

The West Wind

March/April 2009

Cranston High School West

Vol. XLV No. 6

Check out *The West Wind* and *West Watch* online at <http://cpsed.net/chsw/studentcenter/westwind.htm>

'Way Out' of line

Sophomore Way Out Games win is overshadowed by discipline issues



Photo by Natalie Patalano

The sophomores celebrate their 2009 Way Out Games victory. However, the Games were overshadowed by the actions of several students after the event was over.



By: Nick Sczerbinski
Editor-In-Chief

the conflicts took place at WOG. 5 students from various grades were thrown out of the gym and suspended for attending a school event while under the influence. Many people commented that a Breathalyzer should have been used at the entrance of the gym. Mr. Knowlton addressed the reason why a Breathalyzer could not have been used at the door before the Games started, "As of right now, the only way to use a Breathalyzer is to have reasonable suspicion." "We simply have to wait until there is reasonable suspicion to use it [Breathalyzer], no matter what the rumors are," said Knowlton. "The school has legal leeway when it comes to using the Breathalyzer. But it would have been extremely unreasonable to test 800 students waiting to get

into the gym," said DiMeo. DePalma felt the same as Knowlton and DiMeo, and said "There were definitely more kids under the influence than the 5 that were reprimanded. But to Breathalyze every student would have been near impossible." According to the words of many teachers and administrators, the future of the Way Out Games is in tremendous jeopardy. "The Games can definitely be contained, but there have to be many modifications," said DiMeo. Many rumors have risen of the changes that will be made to the tradition that everyone associated with Cranston West has become a part of over the years. Knowlton, who had a feeling that something like this year's events would take place said, "I've always had reservations about the event itself. The number of

kids packing into the gym makes it impossible to control the crowds." Way Out Games should not happen at night ever again," said DePalma, "And therefore, due to size issues, they would not be able to be held in the gym again either." According to Knowlton, "An idea has been put forward to combine Spirit Week and Way Out Games with Homecoming Week and Pep Rally." DePalma also said, "Spirit Week and showing school spirit is important for the students but Way Out Games has turned into a class party and after this year, we would be fools not to change anything." Knowlton concluded his comments with a definitive statement. "The Way Out Games as we know them are going to change."

The gym was filled with the class colors, blue, orange, yellow, and black as the sophomores shocked everyone in attendance with a victory at Way Out Games (WOG). However, some people barely noticed, as the events after the games strongly overshadowed the games themselves. "I was extremely disappointed in the actions of the students," said Assistant Principal Paul DePalma.

"Several students were suspended for fighting and being under the influence. Others were arrested for those same reasons," said Officer Derek DiMeo after

What's Inside



The Cranston West Mock Trial team had a good season and made a run to the state semifinals.

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Cranston West spanish teacher Mrs. Pontarelli is featured in this edition of Chalk Talk.

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The All-American Rejects recently performed at Lupo's. Senior editor Rachel Palmisciano was there.

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The Boys' hockey team won the Division 1-A state championship. The West Wind has full coverage.

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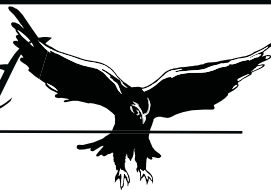


FREEZE FRAME



photo by Natalie Patalano
The boys' track team warms up with a lap around Cranston West's newly refurbished track.

The West Wind



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Natalie Patalano

Staff Reporters

Tess Povar, Ethan Smith, Brittany Geremia, Andrew DeCataldo

Advisor-----Mr. J. Jones

Not "seeking" Britney

Editorial

By: Alana Deluty

Britney Spears' most recent single has been a source of brewing controversy for the past few weeks. The song in question: "If You Seek Amy". It is fun and upbeat, and the song is especially popular with the preteen crowd. However, mothers across the nation are calling their local radio stations and requesting that the song not be played between the hours of 6 am and 10 pm. If you have not heard the song before, look it up on youtube, and the meaning will be very clear. Britney Spears sang this song with the intention to provoke: and provoke she did. By the context of the song and the pronunciation Britney uses when singing, most people would agree that Britney is spelling out f***. Instead of simply stating the word in question, she finds a clever way to spell it out and make her intentions clear. There is nothing wrong with that in particular: the problem is whether or not it should be played on the radio. Legally, the song is in a very gray area. Technically, there is no vulgarity in the song, so it could be played

