



Inside:

Sports: Farrell; 145lbs of absolute dominance

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Midterm exam madness drapes the math department in cloud of confusion.



# the Maritimes

Narragansett High School

Narragansett High School's student newspaper since 2008.

Volume 101 Number 3

Friday, January 30, 2009

Page edited by Ross Gorenski and Matt Pistacchio

## Honor Society clothing the needy this winter season

by LEXY DAVIS  
reporter

With this year's recession National Honor Societies annual clothing drive is coming at the perfect time.

But unfortunately there hasn't been a good turnout so far because of the economies effect on Rhode Island.

"This has been the slowest year ever. Normally we send out about 50 boxes and bags but this year we've collected much less," Ms. Good, National Honor Society advisor, said

The clothing drive was used to donate to the Johnny Cake center, but for the past few years they have started donating to the Big Brother and Big Sister foundation because they had a larger need.

"Usually the National Honor Society is very flexible with where they donate. If someone has a specific place they would like to help out they are willing to do that," Good said.

Many people participate in the clothing drive; it's not designated to just Narragansett school. The National Honor Society organizes fliers in stores and businesses around town and there are announcements made during school so that teachers and students will participate.

Many times parents donate or Narragansett citizens see a flier in town and

(see CLOTHING DRIVE, p 3)



## Freshmen raffle extended: iPod touch still up for grabs

by KAITLYN MURRAY  
reporter

Every newcomer class must face the task of coming up with a fundraiser to raise money for their class treasury, and the class of 2012 took it in stride.

"It was a group effort," Alex McLeod, freshmen president, said. "Mr. Hackett and class council all contributed ideas, and the result was a raffle."

The raffle has been going on since mid October with an original deadline of December 23, 2008 but recently the class decided to extend the date to February 6 2009.

"We extended the deadline because we realized that by the time everything was organized, we would only have a few games or events to sell at," McLeod said. "By postponing the date we

raise our chances of selling more tickets and gaining more money."

The raffle reward include a grand prize of a new iPod touch, a 50\$ gift card to Abercrombie, a 50 \$ gift card to Hollister, a 50\$ gift card to Casey's, 25\$ gift card to Applebee's, and a gift card to crosswinds. Tickets can be obtained for the price of one dollar.

"The restaurants donated their gift certificates, Mr. Hackett bought the iPod touch, but will be reimbursed, and we bought the gift cards from the clothing stores," McLeod said.

So are the freshmen happy with their plan?

"I think the raffle was a good idea but it also could have been implemented better", McLeod said. "We could have had more planning to know what events we could attend to

sell more tickets."

Other freshmen also shared similar views.

"I think we should have sold at other places other than just basketball games because it limited the amount of tickets we could sell." Brendan Smerbeck, freshmen, said.

There were some, however, who were not as involved or informed.

"We have a raffle?" Clayton Shepherd, freshmen, said.

Still, the president remains optimistic.

"We're happy with the results we've gotten so far," McLeod said. "We've sold about what we had expected and we expect to sell even more."

The freshmen have been hard at work preparing the raffle for the rest of the school.

(see RAFFLE, p 3)

## Local restaurants: the students decide

by KYLE DOUBRAVA  
reporter

In the summertime Narragansett is a bustling little town that can hold a limited amount of beach-bound tourists. Nightly they pack local restaurants and bars, much to business's delight. During that time of year the restaurants thrive from the tourists.

But when the chaos has abruptly ended in 'Gansett, how do the restaurants keep afloat? That's when the students come in to the picture.

Narragansett High School students find the local restaurants (those in the South County area) rather redundant and bland. Andrew Pezzelli, senior, finds he enjoys restaurants that reflect his Italian heritage.

"My favorite (local) restaurant would have to be Italian Village, mostly because I'm Italian and I like Italian food," Pezzelli said. "They're probably the closest thing to a really nice Italian restaurant."

Amidst all of the seafood eateries in the Narragansett area it would be relatively difficult to build a successful restaurant. Spain Restaurant, near Scarborough Beach, is one of the most prestigious restaurants in Washington County, known for their

(see FOOD, p 3)

## Honor society provides success for the future

by ROSS GORENSKI  
reporter

The National Honor Society has been a gateway into the future for many young adults throughout the years.

The purpose of the 6,000 nationwide chapters is to gain students scholarships, render service, promote leadership, develop character, and show honesty, integrity, and responsibility.

"I consider them the role models of the school and try to ingrain these morals in them" said Mrs. Good, National Honor Society Coordinator.

Expectations of the honor society though are not easily achieved. Students must reach and hold a series of academic and social standards.

They must have a B+ average by the end of sophomore year, must be a up-

standing citizen and display the characteristics of one, must be approved by faculty on the basis of academics and character, and must maintain ten hours of community service each quarter.

"The Honor Society members are a group of students who have demonstrated through academic performance and involvement in service projects, that they have the potential to make

a difference" said Mrs. O'Brien, National Honor Society Coordinator.

Students must then submit to an application process and will be inducted into the society during the Induction ceremony during the spring.

Maintaining the requirements is key; any infractions of any of the requirements will result in a review by faculty board members at any time during the

year, and could result in expulsion from the society.

"Once in, it's as easy to lose membership as it is to maintain" Good said.

The Honor society also does many recreation projects throughout the year including a canned food drive, a clothing drive, a dinner at The Amos House in Providence, and participate in the spring fashion

(see HONOR, p 3)

## To Write Love On Her Arms "A website of love"

by STEPHANIE MCWHINNIE  
reporter

To Write Love on Her Arms is an organization that started with one girl's road to recovery. Renee was a 19 year old drug user, self harmer, depression sufferer and a survivor of abuse.

