



Inside:

Sports: Red Sox thrown in with the whites

Inside: Editorial

Advisory  
dramatics  
uncovered:  
What stu-  
dents want  
to change



# the Maritimes

Narragansett High School

Narragansett High School's student newspaper since 2008.

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Page edited by Matt Pistacchio

## New times meet Good times



by MATT PISTACCHIO  
editor

In comparing last year to this this year, one should make one key distinction: the library. One may notice the new paint job blotted across the walls, accenting a dark green bottom with an Easter yellow top reaching to the ceiling.

One may even notice the new floors, hardwood (and even a little slippery), replacing the rugs that used to line these flats. The tables, with their unique green stony design tops to complement their hardwood legs, may even catch an eye from the careful observer.

It would take an even keener eye to spot the new shelves, with their special indentations, and the new chairs, with the special bottoms to prevent the floor

from being scratched.

All of these additions and more can be noticed and enjoyed, but what about the opinions which resonate about these changes? Who can notice that?

Perhaps one such opinion would be the person who runs the whole show. Mrs. Good, Narragansett High School Librarian, is extremely happy with the changes made to the library over the summer.

"One of the comments I have heard that I would make myself is that I think [the library] looks like a serious place. It's a work place, and that is what I have always wanted the library to be," Good said.

Students like Austin Weindel, sophomore, have positive feelings about the library as well. "I think it looks pretty good because of the new floors and the new

walls. The floors in particular make it seem different than regular school," Weindel said.

These changes were a long time coming, considering the age of the library. "This library was built in '75; there have been no changes since 1975," Good said.

The wheels of this project were set in motion last year. "I think that Mrs. Sepala [Narragansett High School Super Intendant] and Mr. Warner [Narragansett High School Principal] approached us... almost a year ago... Money came from the school budget capital line, or building/refurbishing line," Good said.

Warner and Sepala may have been sitting on this project for a bit more than a year. "I think that they

see LIBRARY, p2

## Is the spirit gone?

by MATT PISTACCHIO  
reporter

Spirit Week, it seems, is always a focal point for drama. Whether it's what's appropriate, what's not appropriate, or even who won, there is always something stirring emotions come Homecoming week.

This year, it is the T-shirts. After decades of inside jokes, quirky expressions, and hidden meanings, personalized names on the back of Powerpuff shirts have been limited to seniors this year.

Underclassmen have been more than displeased at the news in the beginning of the year. "I hate it," Jack Fernandes,

junior, said.

Students raise interesting points: they bought the shirts; shouldn't they maintain freedom of expression?

Moreover, students claim that in taking this privilege away, one's personality is being restricted.

"We bought these shirts. They are our own shirts. We need to express ourselves, and taking this right away from us is taking our individuality," Rachel Fanning, junior, said.

The name privileges were taken away on the grounds that students over the years have been placing hints at various

see SPIRIT, p2

Enrollments for current school	
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## Schedule woes for many

by MATT PISTACCHIO  
editor

Narragansett High School changed its schedule in the beginning of the year from having advisory and lunch adjacent to each other, to having advisory as second period and having a three-part lunch schedule for fourth

period.

Advisory being second period can throw off a lot of people's feng shui, because for most high school students, excluding freshmen, the schedule has been one way for a good amount of time, with the only changes being in who

see SCHEDULE, p2

## A pain down mentor lane, seniors seek sanity

by MATT PISTACCHIO  
editor

The Senior Project is a perennial pain for most seniors. The first day of school for seniors is a sweeping upheaval of due dates, end goals, and destinations.

Most of the requirements are considered manageable; have a parent sign here, come up with an idea, read a manual.

For a few select students,

having to find someone, preferably an adult, that can dedicate fifteen hours of his/her time to them all year is a great challenge.

The process of contacting a mentor is certainly easier in the age of technology. Email can make any plea for help convenient, and perhaps one's pride can be kept in the process.

However, this form of communication has its pitfalls. The Spam folder can ruin

many an attempt, with the sad thing being that one can only think that the person is ignoring the other. In some cases, he/she is.

The other options on the table are calling the person up or actually barging into their office or workplace.

In these methods, if the person picks up or the person is physically there, the person cannot ignore the student.

If the person does not

want to invest in the project, the student shall be informed. This makes the job a lot easier for all cases.

If the person accepts, one cannot get too excited. Chances are, the person may not have considered the commitment involved in this endeavor.