on the radio. However, the lyrics make it very clear that Britney is hinting at another word, especially considering the lyrics don't make sense: "All of the boys and all of the girls are begging to if you seek Amy." A lot of radio stations are refusing to play the song because of angry parents calling and complaining that their children are walking around the house shouting out profanities. Many of the younger children don't understand what the lyrics mean, so they continue to sing the song, unaware of what they are actually saying. Most people would agree that there are much worse things on the radio: degrading songs with obvious vulgarity that still receive regular play. However, Britney Spears is reinventing herself by trying to put forth a reformed "good-girl" image that appeals to a younger demographic. It is this younger demographic that is walking around singing the provocative song, and many people feel it is inappropriate that the song isn't labeled as such. However, this controversy hasn't stopped the song from earning the 94th spot on the most recent Hot 100 list.

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Roving Reporter

How do you think Way Out Games can be changed to better them for next year?

Marissa Giordano, freshman-
“Maybe the Way Out Games should be in a place where there’s more room.”



Ben Stanley, sophomore-
“We should definitely have more cops and they should actually use the Breathalyzer this time.”



Zack D’Antonio, junior-
“We should just have them during the day.”



Steph Nardone, senior- “I feel like they should have teachers more on the lookout for people that are drunk and Breathalyze them.”



Teacher Talk



How do you think Way Out Games can be changed to better them for next year?



Mr. Mendes, science- “One thing would be to further education of what could occur if your intoxicated. They should have more cops.”



Mrs. Simonelli, math-
“I think if you did it like Pep Rally, a lot of the issues would be contained and the bad behaviors would be avoided because they already would be in school.”



Mrs. Federman, English-
“I think they should cancel it.”



Ms. Houck, English-
“They definitely should not be canceled. Just because it gets out of hand one year, shouldn’t ruin it for future years.”

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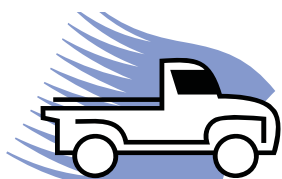
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Cranston West Girls’ Lacrosse

**Regular Season
Record
6-6**

West students represent Robotics



By: Mike Rosa
News Editor

The Career and Technical Program of Robotics competed in two major competitions involving programming and constructing robots.

The Pre-Engineering Technology program is designed to teach the problem solving skills needed by college-bound students that are planning to become engineers or technologists.

The first competition was a state Skills USA Robotic work cell contest. In this contest Cranston West Robotics team was the only competitors in the competition. "No one in the state wanted to compete against us," said Robotics teacher Mr. Spidell.

The competition was purely west robotics students who competed in a performance based competition against one another.

The robotics program also competed in the First Technical Challenge (FTC) which is against other teams across Rhode Island.

Last year, 36 Rhode Island high school and career and technical teams of

up to ten students competed in the Quad Conundrum style Robotics Challenge Event.

This competition was split up into two parts, written and performance based. The written portion was a log kept to record the building process of the robot constructed. "Our building time was so short we didn't have one," said Junior Anthony Catanzaro.

Cranston West was represented by a team of three robotics students, including: Anthony Catanzaro, Ryan Dolan and John Keough. "It was nuts going in there when everyone had up to six months to prepare and we built our robot in three days," said Catanzaro.

Competitors had two minutes and thirty seconds to outscore opponents in challenges that include, picking up small pucks and placing them into buckets located across the arena. "Our robot had to be mobile and agile to go through these obstacles," said Spidell.

Despite the three day rush of the robot construction, the robotics team managed to place second out of 35 other teams. "We didn't even know if it was going to work," expressed Catanzaro.

The winning high school team has the opportunity to compete for the gold at the FTC Robotics World Championships.