The person who helped Renee and started the movement is Jamie Tworkowski.

It started with one night when Renee had experienced another blur of drugs and had locked herself in the bathroom and performed another act of self injury, which landed her in the emergency room again.

With over 50 scars that showed the broken past of a girl who was taken advantage of and never shown any love or concern for.

The nurse had told her and her friends that she wasn't willingly ready for rehab, and she could not be accepted into treatment yet. So they made it their mission to prove to Renee that she was worth living and that love can change a person.

For five days her friends brought Renee to concerts, bought her books for rehab, took her to see things she had always wanted too but couldn't because of her substance abuse and surrounded her with love and comfort and most importantly god.

To help pay for Renee's treatment they started selling t-shirts with the phrase "To Write Love on Her Arms". Which is supposed to mean instead of self injury, replace it with love,



also some of the t-shirts say "Love is the Movement".

TWLOHA is a non-profit organization that donates all money earned to 1-800-SUICIDE to help fund the hotline that helps talk people out of committing suicide, and to treatment centers for drugs, depressions, and self injury.

Also members from bands help endorse the organization and spread the 'love.'

Such members include, Haley Williams from Paramore, Jon Foreman from Switchfoot, Sean from The Blackout, Derek Sanders from Mayday Parade, Deon Rexroat from Anberlin, Amy Lee from Evanescence, Bryce Avary from The Rocket Summer, the late Casey Calvert from Hawthorne Heights, Brendan Urie from Panic! At The Disco, and many more.

As of right now there is a tour going on called 'Pick up the Phone,' where all proceeds are given to 1-800-SUICIDE and it includes bands such as Anberlin and Alkaline Trio. This will be a college tour but will be open to everyone. Also new unsigned bands will join the tour to help spread the 'love'.

This organization helps spread hope to those who suffer from depression, self injury, drug abuse, and other things that most people don't understand, or want to understand.

"I think it's great that there's actually something to give people hope, people who have suffered but have overcome bad habits. I'm definitely an active supporter" Celestia Furlano, sophomore, said.

## RI Budget Proposal

by ALEX MCLEOD  
reporter



On the 7<sup>th</sup> January, Donald Carcieri, Governor of Rhode Island, proposed a plan to close the gap in the state budget estimated at over 357 million dollars.

As state revenues plummet due to rising unemployment, falling salaries and falling consumer spending, the state budget must be adjusted.

The constitution of the state of Rhode Island does not allow for state spending to exceed the estimated revenue for each fiscal year. Therefore, either broad-based tax increases or spending cuts must occur. Gov. Carcieri opposes any increase in state sales or income taxes to raise revenues and thus has called for statewide spending cuts.

Major cuts to spending proposed include a six percent decrease in state aid to already-struggling cities and towns, along with cuts to benefits for state and municipal employees, including public school teachers.

Many critics of the plan note that the new employees in the Carcieri administration earning much higher salaries than average state workers should be the first to receive cuts to salary and benefits.

"I think he should start some of the cuts from his own administration because he recently hired additional staff at higher salaries than the prior people that just left." Mrs. Grabrilowitz, art teacher,

said. "So he's got to show that it's going to come from the top as well as the little guy."

Carcieri's proposal calls for the elimination of the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for retirees, which increases their pension pay up to three percent each year to accommodate for increases in the cost of living.

Also the plan places a minimum retirement age of 59 years for state employees. Employees who do not retire before April 1st will be affected by both the new requirements for retirement and the elimination of the COLA.

Mrs. Lundin, math teacher, slips through the cracks in this year's budget, and will not be able to retire by April 1st to avoid the changes. Lundin has worked since 1971 and she has 37 years of teaching experience, but only 27 in the state of Rhode Island. "I can't retire, and I lose my COLA, so my pay will be the same for the rest of my life," Lundin said.

Newly hired public employees may not receive the pension benefit at all if the governor's budget is approved.

The state legislature must vote to approve this budget for changes to take effect.

## Math teachers prepare for midterm madness

By: KYLE DOUBRAVA  
reporter

It's chores on a Saturday. It's that cell phone that you lost and your parents are making you pay for a new one. It's also the disgusting assortment of vegetables on your dinner plate. So what is "it", exactly?

"It" is madness. To be more precise, midterm madness.

Students and teachers at Narragansett High School are preparing for the four-day long exam week that pops up twice a year on one's calendar. Midterm week is the last chance to display your knowledge of a subject and make your semester grade sparkle on your report card.



If not taken seriously, the math midterms could prove to be dreadful for students. Math teachers Mrs. LaPointe and Mrs. Manchette have their different ways to prepare their pupils for the big exam.

"Typically we're preparing every day for exams," Manchette said. "Usually I will give one full day of review, maybe the last class before exams. A couple of weeks before the exam I give students review packets so they can start working on it ahead of time. I will prepare the students so they come ready with questions."

Mrs. LaPointe also finds the review packet idea quite useful. "They get a (review) packet to take home and I assign it for homework. Then the last full class before midterms we spend reviewing," LaPointe said.

Different level classes have various preparation techniques Manchette said.

"Every class is different because you always have to go by the makeup of the students in front of you. So depending on the type of students in the level of the class I would handle them differently."

Mrs. Manchette said her accelerated class should expect a different review strategy than the level two classes. "Certainly kids in the accelerated class will have different types of questions than students who are in a college prep class or a skills class," Manchette said.

For freshmen, exam week is hit or miss. Freshmen are not acclimated to how exams run and what to expect on them, so Mrs. LaPointe

has given a little advice for frantic freshmen.

