

# PULSE

## Extra, Extra, Read All About It!

The Averill Park Pulse, your own high school newspaper, is back. After a four-year hiatus, The Pulse is back, published by the newly formed Journalism Club. This issue you hold in your hands is the first of many this year.

As for the newspaper's name, The Pulse, there have been several banners



gracing the school newspaper over the years. The high school's first newspaper was called The Warrior. In the early 1980's the name was switched to AP Hi-Lites. This title remained until the late 1980's, when the school paper became The AP Courier. In the mid 1990's, the school

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## FLOODING LEADS TO EARLY DISMISSAL:

by Cam Hasbrouck

The rain had been falling all morning, at times quite hard. Students finishing their first period physical education class were instructed to remain in the gym foyer. "Some of the hallways," they were told, "are underwater." As students stood in the gymnasium foyer, awaiting their next move, the rumor began to circulate - they were going to be let out of school. Then the text messages starting coming with the official news: school was being called off for the day, cementing one of the strangest days that Averill Park High School has seen in quite a long time.

So what really did happen on September 30? "Well, I went out to the hallway, and my sneakers got all wet," said Mrs. Long, the school attendance officer.



Along with the rest of the front office, Long quickly responded by placing "wet floor" signs out in the hallways to warn the students.

However, it wasn't until she walked by the senior courtyard that she saw the true extent of the damage.

Due to the hard rains, "an old concrete culvert collapsed due to age across the street," according to Aaron Heffner, the Averill Park Central School District's Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, blocking any drainage.

When the courtyard's drainage became backed up, the water that had collected in the courtyard had nowhere to go. Instead of taking water out of the courtyard, the drainage only added to the problem, as

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## NEW PRINCIPAL ON BOARD: GETTING TO KNOW MS. TSAO

by Eden Faliveno

On September 8, a new smiling face greeted AP high schoolers as they entered the school through the main entrance - that of Michelle Tsao, the new high school principal. Tsao came to AP from Shenendehowa Central School District where she had served as a building-level leader and an assistant principal.



When asked about her vision for APHS, she indicated that APHS "is already great" and that she wants to "enhance what APHS already has," continue the tradition of

excellence and develop resources to address all the needs that come with a diverse student body. Tsao wants to increase the availability of pathways for all students' interests and abilities. Among her first impressions, she found APHS to have a strong sense of community and is impressed with the welcoming, respectful nature of the students and faculty.

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## Newspaper (continued from page 1)

newspaper was renamed again, this time to The Parker, until 1999, when it was changed to The Warrior Beat. The last change to the present title, The Pulse, came about in 2008.

The size and length of the school newspaper has also changed throughout the years. A large paper can be daunting to fill, and generating enough stories for a larger paper can require longer deadlines and therefore fewer issues. It's also more expensive. The Averill Park Pulse staff uses the smaller format you hold in your hands for now, in our attempt to publish more issues.

With the reintroduction of The Pulse, we hope to continue regularly providing students with the latest news they need about our school and surrounding community. We hope you enjoy it.

## Flooding (continued from page 1)



more water pooled out of where it was supposed to be draining.

After several inches of water had pooled in the courtyard, it reached the height of the air ventilation system that leads to several classrooms, including a technology room which was full of computers. The water made its way through the ventilation and into the classroom, seeping out from behind Mr. Duff's desk.

Since the computers in Mr. Duff's room are

on desks, they sustained no damage from the water. However, water did make its way

across the hallway and into neighboring classrooms, where it continued to pool. It was at this point that the school determined there were grounds for the dismissal of the students from the school.

The water was cleared out by the next morning and students were able to return to classes the

next day. The culvert was repaired by the school grounds department and the Town of Sand Lake, according to Heffner.

Now, several weeks later, everything has returned to normal, and there are few signs of the flood that cut school short. However, when the present day students look back at their days in high school, they'll undoubtedly take pride in being able to say something truly unique: "I witnessed the Great Flood of 2015."



## Principal (continued from page 1)

Asked about dealing with three recent issues (the "popcorn" fire drill, the wearing of the flag controversy during spirit week, and the flooding in school leading to an early dismissal), Tsao responded that they are the same type of things all schools face. For her, they were an opportunity to "jump right in." She pointed to a "life preserver" hanging on her wall as an indication that she felt welcomed and supported.

Tsao sees the merit inherent in Common Core as it "provides a skill set necessary for students to experience future success" but sees the issue as one in which the implementation came too fast and without a plan leaving school "muddled." She sees the biggest problems facing

schools are lack of resources.

Tsao's credentials include a New York State Permanent School District



Administrator Certification and New York State Permanent Certification in Teaching, Social Studies 7-12. She studied Educational Administration at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and completed a bachelor's degree in economics and master's degree in social studies education,

both from the University at Albany. Tsao previously taught economics and social studies at Ballston Spa High School and served as assistant principal in the Queensbury Union Free School District.

Throughout the interview, Tsao's replies indicated her love of family, her embracing of her heritage and her desire to honor the people and places that have helped to move her forward. Tsao grew up in Oneonta, NY, where her parents were professors. Coming from a family of educators, all of whom are in higher education, Tsao indicated that she always knew she would go into education at the high school level or above.

She started college

at Northeastern University but transferred to Albany after two years in Boston. She entered college as a business and accounting major but realized that she was not "a behind a desk, numbers sort of person" and set out to become a teacher. After graduating from Albany, she spent a year teaching in China. Tsao is first generation and maintains a close knit relationship with her family. She attributes this, in part, to her parents coming to America in their early teens and having no family at that point.

Tsao is an outdoor enthusiast - enjoying camping, hiking, paddle boarding, and cycling with her husband. With her career keeping her

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# TWO IS BETTER THAN ONE: OFF-BROADWAY PLAYERS HIT THE STAGE

by Grace Reid

Many talented Averill Park students are offering themselves to the production of two upcoming plays. Both performances will be put on by the Off-Broadway Players, the high school theater club.