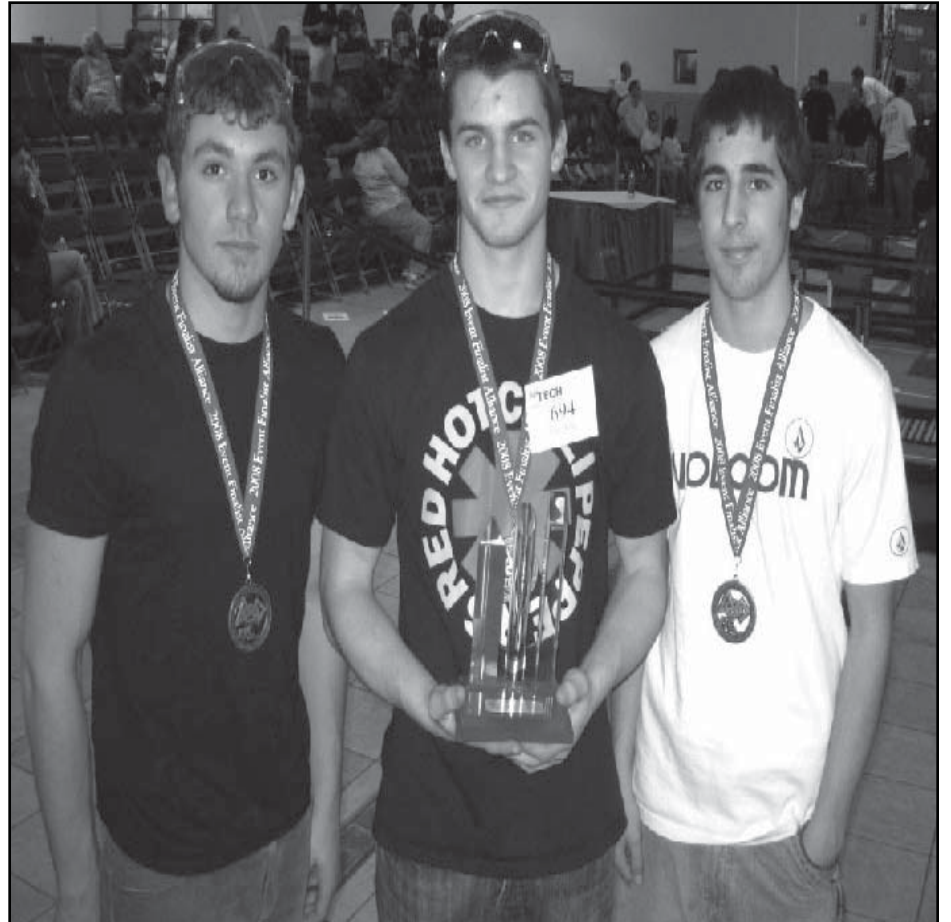
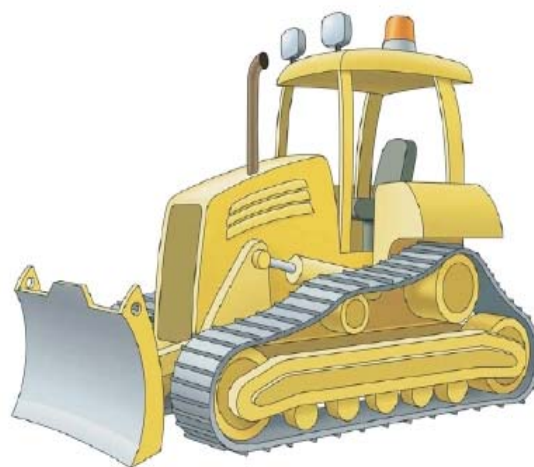


Photo provided by Mr. Spidell

Juniors, (L to R), Anthony Catanzaro, Ryan Dolan, and John Keough placed second out of 36 teams in the state's First Technical Challenge.

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NOSB places third in the nation

By: Andrew DeCataldo
Staff Reporter

The National Ocean Science Bowl (NOSB) team at Cranston West had an undefeated season, and they also won the regional competition back in February. NOSB then placed third out of a total of 400 teams nationally in April.

The prize for their outstanding finish, was a five-day, all expenses paid trip to Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Alpena, Michigan. This is the seventh trip in the past ten years that the West NOSB team has won.

"I was extremely proud of them," said Mr. Steven Krous, the Science Department chair and coach of the NOSB team. "They were excellent competitors, but also well liked by all the other coaches and officiators." Prior to their success, the team spent countless hours practicing for the Regional and National competitions. "I had very high hopes for nationals after our success at regionals," said Krous. Not only did they practice in school, but because of conflicting schedules, and demanding spring sports, the team met on many occasions outside of school.

Cranston West's NOSB team has won a total of two National Championships, eleven Regional Championships and ten

years of placing in the top fifteen nationally

NOSB is an extracurricular national oceanography competition that allows teams of students to compete for scholarships, trips, and other various prizes. West's 2008-2009 NOSB team consisted of four members, juniors, Alexa Choy and Meaghan Sullivan, and sophomores, Sara Hogarth and Pasha Sadikov.

