

The Oracle

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Student Newspaper Of Shaler Area High School

April 2013

Senior wins national scholarship competition

by Emily Pirt

For the class of 2013 and the guidance department, spring is a busy time of year because not only are final transcripts being sent, but “scholarship season” is in full swing. Although a lot of scholarship opportunities can be found in the guidance office, there are always students who apply for larger scholarships outside of Shaler.

This past March, one Shaler senior, Mallory Stack, was lucky enough to win one of these larger scholarships: a \$15,000 scholarship through the First Tee Program.

“The First Tee is a nationwide program where we teach kids from kindergarten all the way up to 12th grade life skills through golf. Not only do you learn golf skills but you also learn skills you can use for life, such as sportsmanship, courtesy, responsibility, etc,” Stack said.

In order to qualify for the Program’s scholarship, members had to be going to a college that was either 2-4 years, as well as be Eagle certified. Emphasis was also placed on community service and involvement with the First Tee.

“It was more so the involvement and how much you have given back over the years to your First Tee Program. I’ve been involved in my First Tee for about 10 years; I started out as a participant and now I’m a junior coach as well as a participant,” Stack said.

Stack heard about the scholarship through her local First Tee branch and was asked to participate in

the competition, along with other students across the country.

“One person from each chapter is asked to apply for the scholarship, and there are 750 chapters in the US. 750 kids were picked for the scholarship, but [the First Tee] decided to pick 32 kids to be ‘Outstanding Participants’. Those kids went to Nashville and participated in the Network Meeting. 750 students were asked to apply in the hope that they would be asked to go to the Network Meeting,” Stack said.

In order to make it to the Network Meeting in Nashville, Stack had to fill out an application and write four essays. After being selected as one of the 32 Outstanding Participants, Stack was one of the eight asked to prepare a speech for the Network Meeting.

In addition to preparing for the Network Meet-



Mallory Stack accepts her award.

ing, Stack was forced to sacrifice performing in the first three shows of the spring musical.

“I love musical, don’t get me wrong, but in the end [the competition] was more worth it,” Stack said.

Stack, one of the founders of the Girls’ Golf program and this year’s team captain, has been active in the First Tee Program and golf in general, since her grandfather introduced the game to her. Stack chose to talk about this special connection in front of the crowd of 750 people at the Network Meeting.

“[My grandfather] was the golf coach at our school for one year before we got our current coach. He’s taught me throughout the years; everything I learned, I learned from him. He got me involved in the First Tee, and without him and the First Tee, I would never have started the Girls’ Golf Team at the high school,” Stack said.

Because of her speech, Stack placed first in the competition and earned \$15,000 to further her education next year at the College of Wooster, where she will study Biology and continue her love of golf as a member of Wooster’s Golf Team.

Other districts solve contract problems that Shaler has not

by Emily Pirt, Julie Rankin & Katie Rees

Shaler Area School District teachers have been working under the terms of a contract that expired August 15th, 2011. Other local school districts have had to deal with similar situations, but unlike Shaler, they have managed to resolve their problems and agree upon new contracts.

Mars Area School District’s contract expired on June 30th, but Mars approved a new two-year contract by November. According to a report in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, only two meetings were needed in order to settle the conflict after the board members joined the negotiation.

Hampton School District was able to resolve its contract conflict within nine months of its contract expiring. While the outcomes have not been the same, many of the issues being negotiated between the school boards and the teacher unions are the same from district to district.

“It’s the same everywhere: wages and benefits, the salary issue, the health care issue, and the additional commitments that are asked to be made in terms of additional days, additional hours to be spent doing work on behalf of the district,” Hampton School Board President Mr. David Gurwin said.

Hampton school district started to negotiate its new contract before its old one expired, which is called an early bird negotiation. It started off with these negotiations, which consisted of conversations between the superintendent and the district solicitor.

“Towards the end there were some face-to-face conversations but the union always had representatives at these meetings and the school board always had representatives at these meetings, but our chief negotiator was our solicitor but we were very involved,” Gurwin said.

Hampton made sure that both the school board

and teachers had representatives at the meetings to ensure expeditious and balanced negotiations.

“We were very involved, and I know that some school districts don’t have school board members that are very involved in negotiations,” Gurwin said.

That is the case here at Shaler Area. According to SAEA President Mrs. Melissa Ravas, only recently has a board member been present at negotiations.

“One member has been present, Mr. Donovan. However, during the two negotiating sessions that we have met at the table with the District’s team and he did not participate in any of the discussions,” Ravas said.

Unfortunately, that has not led to any progress in the talks between the teachers and the school board.

“The District has recently presented the teachers with offers that are regressive in nature and now has unilaterally requested fact-finding,” Ravas said. “The fact-finding process didn’t lead to a settlement the last time that the Board requested it and the Association views this as another way to stall negotiations.”

When fact-finding was done previously, both the school district and SAEA rejected the fact-finding report.

While each school district negotiates its contract independently, districts and teachers pay attention to what’s happening in other school districts.

“I think it is shameful that the Shaler School Board has not given the negotiations the attention that this crisis deserves,” president of the Hampton teachers union and chemistry teacher, Chuck Ceccarelli said.

Hampton teachers and school board members had to take into consideration the current economic situation during the time of negotiating.

“(The teachers) didn’t want the uncertainty of this hanging over their heads and they expressed that several times that they were concerned about it.

They also realized that the economic situation that we’re all faced with now is different than it was two or three years ago and that they were going to have to negotiate with that in mind,” Gurwin said.

During negotiations, the relationship between the Hampton teachers and the school board was fragile, but managed to sustain itself.

“The teachers and the School Board have an amicable and good working relationship,” Ceccarelli said.

That relationship was important to help settle the contract issue.