On November 6 and 7 the Off-Broadway Players will be producing a play titled "Murder Takes the Stage." During the "play inside the play" that occurs in the plot, a murder literally "takes the stage" and the actors must solve this mystery.

Directing this comedy are student directors Alana Gill and Tim Dunn. They both work excellently together giving directions, and both

have been involved in other aspects of the play process as well. Dunn was previously a member of the light crew



backstage and over the years has been able to observe many plays going on. Gill is an actor by nature and knows firsthand the best kind of direction to give. Be sure not

to miss this quirky murder mystery.

On November 13, the Off-Broadway Players will be performing "10 Klicks South of Whiskey." The play was written by local author Ryan Smithson, who also wrote a popular book titled "The Ghosts of War" that is taught in many schools, including Averill Park. "10 Klicks South of Whiskey" is a drama dealing with the effects that the Iraq War left on soldiers. Jack Ferlito plays the main character, Ty Gage, who is trying to deal with post-traumatic stress disorder.

"I think this play will

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# Local Artists Take A Stand Against Pipeline

by Meagan Lettko

Recently, the local Averill Park community has been faced with the prospect of a proposed NED natural gas pipeline. Opponents say this pipeline, if constructed, will threaten the environment surrounding Burden Lake and neighboring towns Stephentown, Nassau, and Schodack.



In an effort to prevent this pipeline and its compressor station from hindering the prosperity of our community, local art students at Averill Park High School are using their artist rights to fight back.

As stated in the Visual Artist Rights Act, copyrighted artwork, even if owned by another individual, cannot be destroyed without the consent of the artist. On Sunday, November 1, Averill Park art students will attempt to create a copyrighted art installation on trees in the path of the proposed pipeline.

By collaborating with the landowners where the pipeline path is drawn, these students hope to

(continued on page 4)

# A NEW BEGINNING... ENTRYWAY PART OF DISTRICT PROJECT

by Jake Franchi

Seeing a construction project here at the high school is like seeing mom put a gift under the Christmas tree. What could it be? When will I be able to see it? Everybody has the same questions. However, this present doesn't come every year because we would be in debt over our heads. But when projects do come rolling in it's a breath of fresh air. I think students get bored with the same routine of getting up and going to school to enter the same classes and walk down the same stale hallways. So when the opportunity came along for me to write about some of the fresh improvements for the main

office, entrance, and auditorium, I jumped on the wagon.

I sat down with assistant principal Mr. John Bishop to discuss what had



changed from the previous versions of the main office, entryway, and auditorium. Bishop talked about how the entranceway was improved with a better locking system

to prevent unknown persons from entering the school. The auditorium was totally remodeled and repainted. The main office was also refurbished.

Yet that was just peeling the first layer.

"The schools got together to create a laundry list of items," stated Bishop. This laundry list is called the Capital Improvement Project. It includes other schools in the district besides APHS, like Algonquin, where renovations of their auditorium are

going to be taking place, and elementary schools as well, like Poestenkill, where certain

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**Artists (continued from page 3)**

preserve the land and the environment for generations to come.

If you are interested in joining this cause please contact Gary Holden



at HoldenG@averillpark.k12.ny.us.

For more information on the pipeline and how it effects the community feel free to visit saveburdenlake.org

# APHS PROVIDES HELP TO SISTER SCHOOL

by Ryan Gutheil and Jacob Snyder

Averill Park High School officially now has a sister school called the New Horizons School. It is located outside of Montellano, Dominican Republic, a relatively poor area.

Our connection to this school began about a decade ago, when Averill Park staff member Gary Holden came into contact with a man named Jean-Michel. His dreams were to create an all-inclusive school for children in the area. Historically, Haitians living in the Dominican Republic have been scrutinized and persecuted. This school is situated in an area mainly inhabited by Haitians, and it provides the start of some

equality for them. The main problem that the school attempts to solve, however, is not discrimination, but poverty. According to the



school's founders, "The way to escape poverty is education." This starts with the meals the school offers students. For many, this may be the only meal they get without question or doubt.

The Averill Park

School District has done several fundraisers before to help this school. Averill Park has collected school supplies, shoes, and other donations.

Our school has even paid for a pump that supplies the school with constant fresh water. Now that Averill Park has officially been declared a "sister school" to them, we are increasing our fundraising efforts. Mr. Goodnow's classes will be collecting donations of clothing items and five-cent returnable bottles and cans. In room 108, there is an ongoing bake sale in which you can purchase candy and baked goods to support our sister school. Any support of the New Horizons school and all involved is appreciated.

## GET INVOLVED

### Join the Averill Park Journalism Club!

The Averill Park Pulse is looking for writers, editors and photographers. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 2:30 pm in room 127.

## Going To "The Mezz": Library Space Repurposed For Multiple Uses

by Kristen Thomas

The new addition to Averill Park High School is a space for students to have their own area to work and collaborate: the mezzanine.

The mezzanine was an office space for teachers when they didn't have a class and wanted an area to work. Over the years the space became underutilized, so it was repurposed into the current workspace. The area that is now open to students is equipped with Google Chromebooks as the school district switches into Google drive. The switch to Google has been ongoing, with google being the email used by teachers, the introduction to Google Classroom last year

and the new Chromebooks and increased use of Google this year. Google is considered precise and easy to use, and is thought to be a great



tool for teachers and students.

The upper floor mezzanine is approximately 3,000 square feet in size, with computers at individual desks, a teaching space with desks and a 70 inch smartboard, and a collaboration area for students with plenty of com-

fortable chairs. There are many whiteboards that act as dividers between the sections of the mezzanine for students and the desks and chairs are on wheels to make it easy to create different working setups. The mezzanine is a great working space for students, where they have access to the wi-fi and an environment made for working.