Having such a young team with no seniors, almost guarantees success for years to come and leaves not only Krous, but the whole team with "high hopes for next year." Said Krous. Most NOSB teams have four actual competitors and one alternate.

West's team this year did not have an alternate, which makes their win even more impressive. Krous would like to extend his team and add that one more student for next year. Any student interested in oceanography should consider this position.

"Even students who don't make the team can always participate in practices and eventually move their way up," said Krous, who will hold a recruiting meeting very soon, and will give more information on NOSB.

"Their success his year has brought pride to Cranston West," Principal Knowlton commented. "They have been very consistent competing at a national level, and that's awesome."



Photo by Natalie Patalano

(L to R): Mr. Krous, science department chair and NOSB coach, stands with team members, Sara Hogarth, Alexa Choy, Meaghan Sullivan, and Pasha Sadikov.

Mock Trial ruled out in state semifinals

By: Rachel Ferri
Staff Reporter

On April 1 the Cranston West Mock Trial team was the only public school competing in the state semi-finals. This was the first time in history that West advanced to the top four in the state.

This year, the team had compiled an impressive record of 5-0 for the season. To enter the playoffs, a mock trial team, composed of students playing witnesses and lawyers, must win 2 to 3 rounds against 3 different schools. However, in the playoffs, the stakes are higher and the rules change. No notes can be used during the trial and after every round half of the teams are eliminated. Scoring is based not on winning and losing the case, but on having the better argument and performance.

"It's a bit intimidating being the only public school in the competition, but we work just as hard, so we should compete well with the private schools," said senior Tauseef Zaman, who is played an expert witness in the trial.

To prepare for such a huge challenge, the team had the opportunity to work with two professional defense lawyers from the Federal Public Defense Office. During that time, they tried to look for weaknesses in their opponent's case and anticipate "their game plan."

"Everyone has broken their plateau this year. Even when we get a perfect 10, we strive to do better," said senior Nick Lucchetti, who played a defense lawyer in the case.

Although this year's team is working really well and efficiently with each other, they have faced some chal-



Photo provided by Ms. Titon

Mock Trial sits in the N. Prov. jury box; (L to R) (Front): Jessica Feder, Shira Olson, David Gelsomino, Johnna Mernick (Back): Ms. Titon, Avery Dubuque, Nicholas Lucchetti, N Prov. Municipal Court Judge, Zach Gaines, Tauseef Zaman, Hannah Michaelson, Veronica Romanov, Dhruv Jain

lenges.

"I think our biggest challenge was scheduling. It was really hard to get the whole team together because of other commitments," said Zaman.

But that hasn't kept West from achieving new standards of excellence.

"This year, everybody gave a lot of effort. They truly understood what they had to do," said Ms. Paula Titon, who has been the head of the Mock Trial team for 6 years. "I'm really proud of them."

The semi-final ruling was not in Cranston West's favor. The judges felt that Bay View had the better argument, even though West seemed to have the harder side of the case.

"I feel that the whole experience was fraught with anxiety from memoriz-

ing last minute details to improvising when the opposing team pulled a surprising tactic. But, overcoming these adversities made each victory that much sweeter and the loss palatable," said Zaman.

Now that the bar is set high, next year's Mock Trial team will have to continue to strive for the best. It will certainly be difficult without the key senior leadership. However, they do have the support of their former teammates.

"I think next year's team can set the bar even higher than we did this year," said senior Nupur Jain, who also played a defense lawyer in the case.

Being the only public school in the competition showed just how far the Mock Trial team had come. They truly have set the bar.



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Sophomores shock

Seniors don't disappoint



By: Kelsey De...
Feature Edit...

That charged up week with dressing up, playing crazy games and showing gratitude to our teachers only comes around once during the school year. Student Council runs the week which includes dress up days, traditional "way out games", tug-of-war, appreciation day, and of course penny wars.

Deana Barlow and Liz R... are the advisors for student council. "Participation is never really a problem because it is something everyone looks forward to, it is a tradition," said Barlow.

When penny wars, tug-of-war, appreciation, way out games, and combined four dress up days...

Spirit

	Dress Up	Penny Wars
Seniors	2	4
Juniors	3	1
Sophomores	4	2
Freshmen	1	3



which out of all four days had the most participation in all grades. The seniors came in first wearing blue with 81% participation and once again the sophomores came in a close second wearing yellow with 81.32% participation.

