went into that meeting with students, with teachers, with paraprofessionals, with everybody represented, all the stakeholders,” Aiken said.

After successful meetings of larger groups, and several thoughtful and creative ideas on how to promote respect, Aiken and several others cut down into a smaller group to decide the course of the program.

“We had to finalize, ‘what do we want this to be?’ Do we want this to be a video or a community event or a challenge? So the group of us determined that the challenge and the video could be collectively done together,” Aiken said.

From there, SATV was contacted about interviewing students about what they thought about respect and what respect entailed. SATV did not simply interview students at the high school, it talked to students from each school in the district.

**“It’s not what you say, it’s how you say it.”**

**“We learned about gratitude and humility – that other people had a hand in our success...and we were taught to value everyone’s contribution and treat everyone with respect.”**

**“There will always be a reason why you meet people. Either you need them to change your life or you’re the one that will change theirs.”**

**“Life’s most important question is, ‘what are you doing for others?’”**

**“Showing gratitude is one of the simplest yet most powerful things that humans can do for each other.”**

“We didn’t want to just interview high school students or middle school students, we wanted to get a wide range of student voices,” Aiken said.

The program not only includes videos for students to share their thoughts on respect, but also several challenges. The current challenge is “Over the next two weeks, say thank you or show gratitude to as many people as possible.”

Similar challenges will be launched throughout May, some with concurrent videos from SATV. The start dates for the remaining challenges are May 1, May 15, and May 29.

“But I don’t see this as some two-month campaign, but as a kickoff to something bigger down the

road,” Aiken said.

The team behind “Respect For All” doesn’t see this as “two months where we’re nice to each other” rather as a continuous campaign that will extend into next year and far into the future for the community of Shaler Area. There are even talks of a possible community event for the campaign.

Aiken and the designers of the “Respect For All” campaign are excited for the program’s future and are happy with the positive feedback they have already received. The team hopes to make this campaign a mainstay in future Shaler Area education.

“I believe this message of respect is critical for *everyone*,” Aiken said.

## Shaler Area sign on Mt. Royal Blvd. to be replaced



On the left is the current sign on Mt. Royal Blvd. On the right is a rendition of what the replacement will look like.

by Brandon Kurzawski

Driving along Mt. Royal Blvd by the Middle School, one will see an electronic ‘Shaler Area School District’ sign that is no longer functional. That sign is about to get an update and will no longer feature any electronic messaging.

The school district has been planning to replace the dilapidated sign for some time. The new sign will not have an electronic component and will no longer display messages, but instead it will simply read ‘Shaler Area School District Administrative Office’.

“The Shaler-North Hills Library has a digital sign less than 100 yards from this sign. We are able to partner with the township to share digital messages (on that sign). We didn’t see the need to have two digital signs in such close proximity,” Superintendent Mr. Sean Aiken said.

The school district hopes to have the new sign in place by graduation on June 7.

# OPINIONS

## A chance to rebuild history and unite the world

by James Engel

The construction of the Notre Dame de Paris began in 1163. That is 856 years that the cathedral has stood. It has seen the entirety of modern European history and more. King Louis VII was present when the first stones were laid in the French capital and the completed cathedral stood over the city during the short reign of Louis XVIII. This building is one of the few sites in the world that observed so much history that it became history itself.

The cathedral was being constructed when the Magna Carta was signed. It saw the beginning and end of the Black Death in Europe, it became a physical battleground for Catholics and Huguenots during the French Wars of Religion, the building survived its conversion into "The Temple of Reason" during the French Revolution, it stood as a symbol of hope for the Frenchmen of the First World War, and the cathedral stood as Germans raided its nave.

It is ironic and saddening to think that an accidental fire in the year 2019 could nearly destroy such a profound piece of history.

But hope is not lost. The fire is out; now it is time to rebuild. The cathedral may have survived these enormous conflicts from the past, but not without suffering its own wounds. It was



Fire rages at Notre Dame in Paris on April 15

repaired and rebuilt by talented architects and dedicated historians. A particularly fierce repair project followed the French Revolution, and another project must be started now.

This fire is only another wound that will heal. The fallen spire will be rebuilt and stand even grander than it

once did, and the roof will be rebuilt and again provide its sense of safety and grandeur. The spirits of the French and the world will be restored with the stones of the cathedral.

Several wealthy French businessmen have already donated millions to repair the building, but we cannot let

this become the billionaire's project. Men like Hébert and Momoro proved in 1793 that the Notre Dame de Paris truly is a place of the people. If you wish to donate, I recommend the non-profit Friends of Notre Dame, which has been taking care of the building for many years.

It was devastating to watch the spire fall on April 15. The shrieks and cries heard from Parisians were similar to New Yorkers on September 11. But just as New York quickly swept away the rubble and constructed the One World Trade Center, Paris must now repair its monument, and rebuild an even greater spire of pride.

And if there is an upside to this tragedy, it is the unifying feeling it has given the world. It was not only Frenchmen and Catholics who mourned the loss of history, but the world.

France has the support of nearly every nation in its rebuilding efforts, and just as the world was unified against the destruction of Palmyra in 2014, the world now is committed to raising this cathedral back up to glory.

The fire was a cruel moment in its history, but it has not met its end. We cannot forget about this piece of art after the next set of news flows in. It is too important for that. Notre Dame will rise again and continue to witness the history of the world.

