

The Oracle

Volume 44 Issue 1

Student Newspaper Of Shaler Area High School

October 2015

Seniors accepted into national ensembles

by Alyssa Wolfarth and Shayla Nguyen

Seniors Adam Bliel and Tori Lorenz were accepted into the National Association for Music Education, NAFME, in mid June. Lorenz will be traveling to sing as an alto in the All-National Honor Ensembles Mixed Choir and Bliel will be a part of the All-National Honor Ensembles Jazz Band playing the trumpet.

This prestigious organization is where Adam Bliel and Tori Lorenz will get the chance to perform alongside other very talented musicians from all over the country in Nashville, Tennessee. They will be performing in many places including the Grand Ole Opry House stage and the Gaylord Opryland Hotel and conference center.

Bliel and Lorenz are the first two Shaler students ever accepted into this program. To accomplish this, they had to qualify for many different ensembles. They began at district ensembles, then to regionals. Then they had to travel for the state ensemble. After that, they had to apply for a place.

"In the All-National Jazz Band, they only take 5-6 trumpets so these students have to be very talented and accomplished in order to get selected" Mr. George Tepshich, Bliel's Advanced Jazz Band teacher, said.

Getting a place, though, did not mean they were in. Their acceptance was decided on what place they were given. They also both had to submit two videos showcasing their best qualities in about two minutes.

"I was so excited, [It's] such an awesome experience that no one's ever had before at Shaler," Lorenz said.



Tori Lorenz and Adam Bliel

"I was really shocked," Bliel said. "I did it for the experience".

However, achieving this honor was not an easy task. Both went through many stages to get to NAFME, and they were only eligible to apply for this experience because they both participated in Pennsylvania Music Educators Association, last year.

To prepare for this ensemble, Lorenz has to learn 10 songs, some of which are in a foreign language. She will be practicing an hour a day until the performances.

"It's going to be quite an adventure, but I think it'll be worth it in the long run," Lorenz said.

Bliel has seven songs to practice on his trumpet for this program and also plans on practicing frequently.

"There's always the time, the days are short, but there's always time to work," Bliel said.

After high school, they both plan to continue their careers in music. Bliel plans on pursuing an education in performance, music education, and arranging compositions.

"I just want to try to be the best that I can," Bliel said.

Lorenz also plans on continuing with music, and stated, "I will never stop singing."

New guidelines limit the selection of snacks and food sold

by Bridget Nickel and Kimberly Yurasits

This year, Shaler Area will be going through some drastic changes when it comes to food service. Due to government guidelines, not only will bake sales be eliminated but also food vending machines and PTO doughnut sales.

A few years back, some students and teachers alike will remember the monsoon of student bake sales that were held. There was one practically every week and sponsoring clubs could make a couple hundred dollars per sale. This won't happen anymore.

"In 2015-2016 we're [enacting the] new regulations and we have a limit to what can be sold in the regular school day. So in order to ease into that transition, we went down to one bake sale per month [last year]. This year the regulations-smart snacks in school-says what we can sell during the regular school day, so bake sales during the school day had to go," Mrs. Mindy Thiel, activities director, said.

The government, specifically the United States Department of Agriculture, has recently enacted these nutrition standards to eliminate junk food and offer healthier snack choices to students. While some may point a finger of blame at the school district, that would be a mistake.

"This isn't a Nutrition Group guideline, this is a USDA guideline. It isn't just for Shaler, this is national. This is for any school district that follows the national lunch program because the government is the one who hands out the reimbursements. They're the ones who set the guidelines. If a school wants your reimbursements it has to follow the rules," Jenny Pearson, the Shaler Area food service director said.

These new guidelines state any food sold in school must be "whole grain-rich", have the first ingredient be a fruit, vegetable, dairy product, or protein food and snacks must contain at the most 200 calories.

So how do these regulations affect Shaler?

"We're looking at labels more closely. Even in the Titan Shop we're really looking at what we can and cannot sell to try to meet the guidelines," Thiel said.

With this fundraising avenue closed, clubs are trying to think of outside-of-the-box ways to raise money. For example, the Spanish Honor Society is planning on holding a Day of the Dead Memorial. Any non-food sale has no restrictions to abide by. The Valentine's Day carnation sale is a great example of this.

Other clubs are just selling foods that abide by the guidelines. The Japanese Honor Society will be selling sushi during school which meets the government's standards.

While it is easy to target bake sales in the cafeteria during lunch periods, it is not as clear for things such as doughnut sales that have taken place in the morning before school. The guidelines state "the standards do not apply during non-school hours, on weekends and at off-campus fundraising events."

At first it was thought the school could take advantage of that loophole.

"If we do it before school, some groups can still have bake sales but it would have to be before 7:15 when our school day officially starts. So it's a loophole, a technicality. I want the groups to be able to fundraise," Thiel said.

While those doughnuts sales take place before school hours, they run into another guideline roadblock.

Guidelines state that there can be no outside groups selling food until 30 minutes after a breakfast or lunch period.

Since the cafeteria is serving breakfast, doughnut sales in the lobby would be a violation of the guideline.

"It is a guideline that's been in the wellness policy for Shaler in the past but it's just been 'Let's let them get the fundraising to help their organizations. That's how we felt as long as it wasn't overdone or abused but they shouldn't have ever been able to have bake sales in the cafeteria during the lunch [or breakfast] period," Jenny Pearson said.

That guideline had last been updated in 2010 and stated nothing could be sold until 30 minutes after lunch. Even the food vending machines will have to be removed due to the new regulations.

"Were even eliminating vending machines because we don't control those anymore, an outside company does and they are starting to put items in there that aren't compliant with federal guidelines so we have to eliminate those," Pearson said.

However, vending machines are just a small part of collateral damage from the new regulations. The biggest effects will be felt by the school clubs, who will need to find alternative ways of fundraising.