Tuesday night was "way out games", the traditional battle of classes in the gymnasium that always falls on the eve of class color day. These games are not your traditional class activities. The games include a donut on a string challenge, an eating contest, and many more. The evening is not complete without the annual tug-of-war competition. The seniors took first place with 27 points, the sophomores and seniors tied for second place, and the freshmen came in third with 14 points.

"Overall the week went...

with Way Out win

; win overall Spirit Week

combined and the points were added up the seniors came in first place with 12 points, the juniors and sophomores came in second with 11 points, and the freshmen came in last with 6 points.

Penny wars have always been a staple of spirit week. The class with the most positive change in their container wins. However, placing anything but pennies in a container results in minus that amount for that class. For example if you put a dollar bill in a container then that class automatically subtracts 100 pennies from that class.

"All of the money from penny wars goes to Camp Hope, a camp for children with cancer," said Barlow.

The 2009 spirit week began with sport and pirate day where the seniors won most participation with 59% of the class participating. The sophomores came in second place with 54% participation.

Tuesday was class color day



Week Results

Teacher Appreciation	Way Out Games	Total:
4	2	12:
3	4	11:
2	3	11:
1	1	6:

but I was definitely concerned by the behavior of a handful of students at way out games," said Barlow.

The week continued with Disney and tie dye day on Wednesday. The juniors came out of third place and took first with 51% participation. The sophomores remained in second place with 49% participation.

Spirit week concluded on Thursday with school color day. The sophomores came in first place with 72% participation and the juniors followed behind with 63% participation.

When all of the points for dress up were added together for the whole week, the sophomores came in first place, the juniors took second, the seniors came in third, and the freshmen came in last.



Skills USA to compete nationally

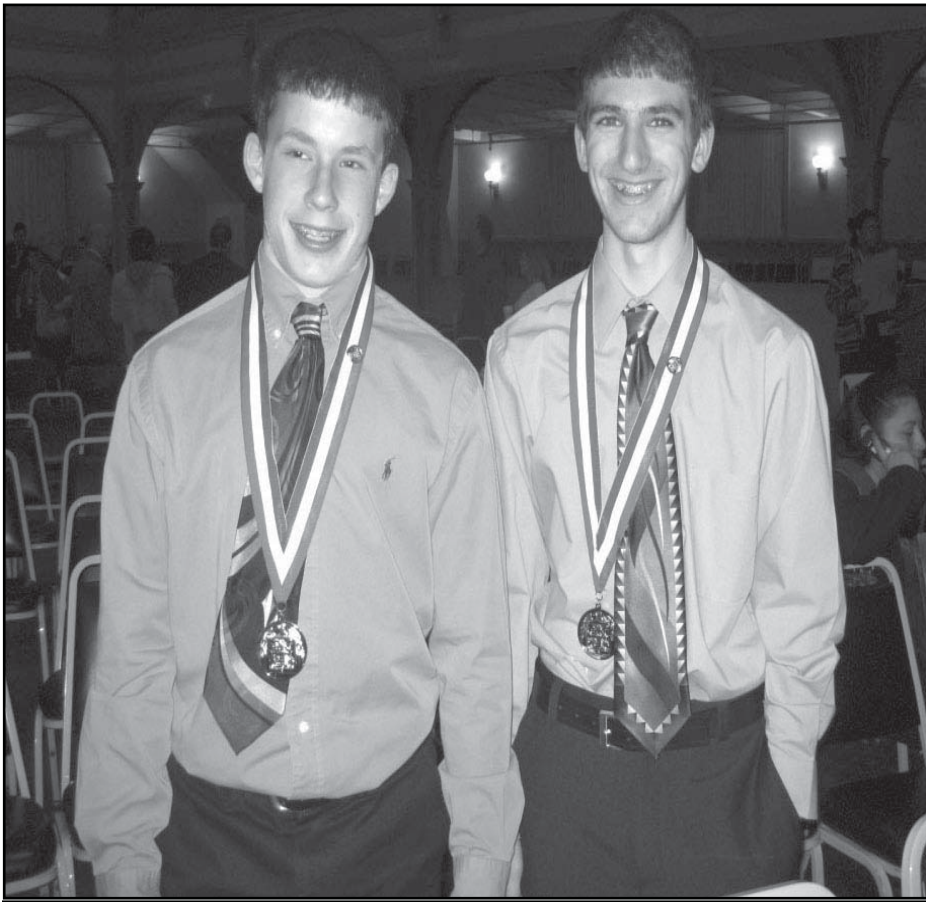


Photo by Marissa Manfredo
Sophomores Cody Nadeau and Steven Sacco show off the medals that they won in the Skills USA competition. Both are part of the group that will compete at the national level.