## What we need is a student lounge area

by Brandon Kurzawski

Throughout the school day, there isn't much space available for students to collaborate with one another. We do have the library which students can go to during lunch periods and Study Hall, but with the increase of periods the library has been closed, it has become inconvenient for students to meet up during the day since access has been limited to the library. Currently, the high school does not have a student lounge, but devoting space for a student lounge would be beneficial to students and would eliminate issues involving the library being closed all the time.

A student lounge would enable students to meet up throughout the school day and collaborate with one another.

With a lounge, the library would be quieter since students would instead visit the lounge to interact with one another. Students who are tutoring in the library would be able to focus more as well with less background distractions around them.

However, the student lounge wouldn't be for every student. While every student would have the opportunity to visit, students must have their academic standings in order with at least a 2.5 GPA which would give students an incentive for doing well in school.

Like the library, a teacher or security guard would also need to be present during the school day to make sure students are acting appropriately. Just like the library, signing in and out of the lounge would also be required to keep track of everyone inside the lounge.

Students wouldn't have to worry about being quiet and interrupting someone else's academic studies since the lounge would be a recreational place for students.

The library does have some extra space, so the library could be condensed into a smaller area and walls can be built to section off the new student lounge. Then, students would be able to interact with one another without interrupting a class that is in the library or someone who is trying to actually do their work. By

## The spring season parking crunch highlights need for new parking ideas

by Julia Falgione

Getting into school should not be as hard as it is. We all don't want to be here anyways. The most frustrating thing is coming to school and seeing that there are no more spots left in the parking lot, but there are a lot of spots left in the front of the school and an empty lot next to the tennis courts.

In the beginning of the year, all students with a parking pass were able to get here at 7:05 and still be able to obtain a parking spot.

I cannot imagine how frustrating it is for the seniors now that all of us juniors got our licenses as the year went on and now no one can get a spot unless they are here at about 6:50.

It is very stressful coming into the parking lot seeing so many spots taken at such an early time. If there are no more spots left then you have to make the shameful lap around the parking lot while everyone watches you have the slightest

hope there will be one spot left.

Once you accept the fact that there are no more spots, we are forced to park at Matulevic. The walk down is terrible, especially in cold weather. And do not even get me started on the rocky trail on the way down.

The walk also takes a long time as well and it causes kids all the time to be late even though they were on time to school.

There should be a different place where we can park closer to the school or leave the doors unlocked behind the school for longer than usual so kids will not be late because they have to walk to the front of the school.

There should be a raffle or some type of opportunity for kids with parking passes to be able to get to park in the front of the school. It could be a fundraiser and it would make some kids happy. The parking situation is very frustrating for all the students who do not get a spot in the tennis court lot.

### The Oracle

Staff: . . . . . Stephen Adametz, Brett Briselli, James Engel, Julia Falgione, Brandon Kurzawski, Eddie Sheets

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The Oracle is the official student newspaper of Shaler Area High School. Although it is published by the journalism classes, one does not have to be enrolled in a class to contribute. Opinions expressed in The Oracle are those of the individual writers. Letters to the Editor are encouraged and welcome. Any letter intended for publication must be signed, but names will be withheld upon request. Articles and letters may be mailed to the high school (ATTN: The Oracle) or emailed to oracle@sasd.k12.pa.us.

The Oracle reserves the right to condense or omit any letters or articles unfit for publication.

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# Netanyahu wins, Israeli politics shift farther to the right

by James Engel

On April 9, Benjamin Netanyahu won a 5th term as the Prime Minister of Israel. This victory came after a very contentious and important race for the State of Israel, and the closest in its history.

Israel does not hold direct federal elections of its highest leader as the United States does with the office of the president. Instead, it operates in a parliamentary fashion, holding elections for its legislative house, the Knesset. The leader of the party holding the most seats in the Knesset is then generally given the office of Prime Minister.

In this year's case Netanyahu's Likud Party just barely pulled out a victory by one seat in the Knesset over the next nearest party.

The next nearest party was the Blue and White Alliance, a new moderate group, that sought to dethrone Netanyahu as he and his Likud constituents ease further and further to the right on the political spectrum.

Israel, throughout its history, has been in conflict with its Arab neighbors and its own Arab citizens. Lately, Netanyahu has alluded to the idea of a solely Jewish state.

"Israel is not a state of all its citizens. According to the nation-state law we passed, Israel is the nation of the Jewish people- and not anyone else," Netanyahu said in response to an Arab party's demand for equal rights in Israel.

Last year, Donald Trump officially recognized the Golan Heights, a territory Israel claimed after a previous conflict with Syria, as belonging to Israel.

When a reporter from a Jerusalem news station asked Netanyahu why he did not press Trump to recognize larger swaths of Palestinian land like the Gaza Strip or the Western Bank as Israeli, he simply responded, "Wait until next term."

Comments like these as well as the three counts of corruption Netanyahu is charged with were the primary reasons for the formation of the Blue and White Alliance.

The leaders of the Alliance are several former Israeli Defense Force generals, namely Benny Gantz, who became the figurehead of the new party.

Gantz ran a very effective campaign, making sure to distance himself from Israel's left, who have been seen as weak regarding renewed conflicts in Gaza with its Arab citizens. He placed himself firmly in the center-right of the political spectrum.

Gantz also made several appeals to far right orthodox Jewish parties to join his cause, admitting that he was willing to work with them to form the new government of Israel, but ultimately these olive branches were fruitless.