Then there is always the temptation once the "Yes" is secured to revert back to email. Wrong move.

If the person reconsiders

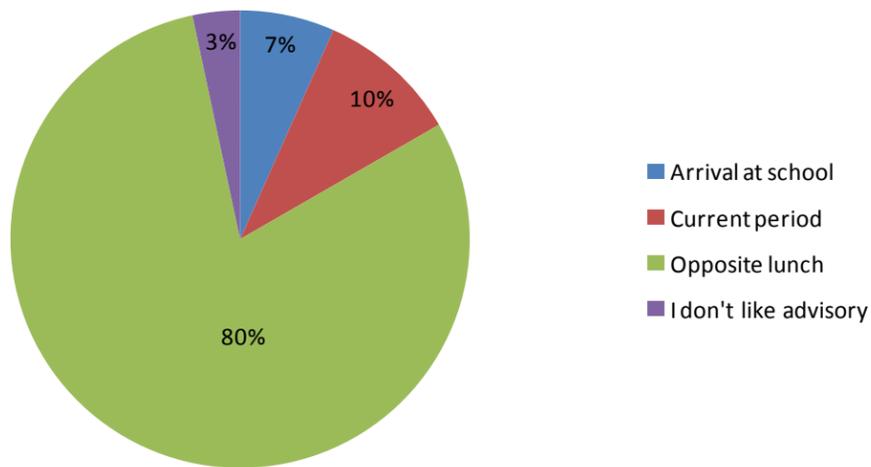
the investment, he/she is at full liberty to ignore the poor, now desperate student.

Now the deadline for the Mentor Agreement Letter is approaching, and one is having to jump through hoops to find out whether or not the person one initially asked will go all the way for the entire year.

This rant seems a little

see MENTOR, p2

# Monthly Survey: When would students prefer to have advisory?



## LIBRARY

have had that in their plan for awhile and were saving/allocating money to that line for this purpose," Good said.

The financial plan for funding the refurbishments scaled back to last year and even stretches to next year. "[The money] comes in chunks, so we had the chunk from last fiscal year, 2010-2011, then the chunk from this fiscal year, 2011-2012, and the completion will be done in the next fiscal year," Good said.

As costs are running into next year, there are sure more changes to come. "We still have a little ways to go, the soft furniture has to come, the lighting has to

be changed; those two things will probably be in the next group of money," Good said.

The soft furniture being added to the changes are being placed in the reading area at the center of the library. They are going to match the green and yellowish designs to make the area more aesthetically appealing as well as more comfortable.

There were some disadvantages for Good in particular with the new changes. "I just had to work more this summer; I had more work days this summer! But there are certain tasks now that we didn't have to do before such as reading all the shelves and making sure the books we are putting

back on the shelves are in the right order, because they're not. They're in the right area but they are not in the exact order, and... we are very exact around here...Putting the books back on the shelves and trying to figure out where (because the spaces are new) [and] how are we going to use the space...it took some time. In the daily running, helping students, helping teachers, that hasn't really changed," Good said.

With the sweeping change associated with this library, Good and other students can attest to the fact that its function to help and serve as a workplace has not changed is the greatest benefit of them all.

## SCHEDULE

has first lunch and who has second lunch, along with the occasional, "Who am I sitting next to?"

Some students like the new advisory location. "The good thing about it is that you can finish more homework we haven't finished for third and fourth period and study for more tests," Chris Timpson, senior said.

More students disagree. "It's dumb," P.J. Dougherty, senior, said. "[It] doesn't allow the breaks students used to get with having lunch and advisory back to back. It actually makes school seem more stretched

out."

The changes to the lunch period seem to strike a similar nerve, for within this three-lunch confusion storm, problems can arise. First lunch occurs at the start of the period. Simple enough.

This process complicates, however, when the schedule switches around such as in NECAPS. If the class one has takes first lunch (and of course, how would one know?), then one undergoes the tedious task of walking to the class, finding out the news, and then walking whatever the distance it is to the cafeteria.

This is sometimes not a

problem, but depending on the proximity of the cafeteria to that classroom, one can have a real dent taken out of a much needed chow time.

"[The schedule] feels like the day is longer. It's different and I like the old schedule better. If you have first lunch, it's too early and third lunch is too late," Haley Matuszek, senior, said.