“One of the things that, as the board president, I wanted to be extremely careful about was making certain that the teachers understood how much we cared and respected them. They are really a huge part of why we have a great school district and a lot of success. We didn’t want to set that process back by getting into a lot of personal squabbles,” Gurwin said. “It was very important that we carry ourselves in a professional way that was not needlessly aggressive. Certainly there were disagreements and it wasn’t all fun and games. But at the end of the day, I think that the message was clearly delivered to them as to how much we value and appreciate them.”

As negotiations continue to drag on at Shaler Area, the teachers of the district do not feel that a similar message is being delivered by their board.

“The Board states publically that they value their teachers, but no teacher is feeling very valued right now,” Ravas said.

“We have been working under the terms of an expired agreement for almost two years now. Words alone don’t show appreciation...it would be nice to see actions to support those claims. We are currently among the top district’s in the whole state of Pennsylvania in terms of the longest time without a contract. It is very frustrating for all of our members.”

OPINIONS

Just because it is in style doesn't mean wear it to school

by Casey Funtal

As the weather begins to warm up, spring fever rolls around and students trade in their parkas for t-shirts, and their boots for flip-flops. Most of the changes in wardrobe are welcomed, but there are some that need to stay in the closet, or at least modified to fit our school dress code, until summer time.

What I am mainly referring to are the sheer, see-through shirts that are in style nowadays. Sure, the shirts are cute and since they are in style many girls want to wear them, but there is an appropriate and an inappropriate way to wear them during school hours.

Some of the girls are only wearing an assortment of sports bras, bandeaus, or even solid colored bras underneath their sheer shirts. This look is appealing in the summer time to most people, but in school it does not fit.

The problem is that most students get away with the look because their shoulders are covered and their midriffs are not technically showing.

My question is how someone can speak to a teacher and be completely comfortable with them having the ability to see through their clothing? What seems even worse to me is how girls do not mind who can see through their shirts. I do not know about you, but I do not start my crunches this early before swimsuit season.

There is a simple fix to this problem. It is called a camisole; they are comfortable and they also cover everything that needs to be covered during school hours. Another bonus to camis is that they do not ruin the look that girls are going for with the sheer shirts since they go underneath the shirt just like a bandeau or any other summer article of clothing.

Now that spring has finally rolled around, feel free to bust out clothing that does not consume your entire body, but be sure to cover what is necessary.

How to... Be a Pirates Fan

by Julie Rankin

Let's just make one thing clear: I know next to nothing about Major League Baseball or the Pirates potential this season. However, I know enough to know that the only reason I go to the games is to eat nachos and dream about the day when my future amounts to me shooting hot dogs out of an air cannon for a living.

The Pirates have a number of loyal fans that never miss a game. It's like me and every Kardashian TV show I follow. Are they quality? No. Am I mad at myself every time I waste a whole night watching them? Yes. Will I continue to watch them? Duh.

If you want to be a Pirates follower, you should know it's almost as unrewarding as having children, or so my parents tell me. You must train yourself to become immune to the sting of defeat. Start by challenging your favorite middle school girl to a Bieber Trivia Competition: annihilation guaranteed (hopefully).

Next, in order to be a true fan, it is imperative that you memorize the schedule, most importantly the pivotal games of the season: firework nights! Firework nights are PNC's way of making up for the \$30 you spent to have your hopes crushed.

They even occasionally bring in some sick bands, and I mean sick in the most literal terms possible. The last Skyblast I went to I saw Lynyrd Skynyrd. Half of the band was so old it was wheelchair bound and the other half wasn't even original members. But they still managed to upstage the Bucs.

And finally, you have to get all your Twitter cronies to hash tag everything Pirate's related: #BUCN, #cantwinwontwin, #CUTCHISCLUTCH, #getmeaPrimantis, #whathappenedtoRobertoClemente?, #above500(inourdreams), and #PirateParrotforMVP.

At this point there are a number of hardcore baseball fans fuming at my ignorance. I'll see you guys at the game. I'll be the girl flagging down the cotton candy vendor as I inquire as to when the 7th inning stretch will be.

Community gathers for Millvale tree planting



On April 6th over fifty people came out to the Millvale Library to help plant 56 trees throughout the community. The next tree planting will be tomorrow between 9am-12pm at 416 Lincoln Avenue. Everyone is welcome to come!

The Oracle

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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.

Audience of the Future concert benefits students, community

by Emily Matthews

Since February, students from Shaler and other schools have been participating in Audience of the Future. Audience of the Future is a program that began in 1995 in which students go to Heinz Hall once a month to prepare their own concert. It was started in order to encourage the presence of an audience of orchestral music in the future.

The students involved can choose to be in either the Repertoire/Promotions Group or the Operations/Multimedia Group. The Repertoire/Promotions Group selects the music that the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra plays at the concert, and they plan how to publicize the concert and sell tickets.

The Operations/Multimedia Group gets involved with the backstage aspects of the concert including the lighting, sound, stage management, artist care, and customer service. The students in this group also film and photograph their work to make commercials for the concert that can be presented to their schools.

Students from Shaler's music and GATE programs are some of the 97 students participating in this year's Audience of the Future program.

"I'm in the promotions group, so I get to basically do what I want to do after college. Also, I like

"It gives students the opportunity to learn about the orchestral music field and build their leadership skills. It also allows students who are interested in music to see that there is a career path in orchestra management."

-- Lisa Hoak

music, so I get to work with the orchestra and promote a concert," senior Emily Pirt said.

"I got to learn a lot about the entire Heinz Hall experience, even working the light board and seeing under the stage," junior and member of the Operations/Multimedia Group Natalie Price said.

Audience of the Future ultimately benefits the students involved.

"It gives students the opportunity to learn about the orchestral music field and build their leadership skills. It also allows students who are interested in music to see that there is a career path in orchestra management. One of the current PSO staff

members participated in this program when she was in high school at Shaler," Senior Director of Education and Community Programs at the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Lisa Hoak said.