On election day it became very clear that this election was going to be close. Exit polls had the parties neck and neck, and by the end of April 9th both sides had claimed victory.

There was much confusion regarding the outcome of the election, but April 10 brought some answers to the voters. It seemed Netanyahu was slightly edging out Gantz in their tie of 35 seats each. By the end of the day one final 36th seat was awarded to the Likud party, and Netanyahu's fifth term was secured.

This election, depending on Israeli viewpoints, was an affirmation of strength or a dive into the increasing worldwide trend of far right politics.

If Netanyahu fulfills his promises of further annexation of Palestinian territory, this could spell disaster diplomatically, and reignite a lately semi-dormant conflict between Israel and its neighboring nations.

But simply looking at the state of the bordering countries that may be angered by more annexations, Arabs in contested regions shouldn't expect much help.



Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

Israel's neighbor Syria is currently involved in a multi-faction civil war. Iraq, to the east, has been in a general state of lawlessness since its war on ISIS began. Jordan, to the southeast, has historically kept out of conflict with Israel and remained a neutral power. The only possibly hostile nation is Egypt, but it is not likely they would be willing to face Israel alone.

Netanyahu will face a much larger oppositional force in the Knesset in his fifth term, much more than he has ever faced, but he still holds a strong majority, assuming he builds his government alongside the far right Orthodox parties Gantz attempted to gain.

Although Netanyahu will face a more significant opposition at home, who will attempt to push the corruption charges to the top of the agenda, it seems the five-time Prime Minister will have all tools he needs to enact the legislation and actions the Likuds would like to see.

With American support from Donald Trump and weakened neighbors it seems Benjamin Netanyahu has the Holy Land locked down once again.

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# Oracle out to eat: Hartwood and Route 8 BBQ

by Stephen Adametz, James Engel, Julia Falgione and Eddie Sheets

The Hartwood Restaurant lies a couple minutes from the park itself and is a perfect getaway for those individuals with a little extra cash in their wallets. A bit on the pricey side, but a restaurant that offers good food and a comfortable atmosphere nonetheless. Upon entering the restaurant one will notice the vast array of books and the environment feels somehow eloquent yet relaxed at the same time. The food itself is exquisite. Would recommend for those occasions that warrant a celebration. The following is a collection of food reviews by *The Oracle* staff.



**Eddie- Cottage Pie and Tuscan White Bean and Greens Soup**

The Hartwood Cottage Pie: British fare may have a reputation for being bland, but it would be extremely unfair to classify the cottage pie from The Hartwood Restaurant as anything but extraordinary. High quality sirloin beef was used as opposed to modest ground beef, the vegetables were fresh, and the pie was topped with a cheese that blended well with the mashed potatoes. A reputable dish from the restaurant. If unsure of what to get at the Hartwood Restaurant, the cottage pie is a safe bet.

Tuscan White Bean and Greens Soup: Perfect as an appetizer, this is a grade above your average soup. Topped with an oil and herbs concoction, the Tuscan white bean and greens soup is a savory and satisfying addition to help complete any meal at the Hartwood Restaurant. Would personally recommend to any soup fanatics out there.

**James- Filet Mignon with Mashed Potatoes**

Filet Mignon: I ordered this steak medium well, and it came out exactly how I like it. This steak was tender and enjoyable. It had the savory umami taste you'd expect from any red meat, and yet was cooked well enough to be bearable eating. The sweet olive sauce that is placed on top of this steak is its only downside, I don't believe it compliments the meat very well, but it can easily be scraped off and cast aside. The ultimate treat of this platter is the bacon placed as a topping on the Filet Mignon. It is by far the best bacon I've ever tasted. It has the scrumptious tastes associated with store bought bacon, but amplified much more. I advise picking the individual pieces off to be enjoyed separate from the steak. Overall, this meal is hearty and delicious, and if you are willing to treat yourself, I advise the Filet Mignon.

**Stephen- Salmon Sandwich and French Fries**

One of the cheaper options on Hartwood's menu, the salmon fish sandwich is a healthy and tasteful option. The salmon, which can be grilled to your choosing, is surprisingly good for a restaurant not solely focused on fish. Even if you don't want to eat it on the brioche bun as a sandwich, it is still very good.

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The Route 8 BBQ is located, of course, on Route 8 near the BP gas station and in the location of the former Spadafora and Wild Sage. It serves a variety of foods, but obviously is focused on barbecued meats and American style foods. Three members of the *The Oracle* staff ventured to this local restaurant to taste what the Route 8 BBQ had to offer.



**Stephen -- Pulled Pork with Mac and Cheese and Fried baked Potato Bites \$17.66**

Pulled Pork-Although it may not have lived up to its promise as being the "best in the burgh," it was still pretty good for pulled pork. Mac and Cheese-Nothing can beat my mom's homemade macaroni and cheese, but Route 8's BBQ was better than most macaroni and cheese dishes I will get out at restaurants. Fried Baked Potato Bites- Route 8 BBQ's version of french fries, the baked potato bites were by far the best thing I ate. The baked potato cut into cubes, fried, and seasoned, were one to compete with fries from restaurants like Burgatory and Five Guys.