Wi-fi for the Averill Park schools has been in planning for a couple of years, and some areas were wired last year. The only current spaces with wi-fi at the high school were the library and the large group instruction room. At the middle school there is wi-fi in the library and one conference

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# EDITORIAL PAGES

## THE UNCOMMON CORE

by Keating Zelenke and Abby Vandenberg

Common Core. Some of the worst words for me to hear personally as a student. The thing about Common Core isn't the difficulty (however, that's certainly an issue); one of the worst things about Common Core that makes students and parents alike disapprove is the unfairness it wields.

What could possibly be unfair about Common Core, you may ask? Pretty much everything revolving around the tests. First of all, the Common Core curriculum crams in tons of material, making it very difficult to fit in everything in one year so students are prepared for the test. Last year, even if a teacher managed to fit in all

of the material, there were questions on a couple of tests that weren't even in the curriculum, throwing those points out the window.



And can we talk about the equation they used for the bell curve? It was insane for some tests, hurting students who performed well. There were students last year who scored an 86 on a particular exam ("ahem," the June 2015 Algebra test, mostly administered to students who

were 9th graders at the time and some eighth graders in advanced math) and were presented instead with an 84. Also, a student who knew roughly 47% of the material scored a 70% on the test, but someone who knew over 25% more material scored a 75%, a mere five points higher. That's sort of ridiculous, and outrageously unfair. It's almost comical how one of Common Core's goals is "fairness." What definition are they looking at?

When we spoke to students about what they thought, we received mixed answers. However, I can definitely say no one thought it was their dreamboat. A few kids were neutral about the curriculum, saying they didn't

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The Averill Park Pulse and its staff are protected by, and bound to, the principles of the First Amendment and other protections and limitations afforded by the Constitution and the various court decisions implementing those principles.

While The Averill Park Pulse does accept outside article submissions, each submitted piece must be reviewed by the newspaper advisor and club editors. The Averill Park Pulse will also accept signed letters to the editor and guest editorials.

The content of The Averill Park Pulse represents the views of the students and editors and not school officials.

Journalism Club Advisor: Mr. Strich

## Google Classroom: Yeah or Nay?

by Emily Bergerson

This school year brought a lot of changes to Averill Park High School. New teachers, a new principal, and the mezzanine and Google Classroom.

Many teachers and students have been utilizing Google Classroom, as well as Google Docs, in a number of ways. But is it useful? Or is the whole thing reminiscent of the horrific Schooltool phase in we endured last September? Students give a mixed review. One student said, "I love the idea, but when teachers don't know how to use it, it's pointless." Another stu-

dent, who said she likes it and uses it in many of her classes, also felt digital assignments

times the assignment is closed" she said. Another stated "It shouldn't substitute in-



make it harder to structure her time. "I can't always do homework when it fits into my schedule, because some-

class learning, although it can be helpful as an alternative way to hand in assignments or seeing already-taken

notes". Some even said they have yet to use Google Classroom at all!

But while students' opinions varied, teachers were unanimous. They want to be taught more about it! Many teachers said they're still unsure about how Google Classroom works, and one even suggested a workshop would help them use it more. A teacher also said having documents everywhere is a great perk of the new tool.

Overall, faculty and students like Google classroom, but there is still some settling in to do.

# EDITORIAL PAGES

## WHAT'S YOUR "STYLE"?

### FALL TRENDS EXPLAINED FOR GUYS AND GALS

by Cameron Schwarz

With the new autumn chilliness in the wind, the fall fashions are also seen swirling around the hallways of Averill Park. This year's styles seem to be centered on muted colors and comfortable ensembles. I've summed up some of the most stylish outfits of the season!

For girls, plaid flannels are in. The flannel is a teen style staple almost all year long, but fall is when they are most popular. This year, the colors that we've seen most are green, red, blue and black. "I think flannels are extremely comfortable!" said junior Jess Malenfant. "They're really easy to throw on in the morning and pair with other clothes."

A classic, comfy alternative to jeans are leg-

gings that you can find in almost every girl's closet. They can be paired with just about anything, and can be dressed either up or down. This fall, black leggings take the cake for most trendy.

Wedge boots: these little lace-up boots are taking over! Although some may argue that they're a bit difficult to walk in, they're cute enough to make up for it. This fall, look for black and tan suede styles both inside and outside of school.

When it comes to guys, pattern pocket tees, a

plain tee shirt with a pocket design, can be found in almost every store this season.

Almost a breath of fresh air from the sports tees, these tees have a distinct collegiate air about them. The most popular looks are grey shirts with tropical patterned pockets.

Another trend are jogger pants, slim sweatpants giving a bit more of a classy feel to the Averill Park classic. They're seen all



over the sports community both in our own school and the world. The most stylish design right now is plain black with white stripes.

The age-old high top sneakers are still in style this year! You can find these almost anywhere, but the most popular brands are Nike, Jordan and Under Armour. And with these shoes, the more flashy the better!

One accessory commonly seen this fall is the Herschel backpacks. They are one of the most popular backpack brands of 2015! The durability and sleek look of these bags is great for all your school supplies and your style.

This season's fashions seem to be all about comfort. Whatever you choose to wear, be sure to do it in...style!

## PLAY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

be really interesting," commented Ferlito. "It's a lot darker and different from anything we've ever done here and I think it'll be something that people will enjoy. It's very intense, dark, and complex."

Joining Ferlito in the cast will be Mr. Kaedy, who teaches a US and Military History elective at the high school. Both Rachel Koch and Tyler Petell will be first-time student directors of this play.

During one of the read-throughs on October 8, an Iraq veteran came to visit.



This play will surely be a thought-provoking performance experience and leave an impact upon the community.

With the dedication and motivation of the involved students, both performances will be sure to be fine to watch.

## MEZZANINE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

room. The rest of the school will become equipped with wi-fi after the application for funds is approved, but the schools say they will be ready, as educators begin to rely on wi-fi for more curriculum related activities. Rather than falling behind on the technologies of the world, Averill Park wants students to be more prepared for the growing advancements in technology when they leave high school.