"I think they (freshmen) need to realize that whatever we give them prior to exam week they really need to concentrate on as well as filling out any useful graphic organizer or card," LaPointe said. "The biggest thing is doing little pieces each day, not waiting right before exams to get things done."

Many students haven't shown up for extra assistance after school.

Sure, it will be a huge sigh of relief once the last exam is out of the way, but don't forget that exams pop up twice a year on your calendar.

## An administrator's job is never complete

by ALEX MCLEOD  
reporter

While students enjoyed eleven days of leisure during holiday recess, Principal Warner and his staff worked through most of the week.

While he is not required to come to work over breaks, Mr. Warner said it is necessary to do so to fulfill all of his responsibilities. "I need to work [during the breaks] to complete everything I need to do. I'm not required, I'm given vacation days," Warner said.

Some of the duties of the administration include creating a budget for the school, staffing, generating a program of studies and scheduling the building. Additionally, due to the introduction of the programs, the administration is re-

sponsible for coordinating the senior project, electronic portfolio and advisory for the school.

"We were busy getting caught up on everything," Mrs. Baskins, secretary, said.

On a typical day, Mr. Warner arrives around 6:30 in the morning, and often leaves at 4:00 in the afternoon, without meetings or athletic events that sometimes require him to work until 9:00 or 10:00 in the evening.

Warner said he also completes work at home on the weekends.

Despite the long hours and lack of full vacations, Mr. Warner said he enjoys his role as Principal at Narragansett High School (NHS). "I love my job," Warner said.

The administration also



works through February and April vacations. Mr. Warner said he is thankful for these times, when no

students or teachers in the building means he can accomplish much of his work. "It's a nice break during the

April and February breaks when there are no students or teachers here. I can get some work done," Warner said.

As a result of all of his long hours and hard work, Mr. Warner said he hopes to maintain NHS as what he believes to be a leading Rhode Island high school. "I always consider Narragansett High School a premier high school in Rhode Island, so it's a challenge to keep it at that level," Warner said.

Above all of his efforts and time, Mr. Warner credits the teachers with the continued success of NHS. "I think our teachers provide a wonderful academic environment for our students. They're kind, they're compassionate. Kids and parents should be proud of what they're involved in," Warner said.

### FOOD

delectable seafood and poultry selection.

Matt Prezioso, junior, has taken a liking for the European style cooking, specifically Marko's located on Boon Street near Crazy Burger.

"I like Marko's, it's a place that opened up a couple years back and their food tastes great. They make a really good kebab," Prezioso said.

It would seem natural to go to local restaurants in the winter and early spring time, mainly because Narragansett is quiet at the time. However, students like Pezzelli and Prezioso have different plans and want to venture elsewhere

for restaurants.

"If I had the choice I would probably go somewhere else," Pezzelli said. "You can get better quality and some diversity."

Prezioso shares a similar opinion with Pezzelli. "South County has their fair share of bad restaurants, but there are some behind-the-scenes places that are good, like Marko's," Prezioso said.

Sure, urban areas like Cranston and Providence vastly outnumber the amount of restaurants that Narragansett has, but it seems that students tend to stay local when going out to eat rather than making a long haul on a weekend evening to another restaurant that may be different.

### RAFFLE

"Our main selling places were set up at sporting events," McLeod said. "We would have students with advertisement at the tables outside the events. Also we made posters to hang up around the school but the advertising wasn't as heavy because we weren't selling as much within school. Plus each freshman had their own tickets they were required to sell."

Narragansett High School may even be able to expect future raffles from the class of 2012 depending if the class receives the returns

they are currently expecting.

"Depending on the final result and how many tickets we've sold by the new deadline, we will consider continuing the fundraiser in the next few years," McLeod said.

Regardless of the outcome, the class of 2012 saw this experience as a learning one, and has gained addition knowledge into the high stakes world of school based fund raising.

At the time of this publication, Mr. Hackett, freshmen advisor was not available for comment on this current issue.

### CLOTHING DRIVE

and bring clothes to the school.

"I think the National Honor Societies clothing drive is a great way to help out the community," Sara Balestrieri, junior, said.

There are no specific requirements for the dona-

tion except for the fact that clothes must be in decent shape.

The folding and boxing of clothes will be done February 11<sup>th</sup> and will be donated before February vacation.

How did this annual clothing drive start? Well it's been a ritual at Narragansett High School for

many years. "When I became the advisor of National Honor Society the clothing drive was just inherited." Good, said. She became the advisor in 1997 and the clothing drive had been a tradition before then, it has been at Narragansett for over 20 years and will remain for many years to come.

### HONOR

Which will be held later this year. In addition the Honor society will be seeking the donations of all kinds of clothing for they annual clothing drive which is currently being held.

The honor Society council hold meetings on the last Friday of each month with the Honor Society Council to discuss any affairs that

might affect the council or provide them with opportunities to help in the Narragansett community. No idea or opportunities is ever wiped off the table and each person's ideas are treated with respect and understanding during they monthly meetings.. The council is lead by President Emily Pietrzak, Co-Vice Presidents Timothy Ryan and Mary Ellen Vigeant, Secretary Hillary



Curley, and Co-Historians Maxwell Rittner and Melissa McGovern.

## The Maritimes

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## Did you fail the exam, or did the exam fail you?

Think you did poorly on one of your exams? Don't worry, everyone goes through that once and a while. The truth is you probably scored only a few points higher than you thought.

As everyone knows, exam grades are not meant to boost your semester grade at all. As a matter of fact, their primary purpose is to try and send you down into the deep void that is frustration and failure.