**Eddie -- Meat Lover's Burger with Smoked Brisket and House Bacon with a side of Baked Beans \$15**

The burger was very meat-packed. With the burger itself, the brisket, and the bacon it appeared to be about a pound of meat between two buns. This burger is not for the faint of heart, just like meat-lover's pizza requires a strong appetite. My burger was well-done, the way I like it. The meat was tender and the brisket seasoned appropriately. As for the beans, they were well above satisfactory. Overall, I would recommend the restaurant, but like any other eating establishment, the experience greatly depends on the option chosen by the customer.

**James -- Ribs- Half Rack: \$15/ Full Rack: \$25**

The meat was very tender, if a bit chewy, and had some flavor. A common criticism of some ribs elsewhere is of tastelessness, but the meat had some tender umami flavor packed in it. The ribs did not quite fall off of the bone, but the bones were easy to maneuver around, and I never had much difficulty with them. The meat was cooked well, but not quite to the extent that I like, they were a bit too chewy and could've been cooked slightly more, but overall were satisfactory and enjoyable.

The Sauces- This is where the Route 8 BBQ falters. If you eat barbecue for

Cont on page 5

THE GRID		Animated character you wish you could date?	My advice for anyone that is paying attention is....	I can't believe	Best place to get pizza?	Animal you wish you could have as a pet?
<b>Freshman Amber McKaveney</b>		SpongeBob 	Everything happens for a reason	The amount of technology we have	Pasquale's 	baby pig 
<b>Sophomore Hannah Whitfield</b>		Dimitri from Anastasia 	Live life to your fullest	Balsomico shaved his mustache	Sam's Club 	Capybara 
<b>Junior Alex Almonte</b>		Moto Moto 	It's okay to cry during class	Mr. and Mrs. T are naming their baby Kettle	Domino's	Golden Retriever
<b>Senior Seth Malsch</b>		Starfire from Teen Titans 	Pugs not drugs	Antivaxxers	DiGiorno 	Grizzly Bear 
<b>Faculty Mr. McCall</b>		None, I'm happily married.	Start saving for retirement early and don't overpay for college	I'm almost 40	Three C's Pizza in West Sunbury, PA	Sasquatch 

# Hartwood Rt 8 BBQ

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from page 4

Although you can pick from an array of side dishes, the french fries are ones you don't want to pass up. Hand cut from real potatoes in the restaurant, they are tastefully seasoned. Even as the most basic item on the menu, it's taste reflects the rest of this high-end and delicious restaurant.

## Julia- Mahi Mahi and Crab and Shrimp Wontons

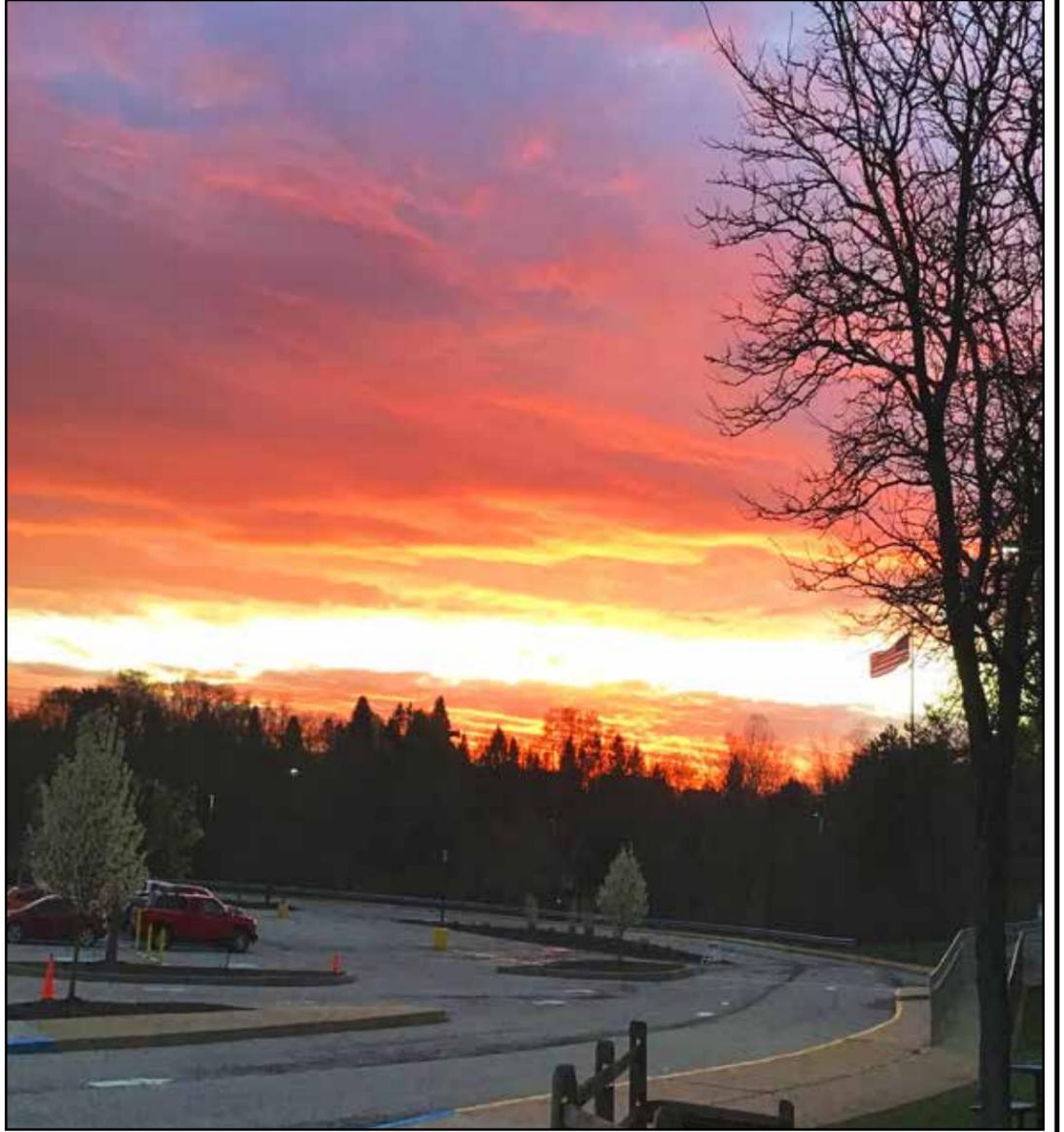
**Shrimp Wontons:** The wontons have an amazing crunchy shell that is filled with tender, beautifully seasoned shrimp. The best part of the dish definitely had to be the amazing Thai Sweet Chili sauce that they include on top of the wontons. The dish is also complimented by the sesame seeds and scallions the chef uses as garnish.