By: Marissa Manfredo
Contributing Reporter

Skills USA is a national organization in which highschool and college students prepare for careers in technical, skilled and service occupations.

In March, students from multiple career and tech programs from West, competed against students from Chariho, Newport, Warwick, Coventry, Davies, Woonsocket, and East Providence's career and technical school to win the gold.

Fifteen students from West did just that. Winning the gold qualifies students to go to nationals in Kansas City, Missouri. This will take place from June 21, 2009 to June 26, 2009. Leah Belogolovsky, Marybeth Dawson, Dana Marcotte, Katlin Tenerella, Brianna Cato, Maria Santonastaso, Eva Kis, Esther Borgelin, Nicholas Viau, Steven Sacco and Cody Nadeau will be competing at national level.

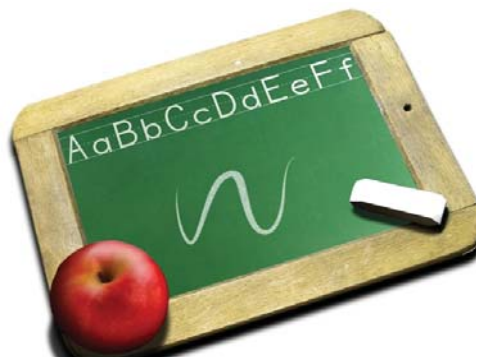
"Skills USA helps you meet new people, prepare for your future, and experience your future career," said Marybeth Dawson, a student who is competing at a national level.

Competing in twenty skills com

petitions, in seventeen of them, West's students either got a first, second or third placing. "We won the most medals in the state, which was exciting for the kids and teachers, we mostly won gold which shows how strong our programs are and how much students are getting out of them, and their capability," said Mrs. Coutu, the director of the Career and Technical Center at West, "I hope all the students competing at the national level have fun and I am very proud of all of the levels that competed."

Assisting the students in nationals will be Mrs. Lori Velino, and Mr. Steven Versacci, both from the Cranston Area Career and Technical Center. Also assisting them will be Gianna Velino; the Skills USA state president, and Anthony Catanzaro; the Skills USA state officer.

For these two students, going to Missouri will give them the opportunity to work in a seventeen hour program, in which they will have the training opportunity for their leadership development.



Chalk Talk: Mrs. Carmelina Pontarelli

By: Kelsey DeJesus
Feature Editor

Cranston West foreign language teacher, Carmelina Pontarelli has been a part of the faculty at West for sixteen years.

Her childhood education was spent in Italy, and later moved back to Rhode Island for high school. Mrs. Pontarelli attended high school at Mount Pleasant, in North Providence.

Over her 16 years, she taught Spanish, levels one through three. Aside from teaching, she has also participated in the annual Follies show. When she was not singing or traveling Mrs. Pontarelli also found the time to earn a black belt in karate.

KD: How long have you taught here?
CP: Eleven years

KD: What languages do you teach? What levels?
CP: Just Spanish, levels 1-3

KD: What languages do you speak at home?
CP: Italian and English

KD: Do you play any sports?
CP: I took tae kwon do classes for about four years.

KD: What level did you reach and how long did it take?
CP: I am a black belt and it took me

about four years.

KD: Why did you stop taking classes?
CP: It was a lot of hard work and dedication and takes up a lot of time.

KD: Where did you grow up?
CP: I grew up in Rhode Island and in Italy. I was born in Rhode Island and then after I completed kindergarten I moved to Italy. We returned to Rhode Island and I completed eighth grade and high school here. I went to Mount Pleasant High School in North Providence.

KD: Has your schooling changed the way you teach and learn?
CP: I know was it is like to struggle with a language because I struggled myself. So I know what it feels like.

KD: Past follies tapes prove that you were quite the singer, how long have you be singing?
CP: Since second grade when we began doing shows at school. When I started teaching here I was part of the Follies talent show. I sang and my students danced, it was a lot of fun.

KD: What techniques do you use to help make learning interesting?
CP: I try to make it fun so I use a lot of games to help my students review.



Photo by Natalie Patalano

Mrs. Pontarelli checks the work of sophomore student Zach Smith in Spanish 2 class.

West senior meets President Obama



Photo from Google

Cranston West senior Steve Peltier visited the White House (shown), and met newly elected President Barack Obama.