There is really no point to midterms or final exams. They don't reflect much of what you learned, throughout the year, and just waste time and effort on the student and teacher fronts.

However, if you have a simple class, then there is a purpose to a final exam. To sit in your classroom and twiddle your thumbs for two hours.

The only good thing about exam week is that you can leave the building without being confronted by an authority figure. However, once you leave the grounds, it's very tempting to fail to return to the school for the second exam of the day.

The sign of the golden arches can lure young minds away from the tantalizing multiple choice inquiries.

Yet again, this meager dream is only possible if you have a car. Or have friends with cars.

So, if you are forced to remain in the dungeon that is the school, bring your own lunch. If you are like people I know, you forget to bring a lunch and then sit there for two hours thinking about how hungry you are instead of trying to remember who the heck killed Julius Caesar. Duh, obviously it was Brutus, but you're too starved to remember! Instead you're thinking about how Julius Caesar reminds you of Orange Julius, and how much you want one right now.

After the mass chaos that is exam week, all is said and done and normalcy is restored. But just when you think you've escaped the hoopla, there it is back again. Exams always come when it's most inconvenient, even though it's the same week every year.

## Social Vibe: raising awareness

by **STEPHANIE MCWHINNIE**  
 columnist



Social vibe is an internet site that not many individuals know about, but should. It's a great way to give back to other people without dipping into your own pocket.

Social vibe is a website that you can sign up for and choose a cause, such as PETA2, Charity Water, Keep-a-Breast, and many others. When you choose a cause, you also choose two sponsors that will donate money to your cause every time someone sees your badge.

You post your badge wherever you like, such as Facebook and other social networking websites. Each week the cause of your choice posts new goals that their followers help reach.

Goals such as raising money to sponsor an online help center for those suffering from depression is just one of the numerous objectives social vibe sponsors each week.

Members who help in these efforts are rewarded with trips and other merchandise.

Without even donating any money of your own, you help give back to people who need it most.

There are over a hundred sponsors on social vibe, and countless causes, every day people all over the world log in to help make a difference. It's not unusual for members from England and southern Europe to aide in supporting sponsors from South America or right here in the United States.

Recently in Africa they have gotten a new well installed for drinking water, thanks to the help of social vibe and the supporters of the cause called 'Charity Water.'

This story is one of many of how much you can impact society with your computer. You can help others in the comfort of your own home.

There are over half a million people on social vibe making a difference, and for each cause there has been thousands of dollars raised. These funds go to benefit both online support groups as well as actually

build support complexes to provide aide to those in need.

Each week there is a goal posted for each cause which all supporters of the cause try to reach by posting their badge on social networking sites. Oftentimes sites such as Facebook and Myspace are inundated with numerous posts attempting to raise awareness for a particular group.

Some sponsors will even triple your point value, in example if someone sees your badge with your sponsor name once, your sponsor will then make it 3 points instead of one. These points represent the amount of money going to that member's particular causes.

Obviously the causes aren't the only beneficiaries in this, the sponsors get free promoting for doing a good thing, which helps spread free advertising.

Everyone always says the internet is a negative impact on society, this website is proof it is a positive one. Without the help of social vibe, many causes wouldn't be able to spread their awareness and give hope to others who need it.

## the Maritimes

**Volume 101 Number 3**

The Maritimes, Narragansett High school's student newspaper, is published by students bi-monthly during the regular school year. The students are responsible for news and editorial content.

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## WORD ON THE STREET

What are you doing over February vacation?



*"I'm going to Cambodia to make water filters for people that don't have clean water and teach them how to use it."*

—Erin Van Hemelrijck, junior

*"I'm just going to hang out with my friends and relax."*

—Hannah Collier, freshman



*"I will be spending quality time with the wonder baby."*

—Mr. Reis, faculty

### VOICE YOUR OPINION

#### BY MAIL

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### EDITORIAL POLICY

Please keep letters to the editor no longer than 250 words. Longer letters may be used as guest columns at the editor's discretion. All letters must be signed and include an address or phone number for confirmation. Letters may be edited for libelous statements, available space or factual errors.



## Movies over the holidays

by LEXY DAVIS  
reporter

Ticket sales were low due to the nation's recession amounting to \$200 million compared with last year's \$350 million.

But that didn't stop movie goers from watching the dog tale that was number one in the box office.

"Marley & Me", the story of a family who learns many life lessons with the help of their adorable but crazy dog, was the lead of a strong bunch of movies over this recent December vacation, estimating \$37 million over the Christmas weekend.

"I really want to see Marley & me, it looks like a really good movie plus it's been #1 for weeks." Jess Motherway, junior, said.

Marley and Me was followed by "Bedtime Stories", A family comedy about a hotel handyman whose life changes when the bedtime

stories that he makes for his niece and nephew start to magically come alive, the film grossed an estimated \$28.1 million over the weekend coming in second place.

In third place was "The Curious case of Benjamin Button", the tale of a man who starts aging backwards with out of the ordinary consequences, bringing in an \$27 million.

"I really want to see Benjamin Button because it seems like an interesting movie" Victoria Frankovitch, Junior, said.

"Valkyrie", based on a true story of the assassination attempt of Hitler that was taken place during the height of WWII, took in an astonishing \$21.5 million with "Yes Man" on its tale earning \$16.5 million.

"Yes Man" was the story of a man who challenges himself to say yes to everything for a whole year, Jim Carrey attracted many

movie goers to want to view this movie. "Yes Man, although cheesy was very funny and inspirational." Jess Motherway, junior, said.