The Averill Park High School's library's mezzanine is still evolving, and the rules may be adjusted to fit the needs of students

and keep the area a productive space. Presently, teachers can sign up for time in the mezzanine for their classes. To access the mezzanine outside of class, students need a pass during the day and they need to have a teacher there after school.

While the mezzanine has only been open for these past couple months, it is getting positive feedback. It is one of the most modern places in the school; it has internet access and it a great place to work for students and teachers.

## THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM

### NEW MOVIE OFFERS NEW DEPICTION OF JOBS

by Eden Faliveno

As the third major attempt to tell the unique story which is "Steve Jobs," unlike the first two, this effort does not try to chronicle Jobs' life but instead focuses on his relationships with people. Additionally, unlike the first two efforts, this one is very entertaining.

The film unfolds by showing what happened in the hours leading up to three separate product launches: the original Macintosh, the NeXT, and the iMac. Directed by Danny Boyle, with a dialogue-heavy script written by Aaron Sorkin, the film takes a great deal of liberty with the Walter Isaacson's book it is based on and is a much exaggerated account of the time immediately leading to the launch of these three products. It is fast-paced and

intense in its portrayal of Jobs' maniacal nature.

Sorkin's script is a sure Oscar nomination. Most of the film involves discussions Jobs has with others backstage as he prepares to



go on stage to introduce each of these products to the world market. The film has a heavy reliance on Jobs' interactions with his daughter Lisa, Apple

co-founder Steve Wozniak, and former Apple CEO John Sculley. What is interesting is that the film manages to weave together Jobs' personal and work lives.

Jobs is excellently portrayed by Michael Fassbender, best known for X-man and Twelve Years a Slave. As someone who is fascinated by Jobs, as the film opened I was immediately struck by the fact that, unlike Ashton Kutcher, Fassbender bears little resemblance to Jobs. But within a very short time, he becomes totally believable as the man obsessed with technology. Fassbender is sure to get an Oscar nod. Kate Winslet, who plays Jobs' confidant Joanna Hoffman, gives a strong performance; however, Seth Rogen as Steve Wozniak will no doubt be nominated for a best-supporting actor Oscar.

There are flaws in

the film. The relationship between Sculley and Jobs after he fires Jobs seems too friendly, and the film resolves the relationship between Jobs and his daughter Lisa, which did not occur in "real life." At times, Jobs seems too kind and much too nice in the movie. The side of Jobs that was vindictive, petty, emotional, and manipulative is a bit too absent from the film. Though what was most noticeably missing from this film is the rivalry between Jobs and Bill Gates. As every techie knows, this competition drove Jobs and played a major role in the rise, fall and rebirth of Apple.

All in all, "Steve Jobs" is well done and very entertaining. It is yet another look at a fascinating man and a technological visionary.

## CHECK OUT "THE MARTIAN"

### IT'S THE NEWEST ADDITION TO GEEKY NERDFEST MOVIES

by Emily Jorden

"The Martian" is an intriguing yet geeky tale of courage and adventure in space. Mark Watney, played by Matt Damon, an astronaut left and presumed dead on Mars, must figure out how to live there when he only has food for the next six months and the earliest point in which a rescue mission can occur is in several years. So, using his botanist powers he must survive on the red planet.

The movie itself was interesting to look at in the way the animators portrayed Mars. The planet was shown

as a barren, red tundra, but despite traditional portrayals of Mars as being flat, it had



several mountains and ridges rising above the horizon.

The problems that occurred in "The Martian" along with their solutions

seemed very feasible. Matt Damon's acting and reactions to the problems were very realistic and even hilarious to watch at times. One of the most humorous gags was Watney's complaining about the only music he could find being disco from his commander.

"The Martian" brought a serious tone along with laughs at just the right moments to keep it from be-

coming boring. The movie did a very good job at explaining the science, especially parts where if it wasn't explained could have made it confusing and aggravating to viewers.

"The Martian" was totally for the inner nerd in everyone, making allusions to famous films and books in jokes and names such as "Lord of the Rings" and "The Avengers." The plot of the film was like a modern day twist on the Apollo 13 story. Though the movie was a bit long, the humor and thrilling scenes kept it interesting the whole way through. "The Martian" is a good recommendation for any modern-day nerd.

# INTO THE GREAT OUTDOORS: GARDENING CLUB OFFERS MORE THAN JUST VEGETABLES

by Arlyss Herzig, Jessica Liberty and Heidi Schuman

Ever see the greenhouse and school garden outside the music and technology wing? Well, members of the Garden Club get to work out there in their free time while you're stuck in school. In Garden Club, members get some nice fresh air while growing their own, delicious food.

Members of the club grow a variety of fruits, vegetables, herbs and spices (not to mention the task of chasing voles). Besides the voles, it's also really relaxing out in the gardens.

Additionally, Garden Club members Christina Bucci and Morgan Moscinski, both

juniors, noted how they loved the sense of community and friendship among everyone,



and how much fun being out there with new friends

is. Former advisor Ms. Boulay, a science teacher at Averill Park said, "All differ-

create a sense of community that I haven't experienced in other parts of the school."

"The staff, faculty and students last year were so grateful for the amazing quality of the salads [fresh from the garden] that we put together and sold," Boulay added.

Along with the benefits of fresh food, Lauren McClure, a sophomore Garden Club member, pointed out, "If there's ever an apocalypse, we'll know how to grow food."

To recap: chasing voles, preparation for an apocalypse, being outside instead of being in classes, and growing delicious food; what's not to love? For more information on Garden Club see Mr. Smith in room 119.