**Mahi Mahi and Crab:** Both the Mahi and the Crab were the most tender and flavorful seafood I ever had. The dish comes with rice pilaf and a side of your choice. I chose ginger cauliflower and carrots which were very good. The cauliflower was not too hard but not too soft either and the ginger taste of the shaved carrots compliments the usual bland flavor of cauliflower.

the sauce, this place may not be your speed. There was six sauces to choose from, none of which I would call "good". The sauces were simply too watery or foreign to be enjoyed on ribs. The "Black Jack Bourbon" was okay, and provided the original barbecued taste you'd expect, except watered down. The "Alabama White" was a white sauce that tasted like horseradish and ranch dressing, and did not compliment my ribs. The "Carolina Mustard" was essentially that, Mustard, which does not pair well with barbecue. The "Seasoanal Fruit Q" tasted like chunky crushed up fruit on meat, not very good.

I swear the "ACV Moppin' Sauce" was just spiced vinegar because it came out with the consistency of water and wouldn't stay on your ribs even if it did taste good. And finally the "Rancho Rednecko" was fine, but tasted like a hotter version of the previously stated "Black Jack Bourbon". Overall, I'm confused as to why they'd pair barbecue with those types of sauces, and advise you stay away from almost everything but the original.

# Dawn of a new day



The sun rises at the high school illuminating the sky.

# Davis turns time with dad into a career

by Julia Falgione

Mr. Brian Davis was born in November 1970 in Washington D.C., where his father was stationed for service. When Davis was younger, he would always be working on things with his father.

"My dad worked with his dad and his dad worked with his dad, it was just a generational thing."

Around the age of 12, Davis was helping his father replace things like brakes and fixing cars.

"I was out there handing him what he needs, watching what he did and finding the tools he needed to use," explained Davis.

He also helped his father dig up and repair the septic system in his yard since his family lived in a remote area and his home was not tied into a sewage system.

During high school and college, Davis and his father built foundations for sheds built by local Amish.

"Dad had so much stuff, he needed more sheds. Now he has three or four sheds that we built the bases for," he said.

The experiences of creating things with his father sparked interest for Davis in the engineering field. His aspirations were to pursue an engineering degree after high school.

"I wanted to become an engineer because I was really good in math and science and it was a really broad technical career."

Many people, including his fa-



The Davis Family

ther, explained how engineering could provide many opportunities for someone who was not only good at the technical aspect of engineering but also working with people.

"If you were to be able to work with people and open a door to a business, not only would they see the hard program that you succeeded at but also that you were good with people, you would move up in the company."

During his sophomore year in college, he realized he didn't truly understand what engineering was.

"I didn't want to work with a product; I wanted to work with people because that's what fit my personality."

His parents wanted him to make

sure he just wasn't switching majors on a whim.

"They told me to research: talk to teachers and talk to engineers. That's what I did."

In 1993, he got his job at Shaler Area High School as a physics teacher. Later he took a leave of absence to teach in Paraguay in South America. He taught many courses there because of a lack of other teachers.

"In Paraguay, I taught a total of six courses a day and graduated about 14 kids."

His first weekend in Paraguay changed his life forever when he met his future wife. He took a bus to a church that his sister attended which was about 45 minutes away.

"When I left the church I was greeted by my wife, she said in English, 'Welcome to our country.'"

They were friends at first and then dated for a while. They came back to the United States and got married. Davis then decided to go back to Paraguay to get married again in front of his wife's family.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis now have four children, whom all have "internet names" to keep their privacy on Davis' YouTube channel and Twitter. Their internet names are "The-Boy", "LittleBoy", "BabyGirl" and "Mouse."

Mr. Davis' new goal in teaching is to reduce the math in physics to make it more accessible. He says on his Google site, "a motivated 7th grader can do it."

# Student Lounge

from page 2

doing this, socializing would no longer be an issue in the current library.