All of the proceeds from the student-produced concert go to the music departments at participating schools. Last year's concert made an estimated \$500-700 for our music department.

This year's Audience of the Future concert will be held at Heinz Hall on Tuesday April 30th at 7:00 PM. Also, Shaler's Jazz Band will be playing at the ice cream reception after the concert. Tickets for the concert can be purchased in the Activities Office.

"The concerts are always great, and seeing the orchestra play is always a cool experience. It's a concert by and for students, so it's definitely a unique event," junior Lisa Orr said.

If you decide to go to the concert:

Where: Heinz Hall

When: Tuesday April 30th at 7pm

Tickets - \$5 for students, \$10 for adults

*Tickets can be purchased in the Activities Office

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Careers in small businesses open to those willing to work

by Casey Funtal

Students all across the nation are faced with the same difficult decision concerning what they want to do when they get older. Trying to decide what to do with the rest of your life is daunting, but it helps to know what options are out there.

One option is to become your own boss and manage your own business. People who want to own their own business must be risk takers and have talent along with patience.

Although the economy was low the last few years, there were still small businesses that survived and are going strong today.

Although a restaurant may not seem like a small business, owning and managing a restaurant that is not in a chain is. Joseph Tambellini owns and operates his own restaurant in Highland Park, called Tambellini's, which is doing exceptionally well. Tambellini is a chief still because he enjoys it, but he and his wife oversee the entire operation.

"The drive to open my own restaurant came from wanting to do things my way, and run my own place my way because I knew that I could do it right and be successful," owner Joseph Tambellini said.

He has been in the restaurant business for years. Tambellini started working for his father in the business when he was a child, and he went on to work for multiple other owners in their restaurants, so Tambellini had plenty of experience before deciding to open his own place. He expressed that working for others showed him what he could do better, and what he admired in a business as well.

"It (opening my own business) was the greatest and best decision I ever made. People say that I am at the restaurant a lot, and I say that it beats going to work every day," Tambellini said.

It is clear that Tambellini enjoys what he does even though owning a business is demanding. He is not the only one who admits that being your own boss is time consuming.

Amy Johnson is the owner of a dance studio called "Dance Explosion Arts Center," located on Babcock Boulevard. She expresses how demanding being your own boss can be.

"I love being my own boss. It's flexible hours, you can make your own rules and do what you believe is right; but you also are the boss so you don't really get paid like all your other people. You also have to be at work all the time," Johnson said.

Johnson originally went to school for psychology, and she danced in college at the same time while also teaching dance classes. She explains how she "evolved" and decided that she wanted to do what she loved instead of what she got her degree in. She also explained that students who desire to be their own boss should know what they are getting into.

"Make sure that you're fully committed and that you know exactly what you are getting into because you think about your business in the morning, in the night, and in the afternoon. It's not just about the business; it's about everything because your business is your whole entire life. You work at home; you work at your business and in your sleep. You just have to be fully committed in what you are getting into," Johnson said.

Becoming your own boss takes a lot of time and also money in the beginning stages. No matter what kind of business, owning one requires dedication. This also means that you must truly love what you do. For students who are dedicated and hard working, owning a small business could be for you.

Titan of the month: Marnie Potter

by Anna Cunningham

Junior, Marnie Potter gets involved at Shaler through student council, sports, science club, and volunteer opportunities. She has been chosen to be Titan of the Month. She balances her AP school work with these activities and a job, and she has won many awards and recognitions for her work in and out of school.

Potter ran for junior class member at large last year and was elected. Her time as a student government officer has been a great learning experience for her and she plans on running again.

"I wanted a leadership role and I wanted to improve things for the junior class. Being member at large really connected me with the student body," Potter said.

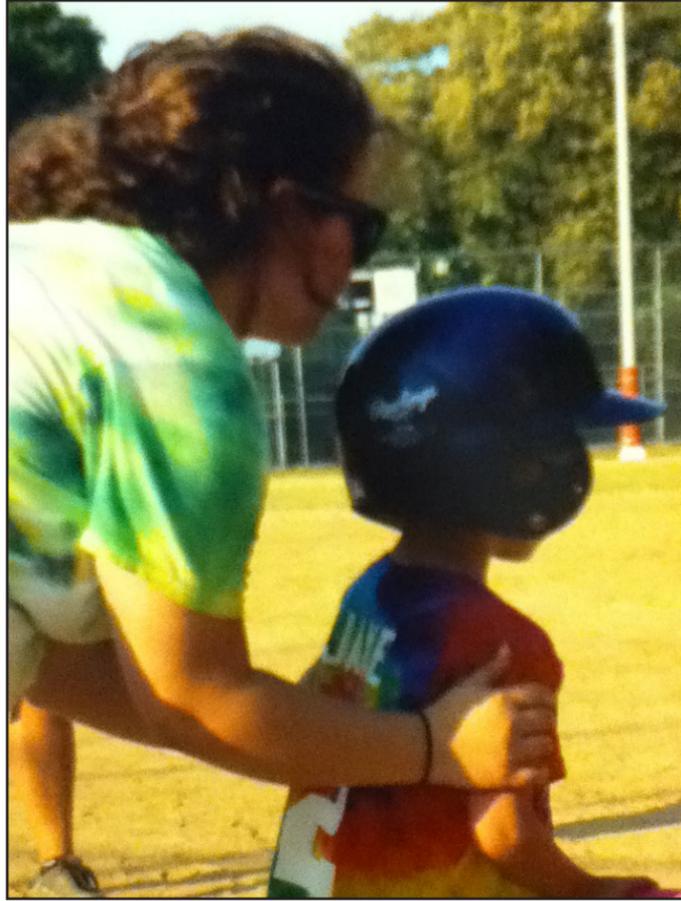
Potter helped plan both homecoming and the Sadie Hawkins dance. She helped the junior class in building their float, which she really enjoyed. She wants to run again and continue her role in helping the student body as much as she can.