By: Rachel Palmisciano
Senior Editor

Senior Stephen Peltier was chosen to get the chance to meet President Barack Obama. He met him in Washington DC, and was there from the 7 until the 14 of March.

He met Obama in the White House Rose Garden, which borders the West Wing and the Oval Office. Obama talked to everyone about leadership and answered questions.

Peltier commented on, "his less than firm handshake. That's all I really remember about that moment, meeting him is kind of a blur."

He was selected after a

three-step process. First he took a test with questions based upon government. From that test, the top ten percent in the state had to write an essay based on a prompt, there were four options given.

From there the seven people with the best essays had to be interviewed, and then the final two people were chosen.

Peltier said, "It was definitely a once in a lifetime experience. I never thought I would meet the President."

He is unsure about whether he will pursue a career in politics. "Maybe later on in life, but I'm not too sure," he added.

Foreign languages showcased at Honors Night



By: Tess Povar
Staff Reporter

ston West and currently in the Italian language program said, "This night was really fun, it was a chance for us [students] to be awarded for all of our hard work we put in to foreign language classes."

From 2008 to 2009, the amount of students involved has changed. In 2008, there were around 110 students awarded in 2009, it decreased to 74 students. "The amount can fluctuate year to year depending on the number of students who take a foreign language class," explained Pannone.

Alyssa DeQuattro, a junior at West and currently in the Spanish program said that the night was not only just about getting an award but also seeing what the program in general offers and getting to watch the singing as well.

Song ballads were sung by Amanda Neves, Jessica Sepe, and Johnna Mernick.

Neves who sung a French ballet explained that it took a lot of practice and hard work to perform in a foreign language.

Each language was introduced by Pannone with a small speech, a song was performed in that language that was being introduced, and then the students would come forth for their award.

On March 25, Cranston West held a World Language Honors Night. This program is a time where all the three language honors classes of Spanish, French, and Italian come together to honor the student's hard work.

"Putting on this night is really a school effort," said Mr. Alfred Pannone, the department head of world languages at Cranston West, organized the event. "The teachers make recommendations on behalf of which students are qualified for the award, I put the program together and make the music selections, the graphic department helps the program, and the culinary school helps with the reception," explained Pannone.

To be a part of this society, the student must maintain a 85 grade average or better and must complete 5-8 hours of community service.