"Seven Pounds" accumulated \$13.4 million coming in sixth place. With seven names, seven strangers and one secret people were drawn to see this movie.

"Seven Pounds" was the saddest movie I've ever seen, you could hear everyone in the theater crying." Rachel Bloom, junior, said.

"If I could have seen a movie over December vacation it would have been 'Seven Pounds' because I need to know what seven pounds is and Will Smith is an amazing actor no matter what movie he is in." Ms. Burns, English teacher, said.

lastly "The Tale of Despereaux" grossed \$9.4 million, "The Day the Earth Stood Still" grossed \$7.9 million.

## Swift is 'Fearless'

by TYLER CASEY  
reporter

Taylor Swift, was a small town girl from Tennessee, and now a huge name in the American country pop music industry.

When she was sixteen she was spotted on MySpace singing and a music executive saw talent in this young juvenile.

Her early work was based on love and falling in love and in two years she produced one self titled album, "Taylor Swift". She had two big hits from her first album "Teardrops on my Guitar" and "Our Song".

When asked what thought about the album, "Taylor Swift", Deanna Casey, sophomore, had her opinion. "It is the most amazing CD ever." Casey said. I listen to it like every day because they are my anthem".

Having hits as a young artist in a new game, the music industry, really can boost a singer's confi-

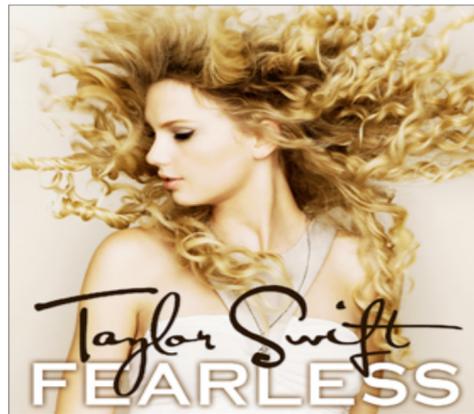
dents. So, that's what made Swift jump right back into a new album.

"Fearless", her newest album, came out on November 11<sup>th</sup> of last year. The album was well bought around the nation and was at number 1 on the Billboards top 200 album chart.

The hits on the new album are "Love Story", "Fifteen", and "White Horse". These songs along with the album are not all happy go lucky songs like the first album. It has more of a slow downed pace and about the depressions of a relationship.

Julia Iannucci, freshman, "The CD is totally different than the last one and it seems to keep on growing on me the more and more I listen to it," Iannucci said.

"Fearless" is a CD that everyone can relate to with past experiences with bad relationships. This CD shows that even normal people can relate to the biggest celebrities.



The Maritimes

I love the Maritimes!  
¡Me encanta el  
Maritimes!  
J'adore le Maritimes!  
Ti amo il Maritimes!



## NHS play to be determined

by KIANI CARROLL  
reporter

NHS has put on many high school performances in the theater department. These performances have included hit plays and musicals that have been on Broadway such as the musical Grease.

Unfortunately, it is still to be determined if there is even going to be a production this year. The theater group normally has a different director every year and thus far, no one has applied for the position.

Ryan Field, sophomore, is an active member in the productions and he started being in the high school productions since he was in middle school. Field has held numerous roles during his theater career and hopes a director is selected.

"I really hope that we can find a director. We have been looking and asking around, but no one wants the job," Field said.

NHS does not know what type of director they will get if it happens and their search continues.

"It would be really nice to

have someone experienced in theater and want to continue the legacy Narragansett has built up in its school productions," Field said.

It has been rumored that Jamie Dufault, alumni of NHS, might take on the job and fill the shoes of the director. As a student, Dufault was active in the theater program during his four years at Narragansett.

However, nothing has been confirmed and thus the search continues for the right person for the job and to hopefully put on another great performance.



## NHS staff lends a helping hand to those in need

by JENNA MAIRS  
reporter

A long-term substitute teacher at Narragansett High School took a day off of school to help build a new home for a grieving family.

Ms. Leasca, English teacher, helped build the house on an episode of Extreme Makeover: Home Edition, along with hundreds of other people. The episode will air February 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup>.

"It was very rewarding to know that doing such a small part could help a family have a new beginning," Leasca said.

She got a spot in helping build through her dad's building company, Gileane Building Company. After leaving her home at four am and taking a bus heading to Norwich, CT, she arrived to the site of con-

struction.

From there, she spent a majority of the day working.

"We were on site from six in the morning until two or three in the afternoon," she said.

While on site, one of her jobs was carrying drywall into the first floor of the house. She also had to bring breakfast to the workers, who had been working for a straight 24 hours to make up for the 14 hours they were behind schedule.

When the house was completed, it resembled a castle, Leasca said. It was designed to look like the walls were made of stone, and is the only completely environmentally-friendly house in CT.

Since she helped in the construction process, she knows the outcome of the episode and how the family

reacted to the unveiling of their new home.

"They totally didn't expect it to look like it did," she said.

Leasca has told her experiences to many of her students, and they have shown just as much enthusiasm about it. "I think it's great that it's for such a good cause," Jenn Castro, junior, said.

Along with helping during construction, Leasca also had the chance to meet Ty Pennington, the host of the show. "He doesn't do as much as you would think he would do," she said.

Overall, her experience was a positive one, she said, and she would definitely recommend participating to anyone who gets this once in a lifetime chance. "If you ever get the chance to do it, go and do it. It's definitely worth a day off of school," she said.

## NHS student competes in for online college spokesperson job

by JENNA MAIRS  
reporter

Way to Go RI is on a search for their new student spokesperson, and one Narragansett student made the final cut.