"I definitely want to do it next year and do new things. I know what I'm doing now and I have ideas of what we should do next year," Potter said. "This year was more of a learning experience."

Potter knows what it takes to work on a team and accomplish a goal with other people. She has been playing soccer since freshman year and started doing track this year.

"Playing soccer to me is about getting to be part of a team. And after a while, your team becomes your family. I love being able to play a sport I love being with my best friends," Potter said.

Academically, Potter is involved in science club and The PA Junior Academy of Science. She won first place at the science fair this year for her experiment called "A Bright Idea." She will be competing



Potter helps out at Reserve All Stars (Marnie Potter)

at the statewide science fair held at Penn State during the first week of May.

"We tried to use ultraviolet light to kill bacteria. When my dad was in the hospital he picked up a bacteria that worsened his condition because there are germs and bacteria in hospitals that with all the cleaning in the world they could not get rid of because they are always introduced to new types of bacteria," Potter said. "For my experiment the idea is that in a hospital room you can turn on an ultraviolet light

and it'll kill virtually all the bacteria in the room. Then you turn it off and the patient comes in and its germ free. The only germs they pick up are the ones they brought in."

Potter has won a few more accolades this year, including an essay contest for The Writing Project of Western Pennsylvania. The prompt this year was to write an essay about how you have dealt with loss.

"I wrote a personal memoir on the days leading up to my dad dying. I won a gold key, which is first place," Potter said.

Potter was also named an Outstanding Young Citizen by the Tribune Review. She will be featured in the Tribune Review in May along with the other winners.

"I was nominated by a teacher at the high school, and I was chosen from other applicants throughout the Pittsburgh Area. This award is such an honor for me," Potter said.

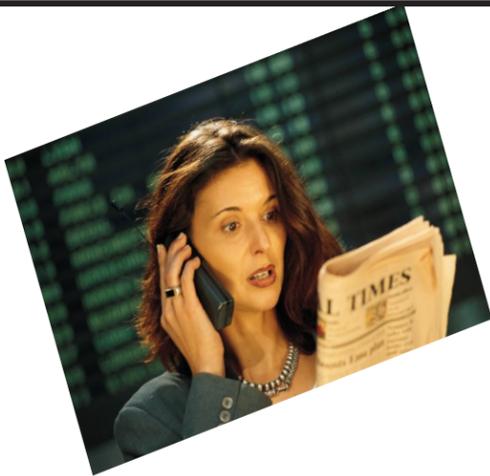
Potter volunteers for Shaler Area Activities for the Handicapped every Sunday morning. SAAH is an aquatic program that works with children who have special needs. She also volunteers for Reserve All-Stars which is a baseball program for children with special needs.

"At SAAH I work with a girl who has Down syndrome, and we go over stroke techniques, kicking, and we play games like searching for diving rings. At baseball, we go over catching, throwing, hitting, and it's really just a fun experience," Potter said.

These programs have a special meaning for Potter and her family.

"My older brother is autistic and has been in these two programs for as long as I can remember.

Continued on page 5



Sept 2012—National news: The high school class of 2012 has taken its College Board exams and the results are NOT good. More than half (57%) of the 1.66 million SAT test takers FAILED to hit the combined score at which a student is deemed ready for college level work. Worse, 75% of the 1.66 million ACT test takers ALSO FAILED to meet the readiness standard.



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An update on class funds for all classes

by Alexis Werner

As a freshman sitting in the auditorium, your first assembly is all about raising class funds, and how it will affect your high school experience. The magic number is \$30,000.

Mrs. Thiel took on a very big task when she became activities director. When previous activities director, Mrs. Fisher, was working at Shaler students did not need to raise funds. Starting in third grade the PTO sent \$5 per student to the high school activities office. Then, an account was created for that class to use during their senior year.

Each time that class moved from each building the PTO sent the money raised during their time in that building to the same account. This money came from things like hoagie sales, and candy sales. Once students enter the high school it is their responsibility to raise the remaining money. Unfortunately, a few years prior to Mrs. Mindy Thiel becoming activities director there was a change in philosophy. They were spending the money they had collected from fundraisers for things like fieldtrips, class parties, etc.

To fix the problem the PTO and administration at the lower buildings agreed to set funds aside so that when students get into high school they aren't trying to make up a \$20,000 gap.

So far, the freshman class has \$17,000, sophomores have \$20,000 and junior and senior both have \$27,000. There is a huge misconception as to where the money we raised is spent. All senior year activities are funded by each grade's class funds and these activities can become costly.

The money raised by each class is not used until that class's senior year. If class funds didn't exist seniors would pay double for prom tickets, cap and gowns, and the zoo trip could be in jeopardy. This money is raised through various student government fundraisers (i.e. candy sales, Carnations, ShalerPaloosa, Sadie Hawkins dance, and the cookie dough and magazine drive).

Student Activities are a completely separate account. This account pays for things like, homecoming, SATV public broadcasts, ads for congratulating stu-

dents on achievements, prizes for the chalk drawing contest, pizza parties, and renting equipment. Every year's homecoming, class funds, the titan shop, and parking pass fees all contribute to this account.

Student participation in fundraisers was pretty low this year. First, the cookie dough and magazine sales, targeted towards freshman and sophomores, had minimal participation.

"We only had 22 ninth graders and 14 tenth graders participate," Thiel said.

There are 408 freshman and 379 sophomores. That is 5% of 9th graders and 3.6% of sophomores.

"I met with the cookie dough representative and told him how great our student are and he knows this from previous fundraisers, but this year having no one participate was just embarrassing," Thiel said.