"It's going to hurt our clubs. If [they] need a fundraiser (bake sales were a good way to raise quick money. We need to figure out how we can still help them raise money within the guidelines," Thiel said.

OPINIONS

Walking through the halls should not be this difficult

by Kayla Snyder

The most annoying part of a typical school day is, by far, dealing with the abundance of students who have yet to learn how to properly walk in a hallway. It may not be a written rule within the student handbook detailing exactly how to walk in the hallway, but when more than half of the building cannot complete the simple task of walking, something needs to be done.

Walking is something everyone learns at a very young age and is something you will use for your entire life. You have always been taught how to look around and notice your surroundings. It's absolutely mind-blowing that high school students cannot put these two simple tasks, which we all learned as children, together.

Going from class to class should not involve an unorganized mess of people swerving left and right, trying to dodge other students while running into other unsuspecting people. Walking through the halls is a simple concept that students still, to this day, mess up.

The best part of it is there is not just one certain group which does this. From Freshman to Senior, I guarantee you can find at least one person who has not

properly learned how to walk through the hallways. C'mon now, you're how old? Learn how to walk.

My favorite perpetrator is that one kid who will stop in the middle of the hallway, turn around, and scream to another student who is a considerable distance away. Hold that conversation somewhere that is not blocking my way. Get to class!

You may not have priorities, but I do. Do not make me late because you want to act like high school is some foreign, uncivilized land that has not been introduced to rules and decency.

Anyway, the solution for this is quite simple. If you want to have a conversation in the hallway, move to the left or right side and then you may have your meaningless conversation that without a doubt could have waited until lunch time or even after school.

I get it. Socializing is a big part in the teenage world. If we don't see our friends after class and before another class it seems like the world is ending.

I promise you that your friend will be there at the end of the class period, lunch, and after school. The world is not ending, so have some courtesy for those around out and get out of the way!



Enthusiasm for iPads quickly wearing off

by Kaitlin Parente

Now that Shaler Area has deemed itself as technologically "advanced" after distributing more than 1,200 iPads, the raging excitement over the shiny new devices has significantly dropped as students are learning they are far more trouble than they're worth.

Truth be told, I was somewhat excited about getting my own iPad. One reason for that optimism was I thought that the iPads would eliminate the heavy text books I have to carry around every day. I was extremely disappointed to find out that only one out of five of my textbooks I have to carry around on a daily basis are offered online.

Even if I wanted to access that lone textbook on my iPad, it might take half the period to get to it based how awful the wifi can be. It can take anywhere from 5-10 minutes to even log onto Google Classroom, which doesn't even work half of the time. Did you need to open a PDF in the first month of the school year? Google Classroom couldn't handle that.

And then there's the extreme frustration that comes with using an iPad during class (thank you to the teachers who give the option of using paper). "Just use Notability! It's a great app you can do everything on it!" That is the biggest lie I've ever heard. Watching the mass confusion take over my class when we all tried to peer edit on Notability was comical, if you could even download the essays from Google Drive to Notability.

These iPads, which we were supposed to be able to do *everything* with, are becoming more of inconvenience than anything. Have you ever tried to type out a 4-5 page essay double spaced on Google Documents on your iPad? It's time

consuming, annoying, and frustrating. It's a good thing we have so few windows here at the high school. Otherwise there would be a steady stream of iPads flying out of them.

Through simply observing everyone and seeing what they do on their iPad, it's not hard to realize that they seldom use their iPad for educational purposes. Why would you when you have over 1.6 million apps on the app store to choose from to entertain you? Speaking of which, isn't it ironic that with all of the problems or glitches, seemingly none of them have been with non-educational games

After seeing the opening month of life with iPads, I'm not sure if it's worth it.

The Oracle

Editor.....Kayla Snyder Assistant Editor.....Kaitlin Parente

Staff: Justin Jockel, Antoni Miladinov, Bridget Nickel, Shayla Nguyen, Shannon O'Leary, Jared Panza, Alyssa Wohlfarth, Kimberly Yurasits

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Eric Schott

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.

Berdik places first in national FBLA contest

by Shannon O'Leary

While most students were lounging at the pool this summer, David Berdik was competing nationally for FBLA for the first time in Shaler history. At the Future Business Leaders of America National Leadership Conference, senior David Berdik placed first in the Desktop Application Programming category. The conference, held in Chicago, ran from June 29 to July 2 this past summer. Berdik was able to qualify for nationals by placing second at states in Hershey, Pennsylvania during the school year.

His project consisted of a kennel management program for an animal shelter, in which he constructed himself with the use of only few instructions. After reading instructions, he wrote the program, sent it in, presented at Hershey, and was successful enough to move on to Chicago.

However, he realized after submission that his project had an error, so he had to explain this mistake to the judges through presentation. He credits the judges with constructive criticism that ultimately helped him in the end.

"At first it really aggravated me, but eventually I just did what they said and it worked," said Berdik.

Being the only Shaler member to attend nationals, Berdik instantly recognized differences between Hershey and Chicago. Instead of presenting only once, he actually had to present twice after continuing on from the preliminary rounds and making modifications. He was also able to meet a bunch of other students with similar interests, some even from the area.

"There was actually a student that went to Gateway. I just thought it was really cool because he's from the area and we were both in Chicago. We didn't plan to meet there, it just kind of happened," said Berdik.

When asked about the competition, Berdik stated that it was "fun, yet stressful".

Berdik was first introduced to FBLA by Mrs. Lisa Klugh. After finally agreeing to join and work on computer programming, he quickly became good at what he was doing.

Although Shaler's FBLA program is relatively small, the members do community service projects as well as competitions. FBLA hopes to send even more members to states this year, and hopefully nationals.

Berdik hopes to attend the University of Pittsburgh and continue with FBLA and major in computer science.