Victoria Frankovich, junior, auditioned for the part of the new spokesperson for Way to Go RI, and made the final 12 out of all of the Rhode Island contestants. Paige Frankovich, freshman, auditioned as well but did not make the cut.

The casting call was for a spokesperson to make a video to introduce new users to the website. The auditions were held at a college fair at CCRI this past October.

The auditions were set up so that students would come in, look at the website, and answer questions on what they thought of the program. "We sat in front of a big green screen while they asked questions about the web-

Honestly, the first time I've ever been on it was in the audition room."

- Victoria Frankovich, junior

site," said Paige Frankovich.

"I saw that they had signups for casting calls, and decided to do it," said Victoria Frankovich.

Although she signed up for the casting calls, she hasn't used the website outside of school. "Honestly, the first time I've ever been on it was in the audition room," she said.

When at the auditions, many people from all over Rhode Island were shooting for the same spot, although neither knew exactly how many people were there. "People were leaving and coming in quickly so it's hard to say," Paige Frankovich said.

However, Victoria still made the top twelve for the finalists,

and may have a chance at becoming the new spokesperson. The prize for making the cut is a \$1500 scholarship to a college of her choice, and a new laptop.

Choosing the representative was a combination of voting and judges. Students from around Rhode Island were asked to vote through Facebook accounts. Victoria Frankovich made the final three in a close percentage.

Coming in third in the votes will still give her a chance to win the scholarship and laptop, she said. Her placement is pending on the judges' votes. The winner of the competition will be announced at an upcoming Fit for Life expo.

## The sweet sounds of musical success

by SHERRY HANNAN  
reporter

Dan Stone, senior.

Since the beginning of last year, the music program at NHS has been turned upside down and backwards. Mr. Dan Healey took over as the music teacher in September 2007. As his second year as a teacher here, he instructs Band, Chorus, Music Theory, Music Appreciation, Guitar, and Piano. In addition to these classes, he hopes to be able to add a Beginner Band Class. His goal for the music program is to develop a 100 person band and a 100 person chorus within the next six years. "It takes awhile in order to build a strong program", said Healey. Mr. Healey's goal is already progressing. When he became a part of NHS last fall, there were only twelve students in the chorus. This number has grown to 50.

Mr. Healey has become very well liked by his students.

"Mr. Healey made us more active in music. He makes us learn the basics about music instead of just the songs", said Jamie Harris, junior.

Students said that Healey has challenged them with increasingly more difficult music. During his tenure.

"Every year we've (the band) gotten bigger and more advanced. It's great to take the music program to the next level", said

Mr. Healey's interest in music began in his junior and senior years of high school at Mount Saint Charles in Woonsocket. It was then when Healey, an all around student who played a lot of sports, including baseball and was on the track team, and was on the National Honor Society realized it was time for a change from his focus on biology.

"I realized I wouldn't be happy unless I did something I loved. I had a lot of influential music teacher", said Healey. One of his most influential teachers was his trumpet teacher, who was 85 and whom Healey described as looking like Yoda. "Not only was a great trumpet player, but he knew how to teach", said Healey. Mr. Healey plays many instruments, including guitar, trombone, piano, and the French horn, but he plays the trumpet the best. He has been playing for 13 years and also has been singing since he was a junior in high school.

After high school Healey attended the University of Rhode Island for 5 years to complete his double major in music performance on trumpet and a focus in voice on music education. What Mr. Healey loves is seeing the changes in his students. "I see a lot of kids that are driven to succeed and are taking music more seriously", said Healey.



## End of an era for wrestling

by Matt Pistacchio  
reporter

The Narragansett wrestling community can agree that Ethan Farrell is a keystone to their victorious trends.

The Mariners will be amiss next season as they look for a prominent replacement for the great footprints he leaves behind in the 145 pound weight class.

"I have made a pretty serious progression from freshman year," Farrell said. "I started my first season with 25 wins, and now in my senior year I'm already up to twenty; I have accomplished a lot in a short amount of time."

In Farrell's future, he plans to expand his prowess beyond the confines of high school wrestling. Several colleges have expressed interest in the wrestling expertise and skill he brings to the mat.

"My goal in college is to

become a national champ, and I hope I can push myself to get that distance."

Ethan's sheer love of the sport and the thrill of winning drove him to meet the accomplishments he has made. Last season he won states and in his sophomore year he was ranked fifth in his division. His success is inspirational to his teammates as well as himself.

"The hard work he puts in at the gym really shows. Last year, he made me work harder in practice and he brings leadership and commitment to every practice," Kieran Kenny, sophomore and former wrestler, said.

The work ethic Farrell has developed likely comes from multiple areas. He trains with the Mayo Quanchi judo team and other groups. "I have always believed that you can get more out of a sport by training yourself as much as possible and incorporat-



ing outside help to better your game," Farrell said.

For this year's season Farrell is, by January 16, 2009, 19-0 with several pins in the mix. "I hope to come in first this season and win states, and being the New England champion has always been a dream of

mine," Farrell said.

As the wrestling season reaches a half-point, Farrell prepares to end 2009 with a bang. Truly, the graduates of 2009 will be robbing our school of some of the best athletes. The school must hope the athletes of the future will fill Farrell's shoes.

## Sweet strokes of success

by Cara Arnau  
reporter

For the past four years, Anais Grilli has propelled the Lady Mariners swim team to a new level. She has excelled in many different events leading the Mariners to achieve several victories.