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## I, ROBOT: ROBOTICS CLUB COVERS ALL THINGS TECHNOLOGICAL

by James Clark

Robotics Club is one of the many different clubs available at Averill Park High School. The club, under the advisorship of Ms. Lambright, meets every morning from 7-7:35 am, and every Friday after school from 2:30-4 pm.

Currently, in the fourth year of the program, the club is working with Vex equipment and competing in strictly Vex competitions.

For those who are tech savvy, and/or of the programming mindset, we rely on Robot C for coding purposes.



This year's competition is "Nothin' But Net." In previous years, the Robotics Club participated in "Sack Attack" and "Vex Skyrise."

Overall, the club

provides a comfortable environment with great advisors, and it helps develop the engineering mind, making it perfect for anyone looking into a career in, or relevant to, this field.

# THAT'S THE KEY: Club For Helping Others, And Helping Yourself

By Nicholas Pastizzo

Many people ask, "What is Key Club?" Key Club is a student-run organization through Kiwanis to help the community. They specialize in raising and donating money to nonprofit organizations and running various activities around the school and community.

"Key Club is an inspiring group of young people who are always there in a pinch when a school or community needs volunteer assistance," said Mr. Brown, one of the club's co-advisors.

The club is run by six officers. This year the President, the leader of Key Club who runs all the meetings, is Jordan Rockwell. The co-Vice-Presidents,

who help the President keep the meeting going and are the peacekeepers, are Olivia Marchello and Hannah Weatherwax. The Secretary, who

the club and keeps track of all the transactions and purchases, is Katie Rollins. Lastly, the club has its own Social Media Director, who this year is Tiffany Roberts.



sends out all the emails and messages to the members, and is also responsible for replying to and planning with all the officers about future activities, is Madeline Gibbons. The Treasurer, who handles the bank account of

Key Club has two co-advisors, Mrs. Gaboury and Mr. Brown. Their Kiwanis Advisor is Mr. Mulligan.

As many of you should know by now, a certain amount of community service hours are needed for college

applications from each grade. Key Club is one of the easiest ways to get these hours completed and not have to worry about them. Community service can be difficult sometimes, but in the end you will always feel good when you're done.

The Averill Park Key Club will be doing multiple activities soon. They will be doing a Red Cross blood drive like every year. They will be helping organize the Powderpuff games and also be doing a roadside cleanup. They club will even put together stockings for the Boys and Girls Club. These are just a few of the things Key Club will be doing to help the community.

Key Club meets every Wednesday afternoon until 3 pm. Walk-ins are always welcome and they hope interested students will join them soon.

# WHO ARE THOSE KIDS? FRISBEE CLUB INVITES ALL TO GIVE IT A TRY

by Dan LaPointe

We don't have a club name, at least not officially. I just call it "Afterschool Frisbee." Some kids have suggested "the Frisbaes" or "The Averill Park Underground," the second proposed name referencing our rather bootleggy way of running things. (hey, we didn't even make it into the yearbook last year). But whatever you call us, we're those kids who play Frisbee out back after school.

So who are we exactly? Cory Lownsbury and Scott Gallerie, who graduated in June, ran the club last year. I run the club this year, and Mr. Brown is our advisor.

Some of our regulars include Matt Bedell, Matt Dennis, Steven Ferguson, Scott Gundrum, Jon Mainville, Garrett Moss, Jacob Nolan, Alfred Rousseau and Hongming Zheng.

The club congregates in Mr. Brown's room immediately after school on Wednesdays

and Thursdays and plays until 3:30 pm, since most of us need to take the late bus to get home. In fact, the late

bus is an integral part of our club. If you want to play a varsity or JV sport but can't get rides for all the practices, play



with us. Also, if you want to play a sport but aren't particularly skilled, join us. Most of our members can't even throw a

Frisbee straight when they first arrive.

Our afterschool sessions typically start with basic drills. We'll split off into small groups and work on forehand throws, one-handed catches, etc. After that, we split off into two teams (with captains and a traditional "Frisbee toss") and start a game of Ultimate. We play on the soccer field closest to the softball field, typically regardless of the weather. Indeed, we just played in the pouring rain last week.

If our club interests you at all, feel free to join us Wednesdays and Thursdays immediately after school in Mr. Brown's room, 103.

# MS. EVERLETH JOINS ART DEPARTMENT...

by Eden Faliveno

When a new face walks into APHS it is not uncommon for there to be overwhelming excitement and a surplus of welcome. This year the Averill Park art department has added the talents of Tracy Everleth. Raised in Saratoga Springs, Everleth received her undergraduate degree in art from Elmira College and a graduate degree in art education from the College of Saint Rose. She credits her parents for always having been supportive of "who she wanted to be."

Trained in drawing and painting, Everleth loves sculpture. Prior to coming to APHS, she taught at the Albany Leadership Charter School and did her student teaching at Gardner Dickenson and Ichabod Crane High School. She is enjoy-

ing the experience of having many of her students from Gardner Dickenson again here at the high school.

Asked what artist is her personal favorite, she did not hesitate in responding: Francis Bacon. Bacon is a contemporary artist known for bold, emotionally charged, raw imagery. Her fascination with him began when she viewed his "visceral, drippy, emotional" exhibit at MOMA.

Everleth's personal hobbies include "making art and researching contemporary artists," cycling, baking, running and enjoying nice weather outdoors. If she

could have dinner with one famous person, it would be DaVinci because he "was not just an artist but was talented in so many areas, so ahead of his time" and she could ask him "a range of questions."

On her first day at APHS, Everleth found "everyone was friendly, helpful and welcoming." When asked what superpower she would like to have, Everleth indicat-

ed "the power of speaking every language" so that she could "travel, speak and translate." Where would she go? She recently became interested in visiting Norway after

speaking with a friend that had spent time there.