Superintendent search continues looking for "perfect" candidate

by Kayla Snyder and Maddy Eichenlaub

Last May, news broke that Shaler Area superintendent Dr. Wesley Shipley signed a contract with Mars High School to become the school's superintendent for the upcoming school year. In turn, Shaler was put into a difficult predicament, because a superintendent's contract generally starts in June.

The Shaler Area School Board approved Dr. Victor Morrone to act as an interim superintendent and help in the search for a new superintendent. Morrone, who retired 8 years ago, has come out of retirement to help Shaler Area find the best possible candidate to lead the school district.

Morrone has ties to Shaler Area dating all the way back to 1965 when he became a graduate of the school district. Also, he was the principal of multiple Shaler schools that existed before the merger occurred.

Because of these ties, Morrone became a perfect candidate for the interim job due to his allegiance to the school. In turn, he hopes the new superintendent of Shaler has the same pride for the district as he does.

"I felt like I had an allegiance to the district and so I came out of retirement because I think this is a really good district. I'm hoping that we get someone in here who will feel an allegiance to Shaler. I hope they'll make a commitment to spend a long time here," Morrone said.

Finding a new superintendent is a complex process with many different avenues that began with communication with the school board. Then, Shaler Area took a different approach and sent out community surveys for the public's opinion.

According to the survey results, the top characteristics the community wanted in the

next superintendent included leadership, innovative qualities, and a strong sense of integrity. The school board looked over those results and started the search for the next superintendent. According to Morrone, the district is looking for the perfect candidate.

"When we talk about 'perfect' we are talking about the best candidate fit for our district. This means we are searching for someone who is not only skilled but also is outgoing, accessible, a good listener, honest and ethical, experienced, and someone who really is committed to Shaler and wants to be part of our school and community," Morrone said.

It was thought that person was found earlier this year. The job was offered to someone, but the candidate decided to stay in his current position. The allure of a AAAA school district has failed to lure that perfect candidate yet, which is somewhat surprising.

"Usually most superintendents go from a small district to a bigger district for advancement... Superintendents would like to end their career in a quad A district," Morrone said.

As for the current status of the search, Morrone described it as ongoing. The school board hopes that the superintendent search will be wrapped up by February with a new superintendent in place.

One position that has been filled is that of assistant superintendent. Mrs. Kara Eckert resigned at the end of last year and she has been replaced by Dr. Bryan O'Black. O'Black served as the interim assistant superintendent before being named the the position permanently.

"First and foremost over the past seven years that I have worked in Shaler Area I have had the opportunity to witness the tremendous growth in the areas of academics, the arts, athletics and extracurricular activities," O'Black said.



**4721 McKnight Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
412-367-7787**

HUNTINGTON ACT AND SAT TEST PREP PROGRAMS

No matter whether your student is a high school sophomore or soon-to-be-senior, it's never too early—or late—to start preparing for the ACT or SAT. And, with our individualized, proven test prep programs, **Huntington is the best tutoring option to ensure your student's best score.**

PROGRAMS FOR EVERY SCHEDULE

With our **Premier Program, 32-Hour Program and 14-Hour Program**, we help even the busiest of students find time to prepare for the ACT or SAT. And, all of our students work one-on-one with a highly qualified teacher to focus on their individual strengths and weaknesses.

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

If you're getting ready to take the SAT, we recommend you take it by January 2016. **Otherwise, consider preparing for the ACT, because that exam won't be changing.**

A higher ACT or SAT score means better college, scholarship, and career opportunities. To make sure your student earns the score he or she wants, **call 1-800-CAN-LEARN today.**

SAVE \$50

WHEN YOU CALL BEFORE 12/1/15

ACADEMIC SKILLS

K-12
Reading • Writing • Study Skills
Math • Phonics • Spelling • Vocabulary

SUBJECT TUTORING

MIDDLE SCHOOL-COLLEGE
Pre-algebra • Algebra • Geometry
Trigonometry • Pre-calculus
Calculus • Earth Science
Biology • Chemistry • Physics

EXAM PREP

SAT • PSAT/NMSQT • ACT • Advanced Placement (AP)
HSPT • ISEE • SSAT • GED • ASVAB