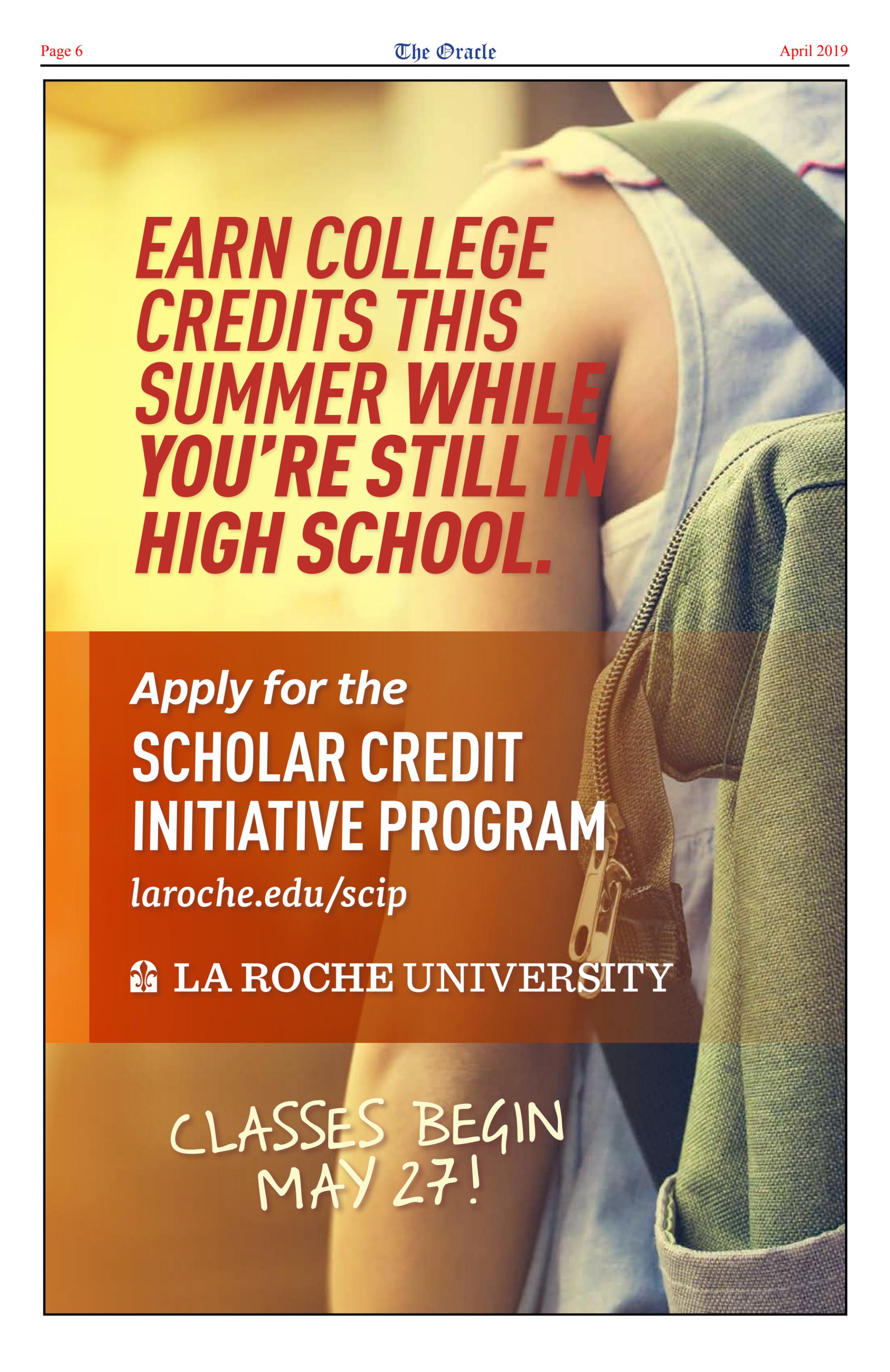
Students that don't want to be in the crazy cafeteria during a lunch period would also benefit since they would be allowed access to the lounge. Lunches would also be allowed in the lounge for any student that does not have a lunch period.

Vending machines would be located inside the lounge as well for any student that gets hungry during the day rather than having to visit the Activities Office in between periods. More vending machines would also benefit the school with more profits coming in from the machines.

Games could also be available for students at the lounge for the entertainment of students rather than just sitting on their phones the whole time. For students that are stuck sitting in a study hall with nothing to do, this could increase social interaction among students during the school day.

The GATE room allows for students enrolled in the GATE program to meet up during the school day, so what would be wrong with having a space open to all students? It is almost as though they have their own student lounge, expect these students are rewarded with their own space to interact with each other.

The overall vision of the student lounge is a place for students to be able to interact with one another during their free periods. Students would be able to talk without having to worry about others around them. A student lounge would be beneficial for the student body and is a great idea for students to utilize during and potentially after the school day if a club or group of students wanted to hang out.

A photograph of a student from behind, wearing a white tank top and a green backpack. The student is carrying a green jacket over their shoulder. The background is a bright, sunny outdoor setting.

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# Bowlers complete season of success



by Julia Falgione

The Shaler Area Girls Varsity Bowling team finished their season as co-champions with an overall record of 9-1. The Boys Varsity Bowling team had an overall record of 5-5.

The season, for the girls, started off with a win against Butler, which many of the girls said was a turning point for them as a team.

“A team that was undefeated last season and won WPIBL championships and regionals,” Bella Pilyih, captain of the team said. “This set up our confidence for the rest of the season.”

The girls made it to playoffs with their impressive record. For the first round of playoffs,

they placed second out of eighteen teams.