Everleth indicated that art education is important because it is a "place where students focus on developing creatively, think critically in regard to solving problems and complete long term projects." Asked what she would do if art received a windfall of funding, Everleth indicated that she would buy large amounts of supplies and materials she'd want her students to use and giving them a "plethora of choices." Additionally, she would increase trips to local galleries and shows in Saratoga and Albany. If given a million dollars of her own, Everleth indicated that she would create a non-profit art studio that had free art classes open to everyone.

Welcome to Averill Park, Ms. Everleth.



# ...AS DOES MS. CHWAZIK

by Ruthann Flick

Averill Park High School has a new art teacher, Ms. Chwazik. Chwazik is a first-time art teacher, although she has taught before as a substitute and filled in for some maternity leaves. She mainly taught at Farnsworth Middle School in Guilderland for some time, before she got her teaching position here at Averill Park.

Chwazik went to the College of Saint Rose. She chose this school because they offered her a scholarship and they had a very good art program. According to Chwazik, anyone that wants to go

with art as a career path should know, "This is a very competitive field of work and it's challenging, but if this is your passion don't give up because it's worth it."

She didn't originally want to be an art teacher. "To be honest, I didn't know what I wanted to be until high school, when my art teacher suggested that I consider art as a career path," said Chwa-

zik. "The reason I chose to be an art teacher is because in my opinion art provides important problem-solving skills, more than people give it credit for."

Some interesting things about Ms. Chwazik include her favorite color is green. It's her favorite color because in some ways it reminds her of summer and upstate New York. Also, green



is a very calming color for her, unlike red which she says we associate with rage, or blue which reminds us of sadness.

Out of all the mediums there are to work with, she likes to work with many of them. "When I was in school I would mostly use paint and clay. But as time progressed, I found out that I liked to print on canvas because it gave off a unique effect. Now, I like a wide range of mediums because they each radiate their own personality to the artwork."

# (DON'T) CALL AN AMBULANCE! UNIQUE VEHICLE IS JUST FOR FUN

by Cameron Schwarz

Many students are familiar with Mr. Brown, a seemingly run-of-the-mill French teacher. However, his car isn't quite as normal. You may have already noticed sometimes there is a peculiar looking vehicle parked on campus. The old-fashioned ambulance belongs to the Citroën-loving French teacher, and it has been a topic of conversation for both his own pupils and other students alike. I interviewed Mr. Brown and asked him a few questions about his choice in automobile.



**Who did you buy it from?**  
His name was Dennis...and his last name escapes me. But, he was a guy who col-

lected Citroëns; I went out looking for a station wagon. I really did. And then when I saw this

ambulance; I went out looking for a station wagon. I really did. And then when I saw this

**Did anyone ever die in this vehicle, as far as you know? Halloween is upon us!**

I think I took a nap on it once. Or tried to. I haven't really ever *slept* on it yet.

**So, if I asked how many people were saved in the vehicle, do you have an estimate?**

I have no idea. None.

**Keeping with the theme of October, I have to ask if there are any mysterious blood stains in this vehicle of yours.**

No, but there are two drain plugs. So...I think that when there were mysterious blood stains, the owners of this ambulance would get out their hose, spray it down, and all the mysterious stuff would drain out of the car.

**So where did you buy your ambulance?**

I bought my car in France, in a city called Niort. Ironically, it's the same city where we sent all our pen pal letters to two years ago. I bought it in 2013, and that school year we were sending all our pen pal letters to the high school in that city. Since I got to know the English teacher there, I stayed at her family's house when I went to buy my car.

lected Citroëns, the car brand I like, and he had a bunch of them - a whole bunch of cars. And he knew how to fix cars pretty well, so he got this one all fixed up for me.

I said, "Well, it's basically a station wagon." But it's kind of cool because they had to lift the roof up a little bit and it's an ambulance, and it used to be a working vehicle in France. So (buying) the ambulance was kind of a coincidence almost, really.

**Why did you decide to buy this car? Any special reason?**

I didn't go out looking for an

**There's a gurney in the back of the ambulance. Have you ever slept on the gurney?**

## ENTRYWAY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

parts of the roof are being replaced.

Most of these projects may seem quite dull and the average student here at the high school may care less, but there are a few things that could spice up their school day. For instance, there is going to be wireless access for every student on campus. That means students can search up information that they might desire. There also is a new mezzanine above the library. Here, teachers can bring their students to com-



plete projects and assignments. Students can use tools such as Chromebooks and new whiteboards to help

them with these projects and assignments.

Even though this project was slated to be "at no additional cost to taxpayers," it was paid with state aid, which is

funded by state taxpayer dollars from beyond the local tax base. The Capital Improvement Project will cost \$12.9

million for the district. This might be a lot of money, but the school district believes it will be put to good use. Repairs that need to be done will be done. These projects will improve the overall safety and environment of each school in the district.

Bishop stated that this project is "trying to benefit the students and staff," which was the main idea of the Capital Improvement Project in the first place.

# SURVEY SAYS: TWO TEACHERS, TWO INTERVIEWS



by Jacob Pitts

For this column, I sat down with two faculty members of different ages and subjects, and asked them the same set of questions. The first two teachers that this prestigious and distinguished honor has been bestowed upon are Mr. Blais (Economics) and Ms. Brown (Health and Gym)

*If you had to teach another subject besides your own, which would you pick, and why?*

Mr. Blais: U.S. History, but if the question implies I wouldn't be teaching any social studies, then English.

Ms. Brown: I would probably say forensics. I love bones, muscles and crime scenes. If I had to go into another

career, I would do physical therapy.

*What were your grades like in school?*

Mr. Blais: Awful! I was a bad kid in school, I didn't get my act together until I was older. Then I went to school, so I could help idiots like me.

Ms. Brown: My grades were very good, always in the 90s. I also did three sports in all four years: volleyball, basketball, and outdoor track.

*What hobbies or interests do you have outside of the classroom?*

Mr. Blais: I enjoy smoking cigars, I am interested in volleyball, I'm an enormous music buff (particularly the blues), and I'm addicted to

reading and watching the news. And obviously I spend a lot of time with my dog Maddie.