HuntingtonHelps.com

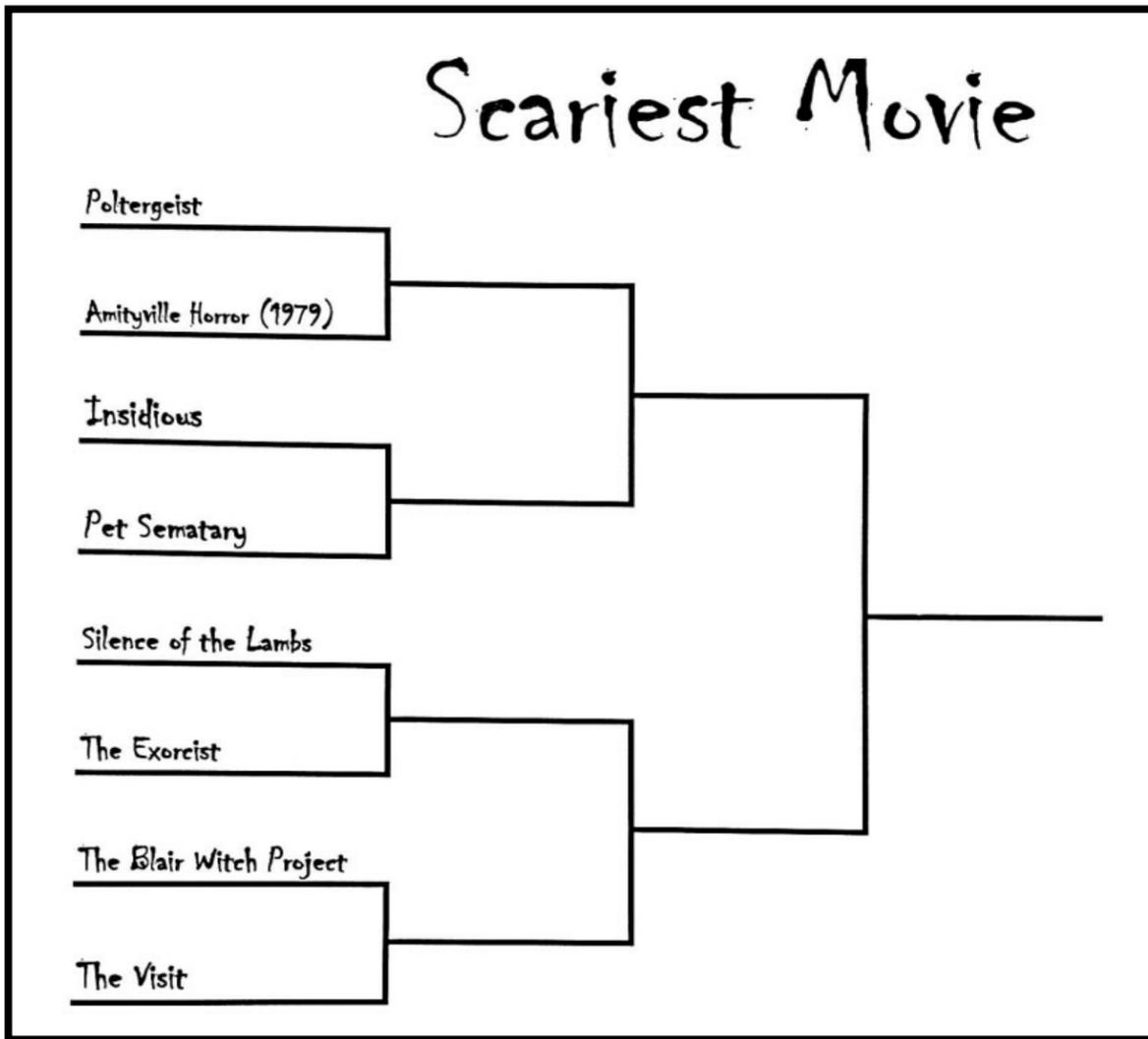
**Offer valid off of Premier Program only.



**4721 McKnight Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
412-367-7787**

T H E C E N T E R

The Bracket -- Fill in to determine your winner



WEIRD News

* In Moscow, a cheese-smuggling gang that netted around \$30 million by illegally importing the foodstuff has been smashed. Some 470 tons of cheese was seized during the raid and if convicted, six suspects will face up to a decade behind bars.

President Vladimir Putin's government introduced a Prohibition-style ban on most Western food in retaliation for sanctions imposed against Russia.

Police said the cheese had been repackaged and was being passed off as being of higher quality than it actually was. Officials did not say when or where the raid had taken place.

Russian authorities recently bulldozed or burned more than 600 tons of sanctions-defying food contraband.

* In Midland, Texas, a high school football team's kicker attempted an extra point and the ball made it through the goal posts -- after bouncing off a referee's head.

Luis Aranda, kicker for Robert E. Lee High School in Midland, made the extra point attempt during the second quarter Friday after a touchdown against El Paso's El Dorado High School.

A video posted to YouTube shows the ball traveling far too low to the ground for a successful point, but the ball hits the head of a referee and bounces just high enough to go over the crossbar and make it between the posts.

The video shows the game's referees appear to be baffled before declaring the kick good.

* Recently in Washington, a tally of selfie-related incidents leading to deaths this year reached a startling revelation -- selfie deaths in 2015 outnumber deaths from shark attacks.

The number of shark attack deaths compiled by website Shark Attack Survivors thus far in 2015 stands at eight, while the number of selfie-related deaths compiled by Mashable.com reached 12 this month after a Japanese tourist fell down the stairs at India's Taj Mahal while attempting to take a selfie.

The leading cause of deaths from selfie-related incidents was falling, while the next leading cause was train-related accidents while attempting to take self-portrait photos.

* In West Java, Indonesia, teenagers wondering whether to ask out their latest crush had better make up their minds fast. As of Oct. 1, they'll be banned from dating after 9 p.m.

The decision was announced last week by the authorities of Purwakarta district, about 60 miles east of the Indonesian capital Jakarta. The new regulation, which will only apply to youths under 17, is aimed at protecting their morality, preventing unwanted pregnancy and protecting the honor of families.

* A couple was arrested in Ohio after they allegedly robbed a bank, then posted pictures of themselves with the wads of cash on Facebook.

John Mogan, 28, and Ashley Duboe, 24, are charged with the Aug. 24 robbery of Savings Bank in a town south of Columbus, Ohio.

Investigators said Mogan, a convicted felon who had just been released from prison a few months earlier for robbing another bank, walked into the bank and gave a note demanding money to a teller, who then handed over cash.

According to The Smoking Gun, the duo uploaded several pictures to Facebook days after the robbery. Police then were able to track them down.



Check us out online

usatodayhss.com/market/shaler-hs-pa

Brown Butter Pumpkin Cupcakes

Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 2/3 cups all-purpose Gold Medal flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 cup canned pumpkin puree (not pie filling)
- 1 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 large eggs

For the Salted Caramel Frosting:

Any salted caramel sauce of your choice

- 3/4 cup butter, at room temperature
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1/2 cup salted caramel sauce

Directions:

1. To make the brown butter pumpkin cupcakes: preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Line muffin cups with paper liners and set aside.

2. In a saucepan, melt the butter over low heat and continue to cook, swirling occasionally, until butter turns golden brown. Skim foam from top, and remove from heat. Pour into a bowl to stop the cooking, leaving any burned sediment behind; let cool.



3. In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, and cloves. In another bowl, whisk together the pumpkin puree, sugars, eggs, vanilla extract, and brown butter. Add the flour mixture, and whisk until just combined.

4. Divide batter evenly among lined cups, filling each three-quarter full. Bake, rotating tins halfway

through, until a cake tester inserted in centers comes out clean, about 20 minutes. Transfer pans to a wire cooling rack and cool completely before removing cupcakes.