“Going in we were one of the middle-averaging teams. The team bowled extremely well and we placed second after all three games, beating out teams that had much higher averages going into the event,” Pilyih said.

They had to play additional baker games to determine who was to place first, second and third

“A baker game is where there are five people and each person on the team bowls a frame,” Ella Richards said.

There were three bowlers who qualified for the singles event: Shannon Roche, Macey Prosser, and Bella Pilyih.

“We all qualified for singles regionals. At regionals, the team definitely struggled and did not do as well as we hoped,” Pilyih said.

The girls did tremendously well and built a team that could succeed in a section with many talented teams.

“The team has exceeded expectations for being a group filled with all the girls, except one, having only a year or two of bowling experience. Our season was outstanding and it will only set us up for success next year,” said Pilyih.

# Return of the Titans



For the first time since 2012, the boys' basketball team won a WPIAL playoff game. After five consecutive seasons of losing more games than they won, the Titans finished third in their section and defeated McKeesport 76-60 in the first round of the playoffs before losing to section rival and eventual WPIAL champion Mars. The team finished with a record of 16-9. Junior Mekhi Reynolds (pictured above), who scored 25 points in the playoff victory against McKeesport, was named to the All-Section team by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. (Mike Darnay)

# Young swimmers lay the foundation for future success

by Eddie Sheets

For swimmers getting up at 4:30 a.m. to dive into a chilly pool for morning practice is a reality. The sport has a reputation for being time consuming, but at the end of the season there is a payoff. The WPIAL championships are an amazing experience. Sore quads and shoulders to many swimmers is a small price to pay for making it to WPIALS.

This past year there was a large amount of participation on the Shaler Area swim team, which had 38 members. The season was not marked by any swimmers making it to States.

The season was, however, by most measures, a success. Four individuals, Justin Adametz, Stephen Adametz, Jenna Stanton, and Lydia Nebiola earned a spot to swim individual events at WPIAL championships.

Freshmen Jake Bacasa and Isabella Cercone displayed great potential, both making the journey to the Trees Hall at Pitt for WPIALS. Sophomore Justin Adametz made the WPIAL cuts for two individual events: the 100-yard butterfly and 100-yard backstroke, and 3 relays: the 200-yard medley, the 200-yard freestyle, and the 400-yard freestyle respectively. Sophomore Lydia Nebiola earned a spot at WPIAL championships for the individual events of the 500 and 200-yard freestyle.

A new school record for the girls 200-yard freestyle relay was made at Last Ditch at North Allegheny Senior High School. The relay members- junior Jenna Stanton, junior Olivia Dibon, Nebiola, and Cercone- were all underclassmen. Sophomore Peter Lesnett swam a 50.42 at WPIALS in his part of the 400-yard freestyle relay and Stanton set the girls' record in the 100 butterfly.

At WPIALS, in addition to Lesnett's speedy split in the 400-yard freestyle relay, the girls relay teams fared well in the 200-yard medley and 200-yard freestyle. The boys placed in the 400-yard freestyle relay, finishing 15th overall. Stanton placed 12th in the 100-yard butterfly. While only a small portion of the team made it to WPIALS, the underclassmen who did are likely to have some amazing races and times in the future.

Next year there will probably be no senior boys on the team, but there will be some seriously fast underclassmen.

“I still have two more seasons. I am hoping to break some records,” said Nebiola.

# Bocce qualifies for state championships



The Shaler Area Bocce team poses for a picture at the state championships.

by Brett Briselli

The Shaler Area Bocce team competed in both the county and state championships this year. The team consists of special education students and regular students. Jimmy Bernick is the assistant coach and Gina Chmielewski is the head coach.

The Bocce team is part of the Special Olympics. The team ended up with a winning record of 2-1 after the regular season.

Montour was the 1st opponent and Shaler beat them by a score of 2-1. Then the Titans had their first and only home game against Moon and got a 4-2 victory.

Shaler had a crowd of over 100 students in attendance for the game against Moon.

“It was nice to win in front of our home crowd,” Chmielewski said.

The team did end up losing to Hampton in

their final game of the season.