Most students point out the social implications of the schedule. The aim of the schedule was to cut down kids walking around the halls, but did it do its job *too* well?

"It sucks," Michael Herchen, senior, said. "The

## SPIRIT

vulgarity on their shirts and just posting inappropriate paraphernalia.

It was because of these occurrences that Mr. Smith, vice principal, had to enact these changes.

Despite widespread indignation, one junior offers an interesting point of view.

"I don't really care anymore. Makes sense from the teacher's standpoint. It will not make senior year any more exciting to have the personalized names," Sajad Hosseini, junior, said.

He is one of a few who "do not care". The rest of juniors in particular are in a state of extreme resentment.

"This is soooo dumb," Matt McGreen, junior, said. "Don't think it was a good idea. We had the shirts the way we wanted them freshman and sophomore year, and they take them away junior year? It's just not fair."

The question then emerges: Does the removal of the majority of personal-

ized shirts take anything away from the spirit of Spirit Week?

"To me, Spirit Week is not as fun as it used to be," McGreen said.

McGreen further explained his grief at the loss by saying that he was disappointed in the decisions of those who had caused this change.

Advisors of underclassmen had very diplomatic reactions to the dilemma, neither showing full-blown support nor complete outrage at the news.

"I know why Mr. Smith did it. I know why he instituted the policy. While I'm a big proponent of self-reliance, a big proponent of expression, I understand that decisions had to be made about the questionable nicknames or offensive words that had been used in previous years. I am sure it was a tough decision [by Smith]," Mr. Costello, faculty, said.

The senior perspective on the issue has been humorous to most. "It seems stupid," Greg Hamilton, senior, said.



## MENTOR

pessimistic, yet this is based on a story that is too true to fabricate. It is a story that is extremely similar to the trials and tribulations of a silent majority of seniors.

Josh Deady, senior, in particular had a lot of problems in finding a mentor. "I had such a specific topic that there were not many mentors that could help. I was searching for days, weeks even. I contacted people, but with their workloads being as they were, they just didn't have the time," Deady said.

Situations like Deady are all too similar in the hunt for a mentor. Adam Gabrilowitz, senior, had a related tale.

"I had had someone lined up earlier in the year, but his job took him to Australia between the months of October and February," Gabrilowitz said.

With tasks such as these, four words from a senior can certainly sum the process up. "It was pretty hard," Francis Castrovillari, senior, said

schedule makes the day go longer and it eliminates any social interactions. There's no time in the hallway pretty much...we basically never have down time with each other; only in classes do we get to see our friends, and that is not enough."

An interesting point comes into play: What about the senior privileges that used to be allotted to seniors who had everything they needed to have handed in to be able to leave campus to eat lunch? Are these gone? "This is the downfall of the schedule," Timpson said.

Daniel Warner, Narragansett principal, does in fact

have some ideas on how senior privileges can remain afloat in this new schedule.

He explained that there are two main ideas: A digital lounge in the library and a grass hut in a section of the cafeteria.

This hut would be complete with seating arrangements, entertainment systems, and even a smoothie machine.

Both ideas are what they remain to be: Ideas. In order to put them to reality, Warner needs help. "I need help from the seniors if these ideas are going to go through. I need more ideas," Warner said.

## LETTERS to the editor

**Question:** I am a stressed out senior, I have a full course load, and I play sports. Why must I add a senior project to my increasingly hectic schedule?

Sincerely  
-MarathonGotNothinOnMe

Dear MarathonGotNothinOnMe,

To answer your question, from what I can glean from the methods of this school, it's just another hurdle in your path pave your way to college.

In college, and life, really, there are obstacles that do not include the option to opt out. This is one of them. To look at the big picture, this juggernaut is one big eight-month science experiment with a paper, a presentation, and a mentor to aid through it all.

The dependent variable that is being measured in the quantitative aspects of the project is what your civics teacher calls, "the learning stretch" (heaven forbid you do not include the quotes).

This senior project in essence, is the ultimate obstacle. It is a time commitment, a plethora of deadlines, and a leading cause in pre-collegiate depression. Jokes aside, there is a value behind the project.

In addition to giving you the techniques to write one of many research papers you will construct in college, you spend time with a functioning member of society who, if given the chance, can really bond with you.

What you put into this "juggernaut" is truly what you will get out. No matter what the topic is, there is fun to be had if your imagination is applied.