5. To make the frosting: beat the butter in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment on medium-high speed until light in color and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Reduce speed to low, add powdered sugar, and mix until completely incorporated. Turn off the mixer, and then add the salted caramel sauce. Beat frosting on low to combine and then increase to medium-high and beat until airy and thoroughly mixed, about 2 minutes.

6. Frost the cooled pumpkin cupcakes with the salted caramel frosting and drizzle cupcakes with extra salted caramel sauce, if desired.

S P R E A D

Did You Know? Whale watching or phone watching?

* We are not allowed to collect water from Mars. The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 forbids every nation in the world from sending humans or robots near celestial water sources for fear of contaminating them with life from Earth.

* Margaret Brown, the author of "Goodnight Moon", had no children of her own, so she left her fortune to a 9-year-old neighbor boy.

* A nightclub in the UK gave out free lollipops to reduce late night rowdiness to reduce late night drunken clubbers wouldn't be able to shout or cause a disturbance while sucking on them.

* Samuel Clemens was a riverboat pilot on the Mississippi River before he turned to journalism and began writing under the pen name 'Mark Twain', which is also a river navigation term for water that is two fathoms deep.

* There is an absorbent concrete that can filter and drain 880 gallons of water per minute. The water then reenters the groundwater system and helps prevent flash floods.

* Ray Bradbury wrote 'The Fireman', a dystopian novella about an American society where books are outlawed and burned. He needed a better title after expanding it into a novel. He asked a local fire chief what temperature book paper burned at. The answer he got was, "Fahrenheit 451."



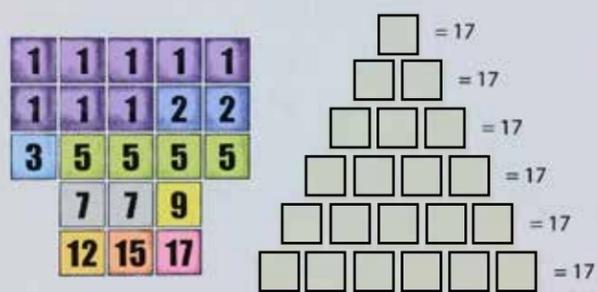
One "whale watcher" in California was staring at his phone so intently, he failed to see the giant hump-back swimming just two feet away. While the man may have missed it, a professional photographer about 50 feet across from him did not. Eric Smith, creative director for CBS EcoMedia Inc., captured the moment. He told CBS News that he got the shot while photographing a mom and her calf on Redondo Beach. "A mom was out there with her calf, flapping, breaching, jumping, mouths eating fish – it was fantastic," Smith said. And then there was this man, "he never moved from his phone." While scrolling through the 100 or so photos he took of the whales, Smith said he noticed about five that showed the whale next to the sailboat, and the man happened to be in the background. Women could be seen taking pictures from the front of the small sailboat, but the man was like "a statue in every photograph," Smith said. "I've been there. I get lost in my phone too," Smith said. "But this is indicative that we have serious issues to work through." (Eric Smith)

Fill in this crossword puzzle grid with eight words: four across and four down. The clues are not in order — you must decide which clue goes with which word.

1	2	3	4
2			
3			
4			

- CLUES**
- A little bit
 - Breathing space
 - Cereal for kids
 - Genghis or Kublai
 - Kitchen ending?
 - Marvel's mutant group
 - Type of IRA
 - Voyage

YOUNG MINDS: PYRAMID SCHEME **
Jill wants to arrange the 21 number blocks below on the left in the pyramid on the right so that the numbers in each row add to 17. Which blocks must go in each row? There is more than one solution.



SOLUTION -- across -- trix, room, ette, Khan, down -- Trek, roll, iola, xmen
1, 17, 2, 5, 12, 3, 1, 1, 15, 4, 2, 3, 5, 7, 5, 1, 1, 1, 5, 9, 6, 1, 1, 1, 2, 5, 7

SCG SHALER CULTURE GRID		Toilet Paper over or under?	What teacher would you dress up as?	Best choice for President?	Manbuns make me _____	What circus act would you be?
	Senior Baylee Marta	Under	Mr. Ussia	Bernie Sanders	Throw up	"Watch me be talentless"
	Junior Jack Quinn	Over	Mrs. Reitenauer	Myself, of course.	Uncomfortable	Probably a tightrope walker
	Sophomore Jamie Handyside	Over	Mr. Boyles because he wears an apron and that's cool	Deez Nuts	Gag!	Trapeze because it's cool
	Freshman Joey Powers	Over	Mr. Sorby becaue he dresses cool	Anyone but Donald Trump	Cringe...	Clown

SPORTS

Titans beat Butler and end 34-game drought

Football team then beats Fox Chapel for second win of the season, playoff hopes still alive

by Jared Panza

September 25, 2015 became a date that will be remembered throughout Shaler Area, as the football team broke its infamous 34-game losing streak by beating Butler, 30-20.

The scoring started off early in the first, with junior quarterback Jack Quinn throwing a 20-yard touchdown pass to senior Killian Bozzo. Butler answered with a touchdown with three minutes left in the first, but the extra point attempt was blocked.

Shaler returned with a scoring drive in the early second which ended with a one yard touchdown run from Jack Quinn, but the extra point was blocked. Later in this quarter, Shaler kicker Anthony Friel crushed a 49-yard field goal, making the score 16-6.

After pushing Butler back on their 11-yard line on the following drive, senior Anthony Zelina wrapped up the ball carrier, forced a fumble which was recovered by Bozzo and returned for a touchdown. Friel's extra point was good.

Butler rallied once again, driving the ball down the field and ending the drive with an 18-yard rushing touchdown, but failing on the extra point making the score 23-12 going into halftime.

"At halftime Coach LeDonne told us that it takes two full halves to win a football game. He also told us to keep working hard and not to ease up, because if we did ease up we could have lost that game," se-

nior running back Jake Hartman said.