Something new was tried this year, a gourmet chocolate sale. The chocolate sales were extremely unsuccessful. There are 60 representatives and 20 officers. The representatives were asked to participate and form a team of four students. Only 60 out of 240 students participated. ShalerPaloosa was a success! It raised \$1,000 and had very high student attendance. The profit will be split between each class. Sadie Hawkins went well raising just over \$1,100. All funds from this dance go directly to the junior class. The prices per carnation increased so profit was minimal. We brought in about \$300 which will be split between all four classes.

"We are probably not going to do carnation sales next year; instead student government can come up with a new Valentine's Day fundraiser," Thiel said.

Seniors this year will only have to pay \$120 per couple for prom tickets will only be. Caps and gowns will be half priced (\$10). The zoo trip is scheduled for the last day of school free of charge.

If you would like to help contribute to your classes accounts the following events will be coming up soon!

"If each student could be willing to raise \$25 each year from 9th-11th grade classes could accomplish their goal of \$30,000 by the end of junior year," Thiel said.

Exchange student adapting to Shaler

by Victoria Mikita

This year Shaler Area High School is hosting a group of foreign exchange students. Chun Chia Chen, or "Tom", a student from Taiwan, is here for the remainder of the school year.

Chen is studying at our school through the Rotary Youth Exchange Students program. While he is here, a girl from Korea is staying at his house with his parents and two sisters in Taiwan. Although Tom is eighteen and is in senior classes here at Shaler, he will have to go back to his school and complete a senior year there as well. For Chen, school has not always been easy to stay dedicated to, so a foreign exchange program was the ideal opportunity for him to get back on track.

School in Taiwan is entirely different from school at Shaler Area High School. Classes are in session from 8am-9pm. Every student must wear a uniform; boys cannot wear v-neck shirts and girls cannot wear jewelry or make-up, and no one is allowed to wear sandals or flip flops.

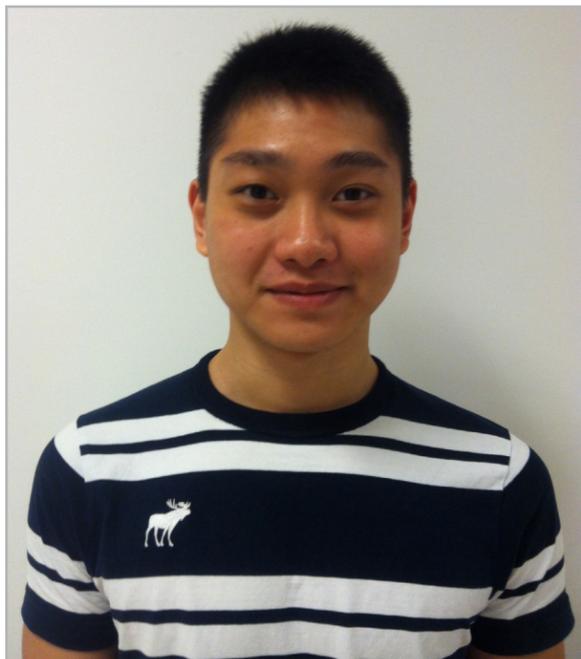
They are also provided with a book bag by the school that they are required to use. Respecting teachers is very important, and it is frowned upon to do something like putting your feet up on a desk.

High school couples cannot hold hands, hug, or kiss in the hallways. Students do not drive to school, but ride motor scooters or take the bus.

The classes that are taken at his school in Taiwan are mainly core classes, and there are not elective classes to choose from. They do not have events like prom or homecoming, but in May there is a day where a haunted house is set up for fun.

In some of the classes, they prepare different things like food or jewelry, and sell those items during school hours.

The free time Chen has here compared to Taiwan is one of the biggest changes for him. His school day is so long in Taiwan that he spends most of his free time studying. When he does have free time he likes to go to karaoke, to the movies, or to dinner with friends. At Shaler he enjoys going to the weight room after school.



Tom Chen (Victoria Mikita)

Taiwan's culture involves a different view on sports. At school there are not sports to participate in. Chen has attended sporting events at Shaler, such as basketball or baseball games, but he is new to the concept of being competitive.

"In America if the Pirates' game is coming up, everyone wears their shirts. If the Steelers lose a game, on Monday everyone is upset and they don't want to talk about it. In Taiwan sports are just a game, it doesn't matter who wins or loses," said Chen.

The experience as a foreign exchange student is so far going very well for Tom. He has made many friends and is mostly enjoying working on his English.

The long school days Chen has in Taiwan have allowed him to be very advanced in math, particularly calculus. This exchange program has taught him how to use a calculator, because at school in Taiwan everyone does math without one.

Tom will return to Taiwan in July. After completing one more year high school in Taiwan and graduating, Tom plans on attending college to major in business.

Marnie Potter

from page 4

These programs are really important to me because they've given so much to my brother and kids like him, and I enjoy getting to be a part of it," she said.

With schoolwork and numerous activities, Potter has to be careful about how she manages her time. She also has a job and works after school and on the weekends.

"You have to have your priorities in check. I want to do well in school and I want to do well at work. You have to be driven. If I work after school then I have to go home and do my homework. Sometimes I have to stay up late. It's definitely not easy but I do it," Potter said.

Time management skills will help Potter in college. She wants to major in chemistry but is still undecided as to what component of chemistry she wants to go into.

"I've learned that I really like science from doing PJAS experiments and science fair. I enjoy working in a lab setting and performing experiments that hopefully will improve people's daily lives. Science is definitely something that I want to be a part of my life I just don't know what aspect I want to do," Potter said.

As a junior, Potter still has time to decide what she wants to do in college. For now, she is going to focus on the rest of her high school career and continue to be as involved as she can.

"I love everything that I do and am a part of. I don't need awards or recognition for doing the things that I love and enjoy," Potter said.

"Getting involved in activities at school is important because high school can be a scary place. No matter what your interests are there is always an activity or program full of kids just like you. Activities are a great way to try new things, meet new people and make new friendships, and get involved in the school you'll be at for four years. High school is a lot less scary when you feel like you are apart of something."