Ms. Brown: I love seeing my family and spending time with my nieces and nephews, going to new places and trying new things, and being adventurous (rock climbing, zip-lining, etc.)

*What advice do you have for a student that is struggling in your class?*

Mr. Blais: Get help from me. The best thing to do is just sit down with me. The only reason a kid would be struggling in economics is if they're not studying or they have a problem with the project. Some kids study and some just don't.

Ms. Brown: Take health with Mrs. Ashline...just kidding! But if you can't learn something from me, it's fine if you ask someone else who can explain it in a different way.

*What have your students taught you?*

Mr. Blais: My students teach me stuff every day. Kids are always up-to-date with what's in, what's out, and what's what. I love listening to kids talk about current events; it's interesting to know what they think.

Ms. Brown: Patience, in trying to deal with things. All of my students are so different in their own way.

## Principal (continued from page 2)

indoors much of the time, she enjoys a chance to get outdoors. She admits that she does not follow sports and doesn't have a favorite team but, if she did have one, it would probably be the Red Socks as she lived near Fenway Park in Boston and spent a lot of time there. If hiking were a sport, it would be her favorite.

"The Princess Bride" is her favorite movie and admits to knowing every line. Tsao loves the Harry Potter series, especially "The Goblet of Fire," and even went to see the Hogwarts set at Universal Studios when she was in Florida. She prefers classical music when working because it helps her remain calm and focused especially with no words to distract her. She likes folk rock music, espe-

cially a New England based group called Guster, and listens to it while driving in her Jeep. You may have noticed that she wears black everyday, as it is her favorite non-color color since it goes with everything "except brown."

Tsao's roots as a global studies teacher revealed themselves in her choices as to where she would like to travel in the world. As she pointed out, most of the places she would be interested in travelling are places "in turmoil", developing areas. She feels that these areas preserve culture and, unlike commercial, touristy areas, have not "lost who they are." Tsao did admit that her love of the movie *Casablanca* has definitely created her desire to visit Morocco. She would also like

to travel to Iceland to see the "Northern Lights." If she could have dinner with one famous person, it would be Norman Rockwell, who she finds to be a "phenomenal social commentator" who was able to address social injustice through his art. Her favorite holiday is Chinese New Year since she gets to teach what it is, the zodiac and the animals, to her friends and it is often a month of celebrations.

Given the opportunity to tell the student body one thing, Tsao said that it is that her door is always open. Students should always feel welcome and free to drop in her office. She wants students to introduce themselves to her and hopes they will invite her to special events and games.

Perhaps the most revealing response from Ms. Tsao came when asked if she could be a super hero, what would her superpower be? Explaining that she loves the X-men, it was no surprise that she sees Professor X as the super hero she would most want to be. Professor X is the embodiment of the idea that "knowledge is power." He is "wise, compassionate and empathetic. He does what is best for everyone. He's patient, thoughtful and, well, he can freeze time." Sounds like the perfect qualifications for a high school principal.

# RUNNING AGAINST THE TIDE

## CROSS COUNTRY FIGHTS MISPERCEPTIONS

by Grace Reid

The definition of a sport is anything that requires physical exertion and engages in competition. Cross country is often not included in lists of sports and many forget about it altogether. However, cross country is as much a sport as football or soccer. Just because there is no ball present does not make it any less. And just as volleyball and other sports have their



own individual benefits, cross country does as well.

Mrs. Glunk, a math teacher at APHS who coaches cross country, said, "What's

so special about cross country is that it is a sport for life. It's something kids can do forever and it really teaches them

how to eat smart, organize their time, and there is a long tradition of scholar athletes who also run XC. It also encourages friendship."

Asked what her response would be to someone not calling cross country a sport, Glunk said, "Cross country is a sport because there is skill and technique in running too." Sydney Julien, captain of the girl's cross country team, added, "It is a team sport as

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## FOOTBALL (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)

have a chance to make the playoffs.

Leading into that game, freshman linebacker Kyle Nethercott said, "It is an honor to be the first to play on the varsity football team as a freshman first of all so the fact that I've been given the opportunity to even answer something as small as this question is great. The season has been somewhat rough so far being that we have had lots of injuries. Also we are a very young team but if we can play hard and well next game we will win against Mohon and be the number 3 in the playoffs."

Unfortunately, Averill Park could not beat Mohonasen at home and lost by a score of 36-34 and was relegated to a crossover match at Niskayuna. Averill Park battled Niskayuna until the end in that game, but lost by a score of 19-15.

Overall, the team improved very much as the year went on, and there are many young talented players that will prepare to try and take the roles of the seniors who will graduate this year. As senior kicker Amanda Young said, "We worked hard. The older guys did a good job leading the younger guys." We'll have to wait until next year to see the results.

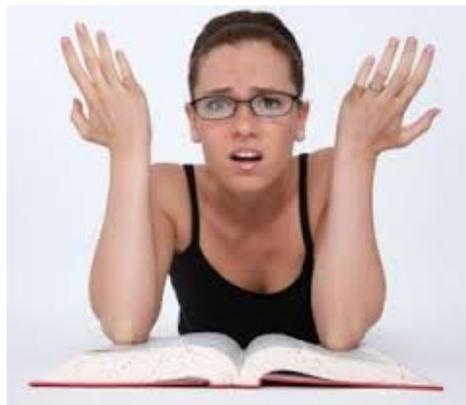


## Common Core (continued from page 5)

know anything else so it'd be hard to judge, but there were other kids who felt more strongly. Some students even claimed they'd backed down from advanced classes where the curriculum was implemented because they were positive they wouldn't do well. Others questioned the Governor's reasoning for deciding on Common Core, and exactly how it was better than Regents testing and curriculum. We can't say confidently, or at all, really, that students like Common Core.