Grilli spoke about swimming, memorable moments, and her prospects for the future. "I've been on the high school swim team for four years and I've been on my private swim team, the rams, for eight years," Grilli said. "It takes up a lot of my time, but I love it."

Balancing academics and sports can be difficult. "I try and have a certain mindset, that being focused when it comes to handling sports with school. It can be hard at times, but you just have to find what fits for your and how to manage your time," Grilli said.

Grilli's memories of swim at Narragansett High School will have a place in her heart for years to come. "When I got my best time in the 500 yard at New England, which is fourth place, I was so happy. That was my favorite moment of swim so far," Grilli said.

Grilli has a very strong view on what she wants to accomplish. "My goal this season is to make the top five at states. It being my senior year and all, it's important to me to do the absolute best that I can do," Grilli said.

"I run a lot because it increases my level of endurance and stamina. Keeping in shape in the off season for any athlete is important to not lose momentum, to keep up with your competitors" Grilli said.

"I will miss competing with my friends," Grilli said. She said she hopes for a positive change her college future. "I'm actually going to be swimming at URI next year. I'm excited about it and I hope to get stronger in my sport," said Grilli.

## Silent Assassins: get the job done quickly

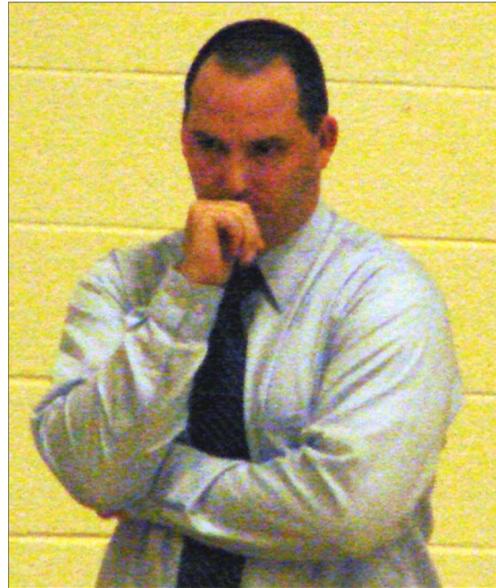
by Matt Pistacchio  
reporter

The Narragansett Boys' basketball team defeated Barrington to progress their season to 9-0. The final score was 56-41, with the Mariners holding a lead throughout.

The opening game ceremonies had a special addition as Jay Jeannotte, senior, was inducted into the 1000 point club. The slogan "Jay 1000" was present on many t-shirts throughout the crowd. Once the Mariners took the floor, an early dominance was evident as the first half ended with a Narragansett 13 point lead.

Jeannotte ended the game with 21 points, 7 rebounds, and 3 steals. "We were very pumped coming into this game," Jeannotte said.

"It was a Friday night game against a formidable opponent. We had strong defense and strong rebounding until the last three minutes of the game. We definitely need to improve on working against a zone defense, but other than that we played pretty well," Jeannotte said.



"Our defense was good in the first half, yet needed some serious work in the second," Austin Shepherd, junior said. "Other than that I thought we were pretty solid all around. We played man to man and forced them to do what they didn't want to do."

Shepherd was the second

highest scorer with fourteen points.

Brendan Kenny, senior, also added four assists and seven points with a lay-up.

The Mariner defense was in full effect through turnover after turnover.

The Mariners encountered difficulty as Barrington harassed Narragansett of

fense. The sticky hands of Max Rittner, junior, aided the Mariners in reclaiming the rebounding advantage.

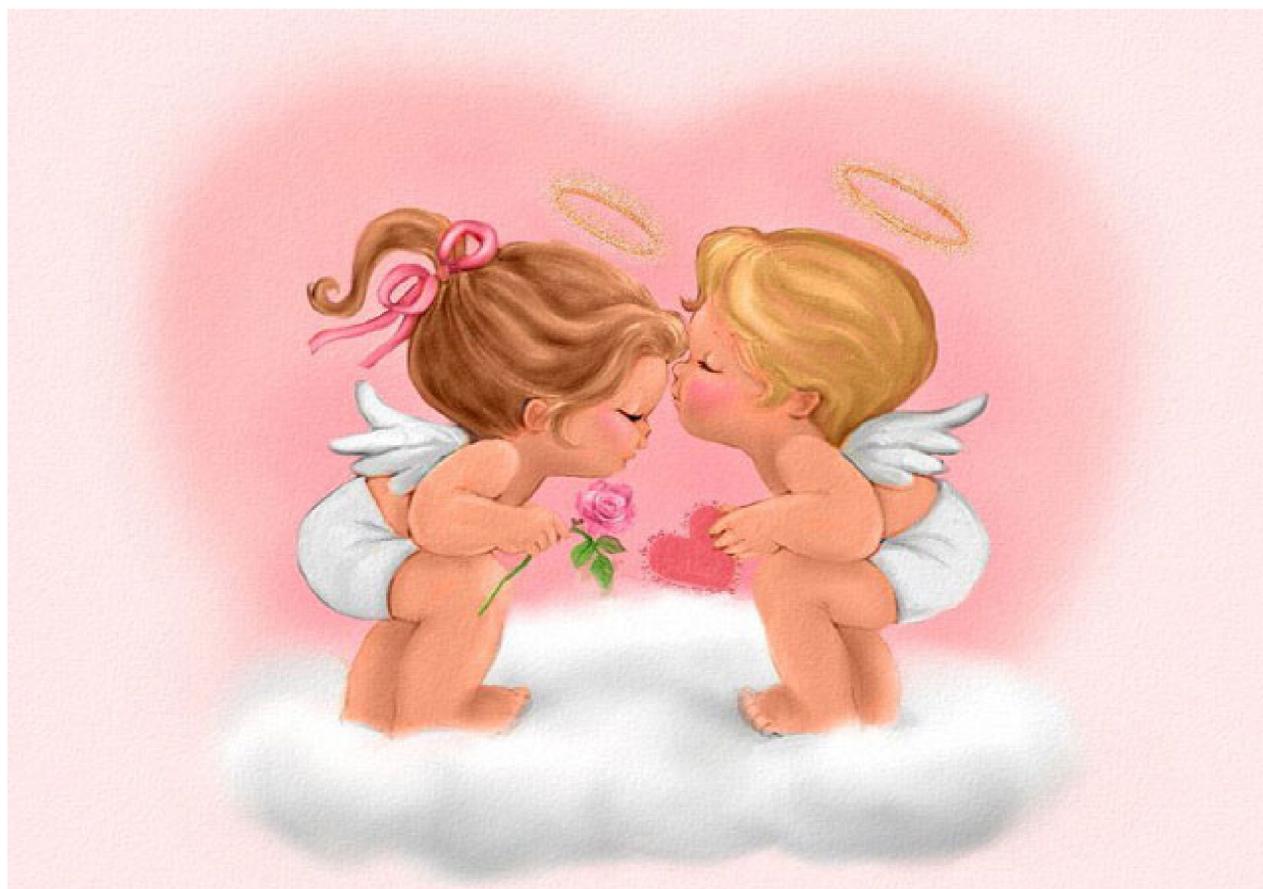
"Max gave us the energy we needed," Head coach David Gee said. "We were getting a little complacent in the second half, too many missed shots and turnovers. The focus was there, though, but we weren't working at the intensity level we need to be."