SPORTS

Boys' volleyball team working hard to win

By Brett Ford

The boys' volleyball team is off to a rocky start to their 2013 campaign; they are currently 1-5 with losses to four section opponents.

In the season opener on March 26th against a very dangerous North Allegheny team, the Titans lost in three games by the scores of 25-8, 25-12 and 25-11. Not much more progress was made the second match when the boys lost to Butler, also in three games. Against Fox Chapel the losing streak continued, but they began to make progress.

The fourth match of the season marked yet another loss to a section rival, Seneca Valley, in four games. However, after a disappointing start to the season the Titans hosted North Hills and finally got that big win they were waiting for, ousting the Indians in four games.

In their sixth game of the season the Titans hosted Penn Trafford and lost in four games. Penn Trafford is the third best team in WPIALs so this loss wasn't a complete surprise to the team and since it was a non-section loss, their playoffs chances were hardly affected.

Two juniors are the sources of this scrappy team's leadership. Despite the departure of ex-captain Jeff Schmidt, the team hasn't skipped a beat in the leadership department; Steve Jordan and Max Reno are quick learners when it comes to leading the team.

"Leadership is not about being liked or making speeches. Leadership is being a signal of positive, encouraging behavior," Jordan said.

The Titans' issues most likely stem from how streaky the team is as a whole. One game they can play lights out and the next they look like an entirely different team. Being on a losing streak, it's just a matter of time before they begin to hit their stride.

"When the chemistry is all there and we are



Junior Captain Max Reno goes up for a spike (Lisa Montini)

communicating we are a tough team to play but at the same time when we lack chemistry and communication it is very noticeable on the scoreboard," junior defensive specialist Evan Dellaera said.

In a section filled with stellar teams such as North Allegheny, Butler, Seneca Valley, Fox Chapel, Pine Richland and North Hills the Titans will be looking to take advantage of any section match they have. Although a 1-5 record may not seem good, the Titans still have a very good chance of making playoffs.

"We still have a good chance of making the playoffs. It's still very early in the season and we still have a lot of chances but we have to start beating our section rivals in Butler and Fox Chapel," coach Stadelman said.

Boys' tennis team off to a rocky start

By Nick Polito

The boys' tennis team has had a tough start to their season. The team's record is not what the team would have liked, but it does not accurately portray the team.

"The team's record does not reflect the progress our players have made, as everyone has improved," Assistant Coach Brian Duermeyer said.

The tennis team has a very young roster which makes it difficult to compete in the very talented section it plays in. Although the freshmen and sophomores are young and inexperienced, they are improving.

"The team has a young but improving roster. We have the luxury of having several new players, many of which are freshmen and sophomores. The future is certainly bright for the team if the players continue to approach tennis with the same work ethic they have this season," Duermeyer said.

With all of this youth, there are two seniors who have really taken the leadership role. These seniors are Jake Raible and Brandon McNeill.

"The seniors have been excellent leaders. It has been a pleasure working with them and Coach Mura and I appreciate all of their hard work, leadership and commitment. Both Brandon and Jake have started for multiple seasons. Brandon is the team's No. 1 singles player and Jake has played multiple starting positions. Both have represented Shaler Area very well and Coach Mura and I am very proud of them," Duermeyer said.

Even with the slow start to the season, the young roster, and the strong section, the team is still looking to have some success in the rest of the season.

"We are optimistic that we can turn it around in the second half of the season," junior Evan Conti said.

Softball team looking to continue section title winning streak

By Nick Polito

The Lady Titans softball team did not receive the kind of preseason respect that they are accustomed to, after winning four consecutive section titles. The preseason rankings did not even have the Lady Titans in contention to win their section. However, the team is trying to use this as motivation for their season.

"It is a great motivation. We're used to being ranked in the top 5 and now it makes us want to win more than ever this year," sophomore second baseman Rachel Nyman said.

One of the biggest reasons why the Lady Titans are not receiving the same kind of respect as normal is that the team is full of youth. There are only six seniors: Maddie Mulig, Julia Strackhouse, Haley Stedeford, Cassidy Ford, Kristen Rost, and Taylor Brown, and 2 juniors: Emily Matthews and Michaela Golden. The inexperience of the roster is a burden the team will need to overcome to have a successful season.

"It's going to be tough going against teams who are older and more experienced but I feel with all of our practice, we can start and finish strong," Nyman said.

In fact, the Lady Titans did have a fast

start; they started the season off with a 7-1 record with all seven of the victories being section wins. In the four game win streak to start the season, the Lady Titans defeated the Fox Chapel Foxes 9-3, the North Hills Indians 13-2, the Seneca Valley Raiders 7-2 and the 3rd ranked North Allegheny Tigers.

The girls did lose a tough game to Montour in extra innings. However, the fast start is exactly what an inexperienced team needs.

With all the youth, the senior leadership is even more important. The team is specifically looking to its four captains to lead the team by example. These captains are Mulig, Strackhouse, Stedeford, and Brown.

Although the seniors are expected to lead the team, they will try to be successful, on the field, by playing as a team.

"I think we all need to rely on one another. You really need to act as a team in this game in order to win," Nyman said.

Even with the unusual preseason rankings, the team still has high hopes for the season.

"I expect us to get a sign up on Hilltop; our former players have gotten one every year since 2004," Nyman said.

Baseball team off to a good start in section play

By Brett Ford

The baseball team began their season a few weeks ago and things have gotten off to a pleasant start. A 6-4 record has Shaler in sole possession of first in a section that contains 6-1 Pine Richland, 5-2 Moon, 3-4 Penn Hills, 3-5 Woodland Hills, and 2-5 Taylor Allderdice. Although their record is only 6-4, they are 4-0 in their section, which is what really matters when it comes to playoff seeding.