Butler did not make it easy in the second half. The Golden Tornado scored a touchdown late in the third and added a successful two point conversion to shrink the Titan lead to three points, 23-20.

The Titans sealed the win with a 58-yard touchdown run from senior Jeremy Barnhart. After Friel's successful extra point, the score was 30-20.

"We played well; everybody executed everything that needed done. Every play, the eleven men on the field completed their job, and that's why we came out with a win," Hartman said.

For the football program this was very significant for both the coaches and players.

"This win was very important for the program. The players are starting to trust what we are telling them. Having three different head coaches over a varsity career is very tough, but the players are starting to believe," head coach Jon LeDonne said.

With the first win in 34 games, not only was the football program elated, but the community of Shaler Area in its entirety was celebrating the win.

"To see the hard work, dedication, and discipline finally pay off was a gratifying experience. It was awesome to see the Shaler Area community as a whole celebrate together," LeDonne said.

Not only was this the first win the team had in over three years, but it was Coach LeDonne's first win ever as a head coach.

"Getting my first win as a head coach was an awesome experience. I got into the business to impact young men's lives, and teach them values that will help them be successful in life," said LeDonne.

But of course, the team is not yet satisfied with just this one win, as practice resumed for the team the following morning.

"The next step is to keep improving each day. We will take one day at a time and focus on the little things. The overall goal is to make the program successful, increasing participation, and becoming a regular in the WPIAL playoffs," LeDonne said.

While the playoffs may have been a dream just a few weeks ago, they are closer to reality now. Just two weeks after beating Butler the Titans won their second game by beating Fox Chapel 14-9.

The Titans were able to pull off the victory without starting quarterback Quinn and leading wide receiver Nick Fugh who both were sidelined with shoulder injuries.

Hartman scored both Titan touchdowns, one on a 25-yard screen pass and the other on 9-yard run. Senior WR Killian Bozzo had five receptions for 121 yards. Both Hartman and Bozzo contributed on defense as well as they both had an interception.

With the win, the Titans have put themselves in a position where it is possible for them to make the playoffs depending on the outcome of upcoming home games against North Hills and Seneca Valley.

Once upon a time, Shaler beat North Allegheny

by Jared Panza

Year after year, there are things that can be counted on to happen each fall: leaves changing color, cooler temperatures, shorter days, and Shaler Area football losing to North Allegheny.

For nearly three decades, the Titan football team has played the Tigers without much success. After last Friday's 41-14 North Allegheny victory, the Tigers have beaten the Titans in 28 of the past 29 meetings.

As the 2003 football season started, North Allegheny had solidified itself as a WPIAL powerhouse, and the fans knew it. The Titans played at North Allegheny that evening as part of NA's Homecoming events. The Titans bus had to let the players off among a crowd of rowdy North Allegheny fans chanting "1987"; the last time the Titans beat the Tigers.

While the fans expected another win, what they got was a 17-0 Shaler Area win.

In the 03-04 yearbook, the seniors considered the game the "toughest game they won all season," and the coaches reiterated that claim, as even then head coach Jacque DeMatteo said "history has shown, NA is always a tough game."

Going into the game, the team was said to be confident and prepared for whatever was to be thrown at them.

"We had a good team that year. We went in really confident, and were trying to get in the playoffs, and we knew that beating NA needed to be done in order to do that," said former defensive coordinator Dennis Dudley.



North Allegheny prepares to run a play against Shaler Area during the Tigers' 41-14 victory on October 2nd. (North Allegheny Sports Network)

As the game progressed, both teams fought back and forth in the first half, and both coming up short of scoring except for a 37-yard field goal from Shaler Area kicker Dante Cincotta which gave the Titans a 3-0 halftime lead.

The next half was a different story. Shaler recovered the opening kickoff after the ball bounced off one of the Tigers. The following play was an 11-yard run from Shaler running back Greg Pfeiffer, which was four more yards than Shaler Area's entire rushing total in the first half.

Two drives later and Shaler quarterback Lou Massimiani found wide receiver Adam Warner for a 22-yard touchdown pass to put the

Titans up 10-0.

In the fourth quarter, the Tigers offense was still unable to move the ball against the Titan defense. Later in the quarter, Shaler Area running back Steve Brown ran the ball to the 3-yard line, followed by a rushing touchdown from Pfeiffer, making the score 17-0.

It was an accomplishment that players and coaches don't take lightly. Especially considering the fact the Titans have not been able to accomplish that again since that game. There are several possible reasons why.

"It's probably a number of factors. It's most likely numbers. Our numbers are down, especially in football. I think at the time [of the 2003 game], it was psychological too. I think to a certain degree our kids would psych themselves out. The moment something would go bad, they would get the 'Oh, here we go again' mentality," Dudley said.

Another factor is that NA has been very good for over the past 10 years. It's not just the Titans that have trouble dealing with the "University". North Allegheny has posted records above .500 for the past 10 years with a record of 107-32 including back-to-back-to-back WPIAL championships and two state championships.

Losing 28 out of 29 games to the same team obviously grows old, but for a team that recently just broke a 34-game losing streak, the outcome isn't necessarily the most important thing.

"I got into the business to impact young men's lives, and teach them values that will help them be successful in life," LeDonne said.

Maybe sometime soon, the Titans will be successful again versus North Allegheny on the football field.