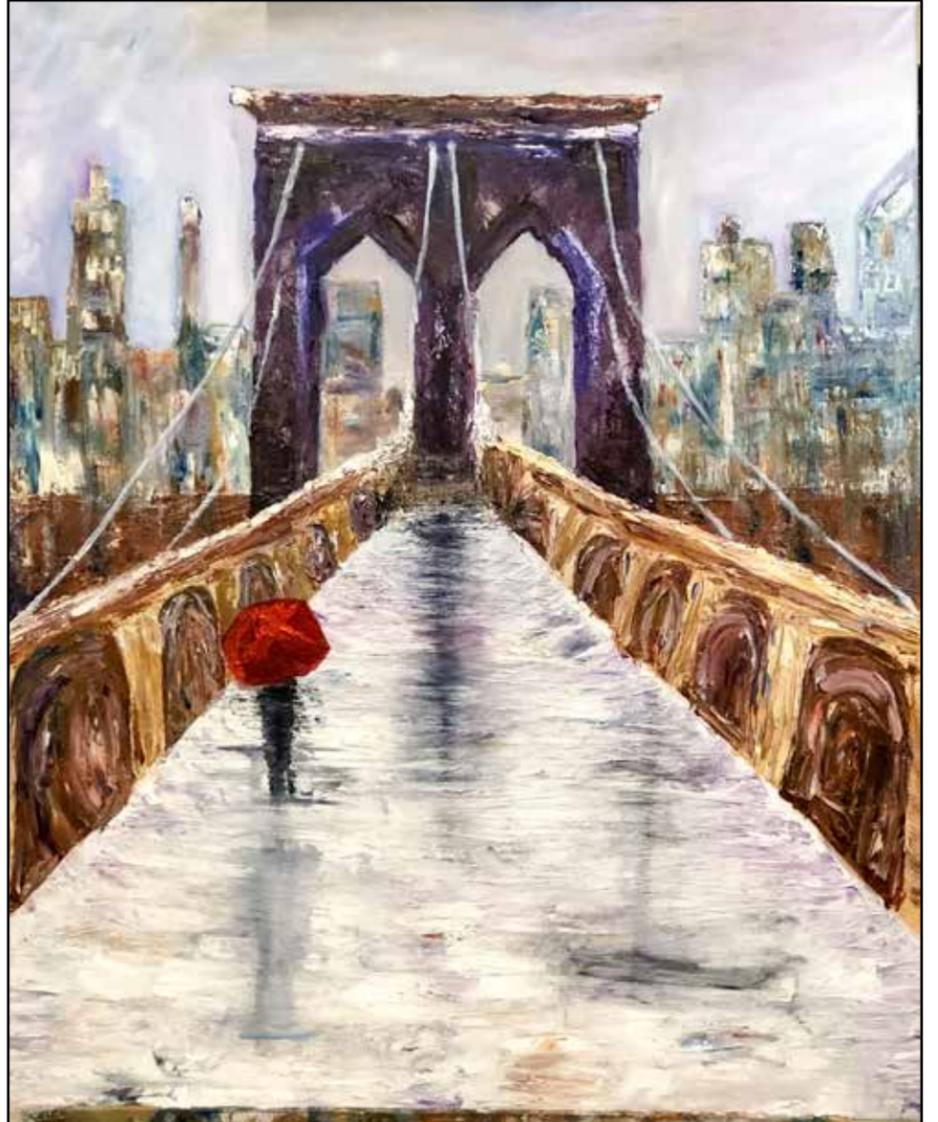
After that, the Titans went to the Allegheny County Championships where they placed first. They played Elizabeth Forward and won 8-7 in overtime. The team came back to a standing ovation from Shaler Area students and they got a visit from Peggy Finnegan from WPXI.

The team then went to Hershey to compete in the state championships. When the team left for Hershey, which was during 6th period, they had a send off from many students, teachers and staff who formed a tunnel and the bocce team walked through followed by the rest of their 6th period gym class. The team placed 8th in the state championships.

“It was nice. The kids appreciated it,” Chmielewski said.

“This season has been very exciting for us to say the least,” Bernick said. “We have been able to improve in a big way this season.”

# Shaler Area well represented at Scholastic Art awards



by Stephen Adametz

Shaler Area was proud to announce that several students received Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Students in the art classes submitted pieces and many of our high school students were recognized.

In the Pittsburgh region, there were roughly 1,700 submissions. The recognized artists' pieces were put on display at the Community College of Allegheny County- North Campus, with other winners in the region. There was also an award ceremony on February 23rd recognizing the top artists.

Bailey Ritchey received the top award, the gold key for her piece called "Parrot." Ritchey, who has been taking art classes since kindergarten, worked on the piece she submitted for a month and a half.

Ritchey originally scrapped the piece because she didn't really like it. However, she ended up finishing it as an AP art summer assignment.

"I originally hated it," she said.

The piece, depicting a colorful parrot, was done entirely by colored pencil.

"It's very time consuming," she said. "Every single thing you do effects the technical details."

Ritchey, who has been drawing and painting for as long as she can remember, is also a member of the Art National Honor Society, where she serves as Vice President.

Since she won the gold key, Ritchey's piece was submitted to the Northeastern regional contest.

Other winners include Luke Maurer, Meiling Watts, and Brittany Bisko, all of whom earned silver keys. Amaya Branch, Maillie Ciak, Julie Lignoski, Kristina McCluskey, Alexis McKee, Shannon Roche, Adella Shepard, PJ Squire, and Aliza Zelina received Honorable Mentions.

Maurer's piece, called "The Lone Chair of Light," is the first and only oil painting he's ever done.

"To paint something like this you have to have patience as well as the ability to ignore the little mistakes because in the grand scheme of things the small things don't matter," he said.

Mr. Dave Boyles teaches the students who did the drawing and paintings. Mr. Jeff Frank teaches Bisko in jewelry, who won the silver key for a necklace she made.

With quite a few award winners underneath the belt of the art department, one can see the success coming out of it. Despite the rise of new and popular science and technology electives, art classes continue to produce award winners.

"The creative element is imperative in all academic purposes," Boyles said.

Not every art student submitted a piece, but Boyles commended those who did.

"Preparing confidence is not easy. A lot of people do not feel comfortable [submitting their work], but art is a visual language, and if you keep it to yourself, no one will be able to hear it."



**Top left – Bailey Ritchey's Gold Key winning submission, "Parrot"**

**Top right – Alexis McKee's honorable mention entry**

**Above – Luke Maurer's Silver Key winning "The Lone Chair of Light"**

**Below – Brittany Bitsko's Silver Key winning necklace**