"We are off to a rough start with a 2-4 non-section record. However, we do not worry about the past and we play in the present, one pitch at a time. This team works hard and will improve throughout the year," coach Brian Junker said.

The team has a wealth of talent permeating from each position. On the mound, the team is led by a solid 1, 2 punch of Jake Potock and Justin Mazza. Junior Jim Hughes is starting his second season at the hot corner; as a sophomore he led the team in RBIs and is looking to get even better. At second base Alec McElroy plays outstanding defense and is one of the best hitters on the team. At first base, junior Matt Carter has been taking advantage of his hot bat and has been helping the team substantially. Another standout is catcher Joe Spalick; his impeccable work ethic has helped him improve his game recently.

As a whole the team stays optimistic about their playoff chances, with much of it coming from the hope their coach instills in them.

"Nobody outside of the team believes we can make a deep run in the playoffs, but in this locker room we do. We have a saying we use: 'If you think you can you might, if you think you can't you're right.'" So we believe that we can get this done. We are very young and with only two seniors on the team (Pitchers Joe Zangaro and Richie Patsilevis). That is no excuse; we expect to play better and we will. We won't get caught up in outcomes (wins and losses), in turn we will focus on the process- day by day, pitch by pitch. We will improve throughout the season and make a run at this," Junker said.

SPORTS

Girls' lacrosse off to great start

By Nick Polito

The Shaler Area girls' lacrosse team has gotten off to a fast start this season. The team has started with a 6-1 record defeating the Moon Area Tigers, Knoch Knights, Bethel Park Black Hawks, Butler Golden Tornadoes, Vincentian Royals and the Hampton Talbots. The win against Butler was the teams' first section win to give it a 1-0 section record.

"So far this season has been going great! We're hoping to keep playing that way," junior attacker, Alyssa Ball, said.

One of the many reasons the team has been successful so far is because of how well they play together.

"We all play really well together on the field and that helps us because we play as one team and not just a bunch of individuals on a team," junior defender, Delaney Dobracki, said.

The success has also come from the leadership on the team. The seniors are really pushing the younger players and it has shown so far. These seniors are: Kristel Chatellier, Saige Greygor, Courtney Ambrozic, Rachel Delancey, and Andra Labanc.

"All of our seniors have stepped up this year,



Shaler vs. Knoch Knights (Lisa Montini)

filling the spots that last year's seniors left," junior defender, Morgan Burke, said.

However, the already small team has been plagued with some injuries. These injuries have led to many sophomores and juniors playing both junior varsity and varsity for the Lady Titans.

This team has very high hopes and expectations for their season. A section championship is what the team is focusing on winning but eventually the goal is to win the WPIAL championship as well.

"We would love to win our section and then continue on to WPIALs," Burke said.

As the season continues, hopefully the team can retain its early success and achieve the goals that have been set.

Young lacrosse team deals with growing pains

By Brett Ford

The boys' lacrosse team, coming off a season where they made playoffs and lost four key seniors is off to a slow start in a new section. The team owns a 1-5 record with its sole win coming against Taylor Allderdice by the score 18-2. Although their record isn't outstanding, the team has a lot of talent that's simply trying to mesh together.

"It's been a bit different with all the freshman starting this year, but I think we are finally starting to get used to one another," team captain TJ Yarnall said.

Multiple players on the team have been standing out from an individual standpoint. Juniors Ian Reagle and Luke Lynch are the team's two biggest and most physical players, but neither are leading in any statistical category. Leading the team in goals is Zach Weidner while Nate Devlin and Jake Albright are tied for the team lead in assists.

At goalie, Brad Gillespie was having a great season, highlighted by a 22 save performance against Baldwin, until he decided to part ways with the team.

The team faces an uphill battle on its way to WPIALs and with a new goalie taking the reins, the team's chances are greatly hindered but there is still hope amongst the players.

"The team has high chances of making a deep run in the WPIALs. We are in a new section this year that we are predicted to win in, but we control our own destiny," Lynch said.

Track team has high expectations for the season

By Nick Polito

The track team (the girls' team at least) is off to another good start. The girls' team had a huge victory over the Butler Golden Tornadoes and the boys' team did not get shut out.

The team lost a lot of seniors from a year ago, but the youth of the team is not going to hold it back.

"We lost a lot of seniors but we have several young people stepping up for us," junior John Colarusso said.

This youth has been led by the seniors, but specifically Scott Hughes and Catie Taylor. These two have really taken the leadership roles for the team. As well as being the leaders, Hughes and Taylor have also been some of the top runners so far, along with: Bri Schwartz, Cam Stott, Delaney Quinlan, and Courtney Bauer.

According to Colarusso, some of the events with the most potential for this season are the 100m, 200m, 400m, 4x100m, 4x800m, 4x400m, mile, 2 mile, high jump, shot-put, 300m hurdles, 100m hurdles, and pole-vault for the girls. For the boys, 200m, 4x100m, mile, triple jump, long jump, 300m hurdles.

The team has high expectations for this season.

"The girls expect to go back to the WPIAL Championships and the boys expect to win a meet this season," Colarusso said.

Hopefully both teams can continue to compete well and do better than they expected.

Stanley Cup Pittsburgh bound?