Still, some people say Common Core is a good thing. A tough, but necessary, challenge for students. And it is a tough challenge. Is it necessary? We don't think we would say so. Tough and unfair are two very different things, not to mention, a challenge is only a challenge if students actually willingly accept it, and as of now, lots

of kids don't. While this question was directed at students, parents have also complained, saying that the idea is fine, but the way it was executed... not so much. They



thought that maybe the idea could've been started on a group of kindergarteners, instead of placing it on everyone, especially high schoolers, who've been taking Re-

gents and learning Regents curriculum their entire lives.

How to solve this fear of Common Core? The answer: we don't know, that's not our job. We just know something needs to be done about it. Whether we get rid of Common Core or ease students into it, or some other idea we haven't thought of yet, something, or someone, needs to take the students' side on this matter.

One thing we can say is that we know, and everyone should know, the low grades aren't because of teachers. It's the curriculum they're paid to teach. Common Core is a terrible thing to have to learn, but we can also say that it doesn't seem so pleasant to teach either.

# Up And Down Season Ends For Football Team

## CROSS COUNTRY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

well as being an individual sport, which makes it very unique...cross country is a sport because it requires a lot of endurance and agility." "What's



unique about the runners of cross country is that they are usually some of the most committed and open minded kids out there. They love to be challenged and look at the whole picture," said Glunk.

by Kyle Reasor

"It was a young team," said senior lineman Austin Crosier about the Averill Park football team, "but we gave it our all every game." That youth will undoubtedly be something to build on after an up and down season for the Averill Park varsity football team.

The team started out the season with two tough losses. They first lost 41-7 vs a solid Burnt Hills team at home and had a very close loss to Gloversville on the road with a score of 34-29. At the time the season did not seem to have such a bright future but the season was still early and they had a lot of young players to develop.

At the time, senior running back Isaiah Moak said, "the team is still young and even though we are 0-2 we will get better as the season goes on." And as he said,



they did. In the next game Averill Park defeated Bishop Maginn 40-14 on the road for their first win of the season.

The team then prepared for their next game at home which would be the most important game of the season. It was homecoming

weekend and the Warriors were able to come out with the win versus Niskayuna, 35-28.

Following the game, coach Ainsley said, "We were very happy to get a nice win in front of a great crowd at our Homecoming game. Our team is very young this year and we are just trying to get better every week. It looks and feels like we are starting to learn from all of our early mistakes. I am really proud of the hard work they have put into this season."

Over the next two games Averill Park lost on the road to Troy 51-7 and to Amsterdam 35-14 at home. Averill Park needed to win their next game to

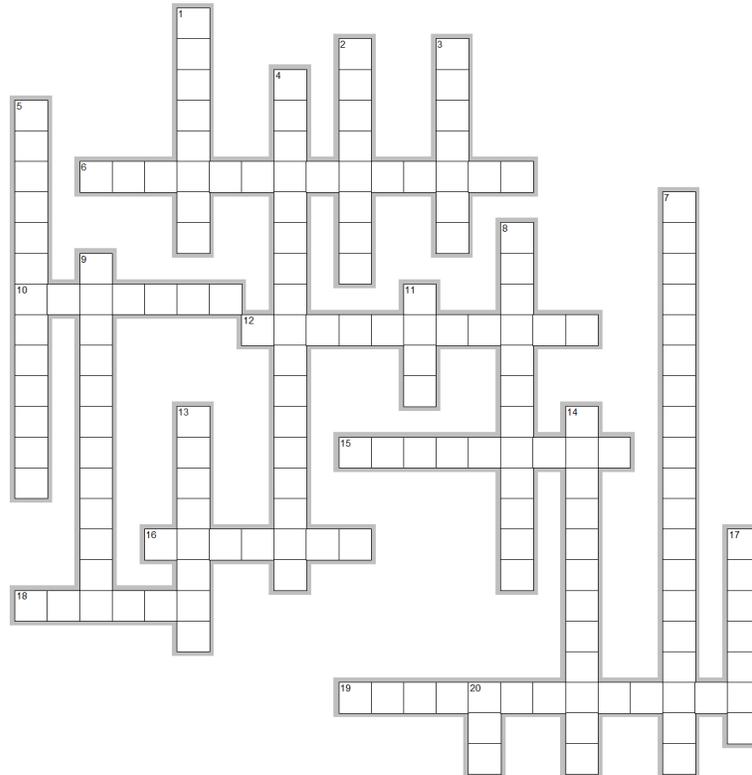
(continued on page 13)

## LOWEST GRADE THEY RECEIVED IN SCHOOL CROSSWORD

Match the following CLASSES IN WHICH THEY RECEIVED THEIR LOWEST GRADE with the Staff Members

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| ART                | BIOLOGY              |
| BUSINESS TECH      | CALCULUS             |
|                    | CHEMISTRY            |
|                    | COMPUTER PROGRAMMING |
| EARTH SCIENCE      | ENGLISH              |
| ENGLISH 9          | FRENCH               |
| GEOMETRY           | GLOBAL STUDIES       |
| KEYBOARDING        | MATH                 |
| PHYSICAL EDUCATION | PHYSICS              |
| PUBLIC SPEAKING    | SOCIAL STUDIES       |
| SPANISH            | TRIGONOMETRY         |

\* Note—Leave Out All Spaces In Puzzle



## Down

1. Mouzakes-Viola
2. Bailey, Klepsch
3. Hotaling
4. Miller
5. Emmons
7. B Engel
8. M Dutcher
9. Fox
11. Ashline, Caballero, Daviero, DiGrigoli, Doyle, S Engel, Stone, Teal, Vosburgh
13. B Bishop
14. Ferlito, Goodnow, Perry
17. Panzanaro, Rohl
20. Galcik

## Across

6. Sorriento
10. Ryan
12. Pannhorst
15. Brown, Caruso, McPartlin, Strich
16. Hall
18. Blostein
19. Minkler, Sheridan