The Oracle
Student Newspaper of Shaler Area High School

Check out updates on all
Titan fall sports teams. Visit us at
usatodayhss.com/market/shaler-hs-pa

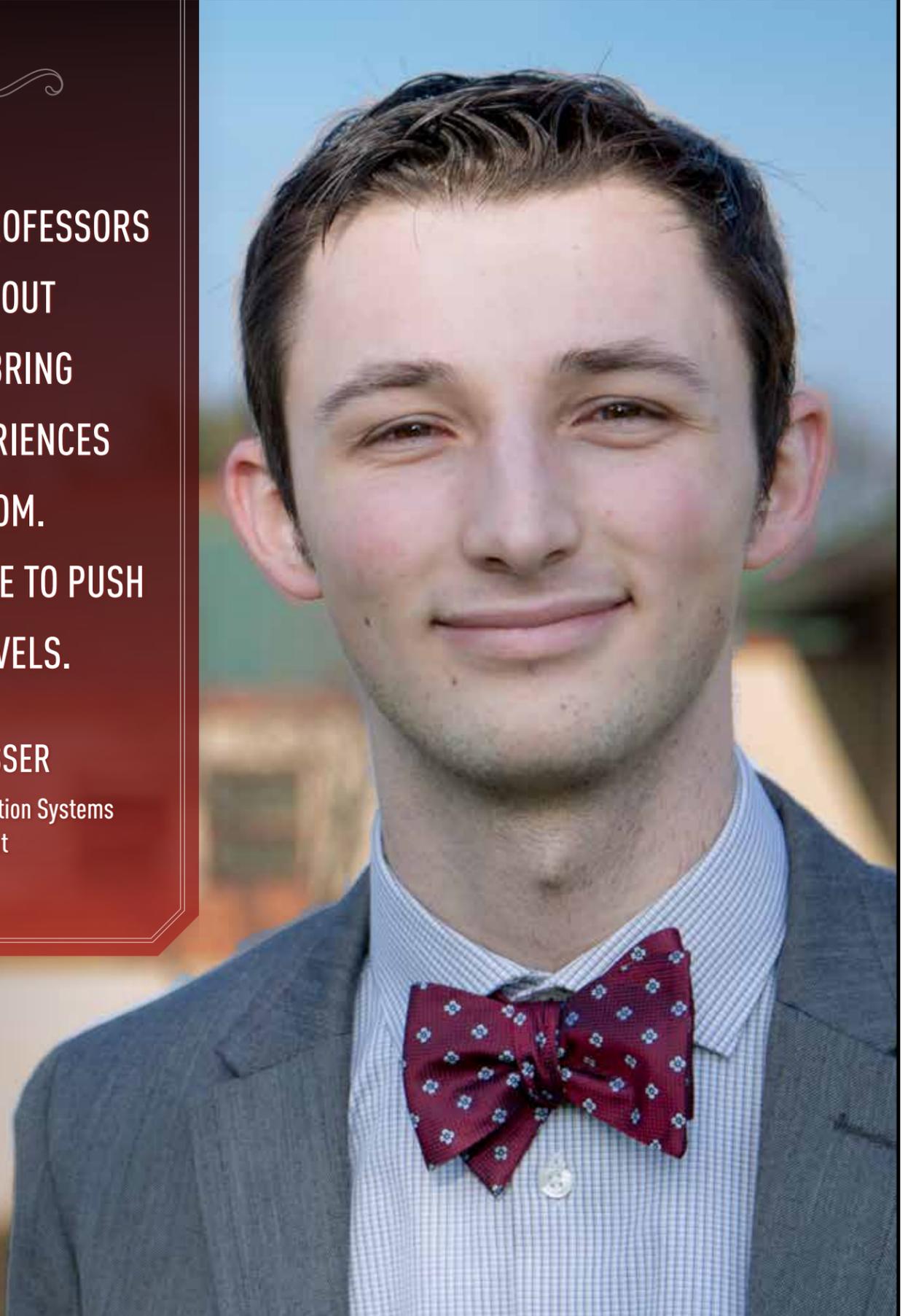




AT LA ROCHE MY PROFESSORS
TAKE THE CONTENT OUT
OF THE BOOK AND BRING
REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCES
INTO THE CLASSROOM.
THEY CHALLENGE ME TO PUSH
MYSELF TO NEW LEVELS.

- PETER BIERNESSE

Management Information Systems
Business Management



OPEN HOUSE | OCT. 24

laroche.edu



La Roche
COLLEGE

Engaging Minds. Embracing the World.

SPACE hoping to increase student involvement

by Kayla Snyder

Over the summer, seniors Elliott Fix, Jimmy Belany, Rian Fantozzi, and Dillon Brown made their idea to bring democracy and change Shaler Area into a reality. The idea was the Student Political Action Committee for Education or SPACE.

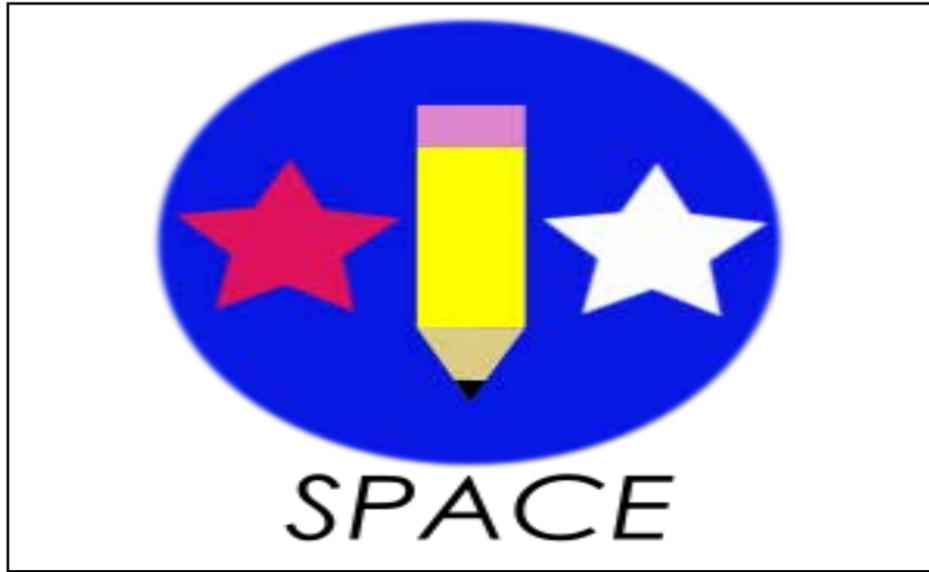
SPACE originated over the summer months when Fix and Fantozzi brainstormed the idea of forming a group which would make history at Shaler Area. By June, the group had a charter created and approached school board member Mr. Steve Romac and principal Dr. Timothy Royall.