In times of stress, you just need to take one task on at a time. Another bullet on the list will make you stronger.

# My little school: 500 kids, or better

by **MATT PISTACCHIO**  
reporter

The vast majority of Narragansett High School students started from the same square one. We attended middle school together, elementary; even as far as preschool together.

There is a definite family element which resounds throughout the light blue, dark blue, light green, and dark green hallways of our school.

Our school is so close because we are small; just squeaking over the 450 number on a good day. What is usually considered a disadvantage on a college application is in fact an inbred set of opportunities.

In my little school, the student-teacher relationships are so close that one would be hard-pressed to find a teacher on the campus that won't spend the extra hour with you after-school, or even the extra three.

In my little school, the

teacher knows your name. You can have him/her the first year and bet on the fact that he/she will remember your name your last year of high school.

In my little school, there are few sports that actually cut players.

In my little school, you are not ruled by one sport, you have the chance to display your versatility through all the seasons and truly find what game is really *your* game.

In my little school, you can have an hour-long conversation with someone who's not in any of your classes, but remembers how awesome it was to play Pokemon.

In my little school, you can come in as a freshman and know the majority of the seniors, even have them as good friends.

In my little school, new students can become known students. You won't be new for long.

In my little school, we protect each other. Someone

always has your back. If you have a bad day, or even a bad game, there are people to talk to; people who will listen.

In my little school, sports teams are external families; if one person loses a loved one, we all do. Any public event that a team holds has a guaranteed 20 to even 60 person attendance rating.

In my little school, we have Coach Sal, one of the many characters in the football family. Whether you play football or not, you probably know him and the many unique aspects of his personality. If you don't know him, look him up, it's worth it.

In my little school, you are never forgotten. In the classroom, the field, the court, whatever: it doesn't matter.

You are not under the radar at Narragansett High School. You are a part of the bigger picture, not just a segment in the background. You're not invisible. You're home.

## the **Maritimes**

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# WORD ON THE STREET

What did you do during Hurricane



**I stayed inside. My dad even had to board up the door.**

- Harmony Smith, Senior



**I was outside to watch the trees break. One of them almost hit someone's house.**

- Leah Fiorey, Senior



**I was at basic training. We actually ate inside of our base (we never do that).**

- Derek Dragon, Senior

## 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.

## Start to soccer stirs desire for more

by **MATT PISTACCHIO**  
editor

The Narragansett High School boys' soccer team walked into their season opener on the first Thursday of school with an air of confidence; only to have the game decided by a tie, 2-2. (Overtime is not played in the regular season.)

Aaron Libman, senior, is one of a select few captains for this year's brand of soccer players; a captain who believed better of his team that Thursday.

"We really should have won that game," Libman said.

"We did not play the team defense I expect us to play; we need to talk more. All night we were showing signs of greatness, but we couldn't put it together to win a game we should have won."

The team the Mariners were up against was Toll Gate High School's squad, a team whose name not even projo can remember. At the half, the Mariners knew they were in for a long contest as the score was knotted at one apiece.

The first goal for the Mariners came at the foot of Sajad Hosseini, only to have the lead matched by Toll Gate's Josh Sandin.

"There was a lot of confusion," Zach Zuchowski, junior, said.

His coach certainly agreed. Concerning the defense particularly, this side of the field was a schmor-gesborg of uncertainty that Head Coach Ryan Kanaczet couldn't help but admit.

"There was definitely a lot of confusion on the defensive end. [Toll Gate's] top three [forwards] were very fast and giving our guys a

lot of trouble," Kanaczet said.

The second half began with a rather positive nugget.

Corbin Maynard, junior, scored to regain Narragansett's lead, pulling them ahead 2-1.

This, inevitably, set Toll Gate on a warpath, with both teams trading shots.

Before the Mariners received even close to adequate time to bask in their lead, a drive by Toll Gate's top three put a Narragansett victory out of reach.

A shot was fired at the Narragansett goal. As it was on its way to the promise land, a lone Mariner defender valiantly attempted to maintain the lead, running to deflect the ball.

Unfortunately, the soccer deities deemed the effort unfit, having the ball glance

off his foot and into the goal. The score was thus deemed an own goal.

An own goal is a goal scored by the same team whose goal is being scored upon, this one being on an attempt to stop a shot on its way.

"The ball was already on its way in," Libman said. "It was a tough way to tie, but we had plenty of chances to regain the lead."