Nate Patterson, senior, finished with five points. "As a team we rebounded very well. No one grabbed all the boards and we each had our share," Patterson said. "We just need to work on keeping our focus and playing 100 percent, 110 percent of the time"

Tyler Hoxsie, senior, added seven points.

"I'm happy for the guys, but this just means we have to work even harder because now everyone's going to be gunning for us," Gee said. As of January 11, the Mariners are the top team of Division II-South. They continue to keep their sights on the state championship at the Ryan Center later this year.

## A Season of Love



### Making Valentines day special, the Mariner way

by KIANI CARROLL & TYLER CASEY  
reporter

Valentine's Day to some people is much more than a box of conversation hearts and cupid shooting arrows. To some Valentine's Day is a chance to really express the emotion that has been bundled up inside of them waiting to erupt. Then there are also the people who think that it is just another ordinary day and that the idea is just a stupid commercial holiday to make money.

With Valentine's Day approaching, many are soul searching and many are planning a special evening. The NHS factuality and student body are also getting ready for the big day. Being a Valentine of someone means a lot because it shows that the person cares and likes that special person and wants to make the day of love special.

From a girl's perspective, Valentine's Day is a special day. Every girl dreams about having her own special Valentine or secret admirer. They see a nice evening, roses or some form of flower, and their dream date. This is mostly a very special day for girls because it is a time to show affection for the one you care most about.

Sarah Barton, a freshmen, has her own opinion on what she sees when she thinks of a Valentine's Day date. "I see lots of hearts, chocolate, and flowers," Barton said.

From a guy's perspective, Valentine's Day is another ordinary day. We just try and impress

the one who we dream about the most. As always we follow what they say, by getting them what they want and going where they want to go. Usually we try to stay in a low price range, but knowing girls they always want more. One reason why guys mostly follow what the girls say is to receive a kiss at the end of the night.

Kieran Kenny, a sophomore, had this to say. "Valentine's day is a night to make girls happy. It is like Mother's Day except for a girl. It's just a Saturday to me," Kenny said.

The teachers at NHS also celebrate this special day. They find the time to take off from their busy schedules and spend time with their significant other. Just as the student body at Nar-ragansett does.

Mrs. McNamara celebrates Valentine's Day with her husband. Mrs. Mac doesn't enjoy a rose as much as a colorful variety of flowers. "This year we are going to Simpatico for a nice dinner on a special evening," McNamara said.

Mr. Joubert had this opinion. "It is a day where men are forced to buy boxes of chocolate and flowers or they will get in trouble. And, it's good for the economy," Joubert said.

As you can see, Valentine's Day is seen differently between the two different genders. It can be seen as a fun, joyful, loving day. Or it is a day of spending money and catering to their love's needs.

From a couple's perspective, Valentine's day is not very different because when you are in a

relationship you tend to show your affection and love for each other every day which makes it not very different. It does include an opportunity for a nice date and a romantic evening.

However, from a non couple's point of view, Valentine's Day can still be special.

Alex Degidio, although single, still seems to enjoy making chocolate for everyone. "OMG! I love Valentine's Day! It is overall a very happy day. I still get excited even though I don't have a man, but I wish I did. However, the day is still fun and I enjoy it very much," Degidio said.

Steve Lambert, a junior, still wishes he was in elementary school when the day was spent just giving out valentine's cards and sticking candy in brown paper bags.

Matthew Eldridge, a junior, says "Valentine's Day is a tossup; you can either strike gold or can be shut down. Isn't Valentine's Day the highest suicide rate?"

Kayla Peterson, a senior, says "Valentine's Day can be corny, but can show inner feelings of your significant other... maybe I'm corny?"

So if you have plans for Valentine's Day or think the holiday just stinks, to make it all better you could find yourself a date or spend time with one you love the most. It does not have to be all about gifts and buying stuff. It is more of an important day to spend with the one you love. Just make the day special because you both deserve it.