By Brett Ford and Nick Polito

The Pittsburgh Penguins were on their way to history a few weeks ago when they enjoyed the luxury of a 15-game winning streak. This streak, tied for second longest in the history of the NHL, gave the Penguins a 15-0 record in the month of March. It also gave the Penguins organization the two longest winning streaks in NHL history. During the streak, the team outscored their opponents 53-26 and had 4 shutouts, including 3 straight to end the streak. The goalies played well and had a combined goals against average of 1.7, plus

of the first line exceptional, scoring 27 out of the 52 goals during the streak. Towards the end of the streak, the future looked even brighter for the sizzling Penguins. General Manager Ray Shero helped the team acquire 4 veteran players. The team added left winger Brenden Morrow, right winger Jarome Iginla, center Jussi Jokinen, and defenseman Douglas Murray. Morrow, Iginla, and Murray were all acquired without forcing the Penguins to lose a player on their roster. With four brand new players being added to the roster, chemistry needed to form between the new line mates. Although the team went 15-0 in the month of March, the April showers brought the Pens a two game losing streak. Also, team captain, Sidney Crosby, went out with a broken jaw suffered during the last game of the streak. Crosby was hit in the jaw with a deflected slap shot from teammate Brooks Orpik. Although he broke his jaw, he is lucky to not have any concussion symptoms and should be able to come back for the playoffs. Even with the small two game skid, Pens' fans should not fret. The Pens will be more ready for the playoffs than ever before. You can bet the new "cup-hungry" veterans will be ready as well.



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The Back Page

Mr. Davis chooses an unconventional form of transportation

by Katie Rees

While many students either drive a car or take the bus to school, physics teacher Mr. Brian Davis can be seen riding down Marzolf extension on his bicycle. Braving the snow, wind, rain, or any other kind of weather, he chooses this form of transportation instead of a car. Davis came up with the idea of riding a bicycle everywhere after spending time teaching abroad.

"I left the United States in 2003 and spent time in Paraguay because I wanted to teach in a Spanish-speaking country. That was when I saw people using bicycles for transportation," Davis said.

Davis met his wife while he was in Paraguay. She moved to the United States shortly after he returned. After settling down, he did not want to spend money on a second car, so he thought that it would be beneficial to own a bicycle instead. In November 2004, only a year after he left the United States for Paraguay, Davis switched over from a car to a bicycle.

Davis braves the snow by dressing warmly. There are very few instances where he admits to not riding his bicycle to school. He also owns a motorcycle and a scooter for days that the weather might be an issue for his safety.

"Two days ago, I was coming down Marzolf extension and I saw a tiny little mouse. It was running around in circles, so I think he was sick. Another time, I was riding down Little Pine Creek and I almost got killed by turkeys. I saw a bunch of them on each side of the road. I counted twenty-six turkeys all together," Davis said.

Davis has set his own personal record for the amount of time that it takes him to get to school.

"My best time ever is twelve minutes, but that was when I was really focusing. Usually, it takes me about twenty minutes to get to school," Davis said.

Davis also makes his own bicycles, usually from dumpster frames.

"I started making recumbent bicycles about 15 years ago when I cut one BMX frame and used a muffler clamp to attach it to another BMX. Then I bought an oxygen-mapp gas torch and taught myself to braze," Davis said.

Davis is currently working on a couple of projects right now. He is constructing a small wheeled city bike and a dual 700 high racer recumbent bike.

"Good bikes in my size are just not available in most of the world. In 2006, I modified a frame so I could slide it into a suitcase and take it to Paraguay," Davis said.

Bicycle transportation is economical and good for your health. Davis's innovative ideas just may be a start to the newest fad in our society.



Mr. Davis and his bikes (Katie Rees)

Fun date ideas to try in the spring

by Sarah Breen

Spring has sprung and the true date night season has begun. Finally the sun is shining and you can feel the warmth on your skin. Spring is the season for new beginnings, opportunities, and bold colors.

Speaking of the bold colors of spring, a great

date night idea is Phipps Conservatory. Phipps is a local garden located in Oakland. Phipps is a beautiful glass building. When you walk inside it's truly a whole new world. If you thought Oakland was a "zoo" why not take a walk through the forest. Phipps is filled with beautiful flowers and soon a whole room full of butterflies. "Butterfly forest"

starts on April 20th and runs through September 2nd. It's truly a great atmosphere. An adult ticket costs \$ 15.00. It might even be a great opportunity to ask your significant other to prom if you're a senior!

If you're not into the whole going green concept why not take a trip downtown to a place with a more urban atmosphere?

A must see in Pittsburgh is a ride called The Just Ducky Tour. Have you ever seen a car that can float? The Just Ducky Tour takes you around Pittsburgh to visit all of the sights on land and water! Not to mention you get to quack at fellow Pittsburghers along the way.

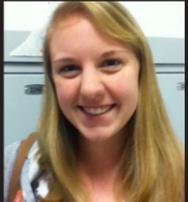
The Just Ducky Tour is located in Station Square and it is \$22.00 a ticket for adults. You must show up 30 minutes prior to each tour. This attraction started Easter weekend and runs through October 31st and some weekends in November. I would suggest going when it's warm though.

With your Just Ducky Tour stub you also receive a 15 % coupon for the Hard Rock Café also located in station square. The Hard Rock Café is a restaurant full of good food. Then take a trip outside of the café and see all of the fountains. They are even lit up at night. When you're done eating take in the sights around Station Square too.

Now if you want to splurge on your boyfriend or girlfriend, you could take a trip on the Monongahela Incline and enjoy dinner over the whole city on Mt. Washington.

If you don't want to splurge you could simply surprise your special someone by taking a ride up the incline and enjoying the view of Mt. Washington! The incline is also located near Station Square.

The great thing about these date night ideas is that yes, they are fun for spring but some you can do year round. Remember spring is a time for new opportunities and beginnings. Take in the sights, smells, and enjoy date night.

SCG SHALER CULTURE GRID		What is your favorite spring time activity?	What is your favorite flavor skittle?	What is your biggest fear?	Do you have any nicknames?
	Teacher Mrs. Frazier	Playing the piano with the windows open	Green 	Things that go bump in the night	Fraizer-Fraiz
	Senior Lindsey Russell	Free Rita's Day 	Grape	Bugs 	Lindsey Looper
	Sophomore Kelly Wall	Frolicking through the flowers 	Circus peanuts... is that an option?	Bugs 	K-Wall
	Freshman Joe Sacco	Running	Grape 	Drowning	Saccogawea