"Our ambitions were focused on school board policies, adding to class funds, encouraging the student body to be involved in our school's student government, and in turn creating members of society who were interested and involved in local and national politics," Fix said.

According to the group's charter, SPACE is founded on a few different principles including promoting democracy at a scholastic level, increasing class funds through inventive and exciting fundraisers, encouraging school-wide positive behavior, helping Shaler Area become a sustainable higher quality institution for adolescent growth, and assisting the community as a whole.

"Our biggest focus is the center of our name, A. It's what we are all about, action. Action can mean a lot of things but our ultimate goal is to make Shaler Area a better place through improving class funds, presenting policy, analysis and reform and encouraging charity work as well," Brown said.

While anyone is able to join the club, the majority of the students involved in SPACE are



SPACE organization was introduced by Elliott Fix, Jimmy Belany, Rian Fantozzi and Dillon Brown (Antoni Miladinov)

seniors which creates a tough position for the founders of the group. Fix, Belany, Fantozzi, and Brown are trying to start a successful club with a mere eight months left in the school district.

"We hope to have built a program that years from now underclassmen will join due to its reputation for getting things done. We all agree that we should have begun this our freshman year," Fix said.

Student involvement is crucial for the club's survival for the future. Students within Shaler Area are eager for a new and exciting club to start up. Each of the members has their own personal reason for joining the club.

"[SPACE] wasn't exclusive and I liked that the majority of the proceeds were designated to academic goals as opposed to less impactful causes like school dances and prom tickets," senior Will Keat said.

While some liked the setup and goal of the group, other students liked that it would inform more high school students on political issues affecting everyone right now.

"Dillon was talking about how it would bring more political awareness to high school students

and that seemed like a great idea seeing most of us would vote for Deez Nuts. It's sad," senior Zak Marshall said.

Each member has their own expectation for SPACE and that is what makes the club so unique. There are no leaders who make decisions, the student body influences what happens. Other schools around the region have similar clubs but nothing to this extent.

"A program like this would not only make students aware of the world, but make the community aware of the students. A SPACE program would help students connect to the community, bringing the two together,"

Belany said.

SPACE held a fundraising booth at Homecoming for people to vote for the winner of the floats. The club made about \$300. 70% of that money will be distributed and broken down in the class funds and the other 30% will go into the SPACE account for future fundraisers and events.

Future fundraisers the group is planning include a Super Smash Brothers tournament in the gymnasium, a possible corn hole tournament, and expanding the video game tournament. Also, the club is thinking about hosting a White House Astronomy Night, mock presidential debate, and more in the near future.

As for future goals, the founders want to see SPACE become the absolute best that it can. Eight months is not a very long time to make an impact but with hard work and dedication anything can be possible.

"Long term I would love to see SPACE being an organization beyond just Shaler. That would require a lot of work. Changing the world is never easy," Fantozzi said.

New six-day rotation implemented at high school

by Antoni Miladinov

As this school year has gotten underway, the high school has undergone a variety of changes. Students were given iPads, the district has a new Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, and the high school has introduced a six day rotation.

"The six day rotation is the same rotation that happens in all of the other grade levels in the district so kindergarten all the way up through 12th grade, they are already on a six day rotation," high school principal Dr. Timothy Royall said.

This six day rotation allows for students to take a gym class every other day and have a study hall every other day for a full year. Also, the rotation provides science classes with 1 extra lab in a two week period.

In the future, the high school plans to implement this schedule with elective classes so that students have the option to take an elective every other day for a full year rather than one elective everyday in a semester. For example, a student may have the ability to take wood tech 1 and metal tech 1, every other day for the entire year.

The schedule also gives students one extra science lab period over the span of two weeks. Although the new schedule may seem to be useful for the high school, there are some drawbacks with these new implementations.

"We have extra classes to teach which means there is more work. So that's kind of the negative, but the positive is that I have more time to do things with students," anatomy and physiology teacher Mr. Tim Taylor said.

Some view the extra lab as being beneficial for the students as they will have more time to learn material, but this in turn makes it increasingly difficult for teachers to prepare labs. Having more classes also takes away the free periods that a teacher would have to allow students to come in and make up work.

"I'd have to go through the whole year trying to see what was good about it, what was bad about it...I think it's going to take a while to see whether or not it works."

**--Mr. Dennis Dudley
Science Dept. Chairman**

In previous years, a teacher would have an empty period available for any student from any of their classes to come into the classroom and complete any missed assignments, labs or tests without being surrounded by the chaos of a full room of students completing any work for their class.

"Last year I had a tutoring schedule where people from all of my classes would come in to do things, where now I don't

have that as much because the time is regimented and is scheduled for a class the whole time," science department chairman Mr. Dennis Dudley said.

Teachers could still have students come in to work on things but it can be distracting for both the teacher and the students to have so many things happening at once in a lab. In some cases, it could even become dangerous in class where students are exposed to chemicals and open flames. With this, the teacher will be more focused on the students who are going through their labs and not so much focused on the students that come into their classes to make up work.

"I think it could be detrimental to student education in that (I don't have as much) time to set up and clean up labs, making it harder for me to be focused on teaching because I don't have that time like I did before," Taylor said.

The six-day rotation has its pros and cons but it is far too early in the year for a final verdict to be reached on whether or not the schedule should remain.

"I'd have to go through the whole year trying to see what was good about it, what was bad about it. Individual people are going to have opinions about whether or not it's good or bad but I think it's going to take a while to see whether or not it works," Dudley said.