Multiple shots were fired on both sides as the match remained a stalemate. Todd Wright, junior, was among those who attempted to catalyze the Mariner offense, as one of his shots just missed the top corner of the net.

Zach McKanna, junior, remained stolid as goalie while Toll Gate was trying to orchestrate an upset. Among his thirteen saves included a diving stop on

the far corner of the net, forcing a corner kick that was later turned away.

McKanna's performance, which more than doubled that of Toll Gate's keeper, was ever the more needed as the confusion on the defensive end continued to haunt the Mariners.

"The main thing is communication," Libman said. "I also saw that we were not running that well either. That tells me we need to put more work in and run more in practice."

The game left the Mariners with a record without any losses or any wins. It was a tie. This is the perception the fans see and the reporters report.

To the rest, the game means an update about their record; to them, it means an update about themselves.

## Struck out again.....

by **MATT PISTACCHIO**  
editor

The 2011 season has been a disappointment for Red Sox fans and even baseball fans in general.

It's the typical storyline: big trades and signings in the offseason, analysts projecting the team to win the World Series, yet fate had a different plan.

This plan involved the offensive powerhouse Red Sox to lose any steam they once had in September (sort of an important month).

With a nine-game lead in the Wild Card race over Tampa Bay, the Red Sox, despite their blunderings in August after having exceptional June and July performances, looked like they would stumble into the playoffs.

Tampa Bay chose a different route. As if by mocking the pestering mosquitoes which swarm the sides of all New Englanders in this time of the season, the once third wheel in the American League East suddenly decided to show up.

It's not like there wasn't any foreshadowing to this Boston massacre. The beginning of the regular season showed the Cleveland Indians as the MLB front-runners with a record of too many wins-0 and the Red

Sox bringing up the rear of the league with an 0-too many losses.

Luckily for the pride of such role players as Theo Epstein and Terry Francona, the Red Sox were able to lull the fans and analysts back to sleep again, as they became neck and neck with the Yankees in actually leading the AL East.

Talks of World Series appearances and Red Sox dynasties thus recommenced. How fickle Fate can be with the vulnerable heart of a fan!

But should the fans of today be so disappointed, especially when one considers this team's history?

The fans of the 2000s are under a different perspective than those of the 90s and beyond.

The fans of today have experienced two Red Sox World Series parades in the past seven years. Fans prior to 2004 have experienced just one in almost a century.

But with all that has gone down in Boston fandom, can fans truly forget 80+ years without a grain of pride for America's pas-time? Can one let one season put one down, when 80+ have done far worse? May the true fan realize that the right answer to this question is NO.



by **MATT PISTACCHIO**  
editor

The Narragansett High School Volleyball team has had its rough patches in recent years. Oftentimes, hope would display itself in an undefeated week, or even a string of very strong practices. This year, however, these Lady Mariners are looking forward to bigger and better things.

"Playoffs. We are going there this year; how far we will get will depend on the work we put in," Head Coach Jodi Stern-Lonczak said.

This is the year's mentality. With a talented line up of height, power, and quickness, it is difficult not to partake in their confidence. If you tell them they're looking good this year, every player will respond quickly, and resolutely, "Yeah, we are."

Their season opener was a significant display of the type of dominance they were hyped up to have. Playing Mt. Hope, a constant annoyance in divisions of any sport, the Mariners were able to rebound from a slow start to sweep the Huskies in three games. Each score was an identical 25-20.

The game, or match as this is favorably called, was introduced in a typical fashion similar to other sports. Teams on each side of the court go through pregame drills, stretching sessions, and plenty of music plays. Funky music, that is, laced with swag.

Yet the characteristics that make these evenings individual are the most entertaining aspects for both the parents and friends that support the team.

Gabby Leclerc, sopho-

more, is a second year player on this team. In her two years, one might be able to argue that she is the most dominant player on her side of the net, attributing for the vast majority of the team's kills.

This accomplishment is even more impressive seeing as she is probably only the third or fourth tallest player. The frontline of the Lady Mariners seems to be one of the prevailing aspects of the team, with over a handful of players hovering around the six foot range.

Between the spikes, high-fives, dives, and chatter, the culture of Narragansett Volleyball is a living, breathing entity, which engrosses its fans and welcomes its newcomers with open arms. Combine this with a "deep-into-the-playoff caliber" team, and you've got a show.