Arianna Colella, junior at Cran-

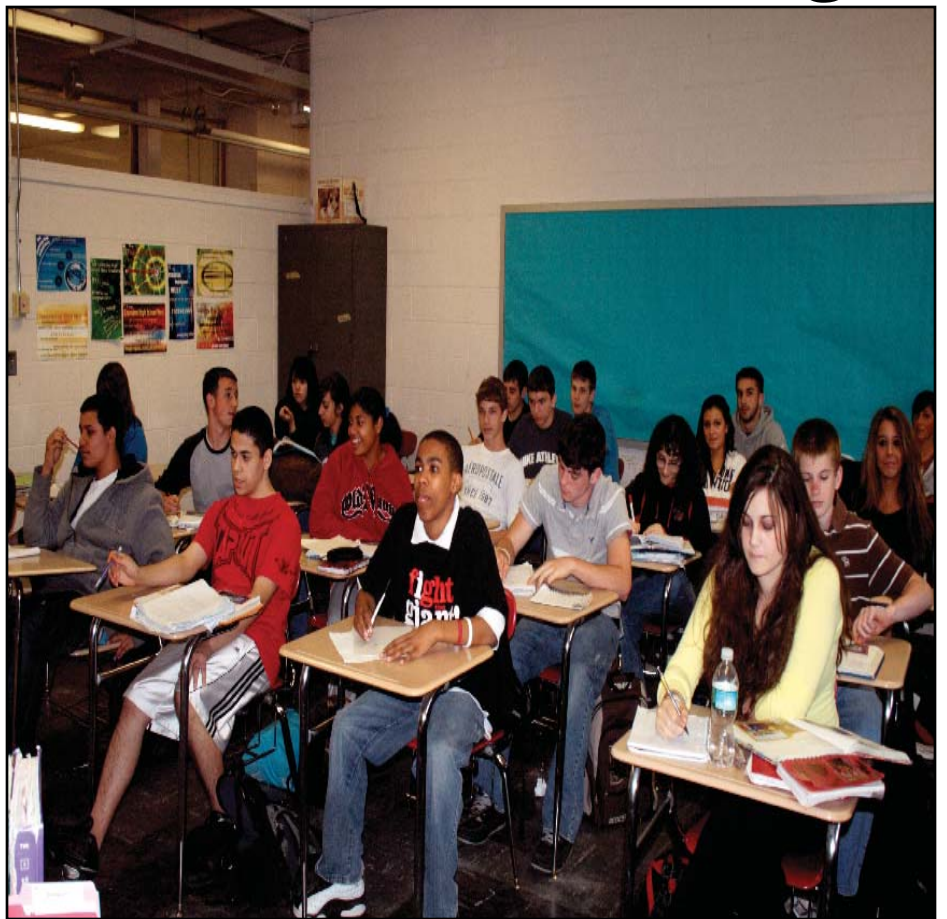


Photo by Natalie Patalano

Mrs. Izbicki's Period 5 freshmen class will be eligible to join the World Language Honors Society during their junior year.

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All-American Rejects invade Lupo's

by: Rachel Palmisciano
Senior Editor

It was hot, crowded, and extremely uncomfortable at Lupo's on April 20. Never before have I witnessed such a display of embarrassing behavior on the part of others. Maybe it was the date, or perhaps it was the "red-neck" connection to Oklahoma, where the All American rejects are from, that brought out the unrestrained behavior. But aside from the crowd, the performers were pretty spectacular.

They opened with a song from their new album, something catchy and upbeat. My friends and I were in a state of shock upon seeing Tyson Ritter (lead singer) live. Words cannot describe it. Let's just say he turned an orange, ripped sleeve T-shirt into something amazing.

They sang the familiar songs, "Dirty Little Secret," "Swing Swing," "Move Along," "It Ends Tonight," and the new radio hit, "Gives You Hell." Although it was sometimes hard to see the stage over the people being tossed above the crowd, all of these songs were excellent performed live.

The concert was peppered with some new songs, most of which were very catchy, and had good energy, but it was the older songs that had the fans going wild. When the band came back for an encore and played "Gives You Hell," everyone in the crowd was singing and jumping in time with the music.

Ritter pulled a random girl onto the stage and sang the song, "Mona Lisa," to her. It was heartbreakingly romantic. The audience saw a different side of the same Tyson Ritter, who asked at the beginning of the concert if the ladies were "feeling dirty."

The opening bands deserve to be mentioned here. The first band to hit the stage was a band called Vadera. I had never heard them before but was pretty impressed with the lead singer's vocals.

After Vadera came a band called Ace Enders, and I was pleasantly surprised with this good-looking bunch. The party started when Shiny Toy Guns took the stage and really got people moving and grooving.

But it pretty much goes without saying that the opening bands are just a warm up. The All American Rejects stole the show and our hearts.



Photo provided by Google

All-American Rejects lead singer Tyson Ritter, (left), performs with the rest of the band at Lupo's on April 20th.

Dave Matthews Band is back



Photo provided by Google

Dave Matthews Band has produced their first album since the passing of saxophonist LeRoi Moore.



By: Tara DeCosta
Entertainment Editor

Originally expected out in April, The Dave Matthews Band is coming out with their first album since 2005, on June 2, titled Big Whiskey and the GrooGrux King. The band is on a supporting tour all summer along with their new album release. This will be the first time Dave Matthews Band [DMB] has been on tour without their late saxophonist, LeRoi Moore. Moore passed away in June 2008, at age 46, from suffering an ATV accident. Moore was a founding member of DMB in 1991 and the new album is a tribute to him.

Big Whiskey and the GrooGrux

King has a significant meaning behind it. "GrooGrux King" being the nickname for Moore and "Big Whiskey" originating from an encounter with a New Orleans drunk during the photo shoot for the new album. This is the bands' seventh studio album, produced by Rob Cavallo. The track list of the album consists of thirteen songs, including "Funny The Way It Is," which is available for free download on DMB's official website. The bands' new song is more like live ones of recent years as oppose to their album "Stand". Although the absence of Moore is very recognizable, saxophonist Jeff Coffin will be filling in, and he is a surprise to the audience.

DMB's tour kicked off their summer 2009 tour at a sold out show in Madison Square Garden. The playlist that night included old favorites of DMB with a few new surprises to support their album. The tour will be throughout June and July and concert dates are posted on the website!

A Midsummer's Nights Dream at West

By: Tara DeCosta
Entertainment Editor

Cranston High School West's drama students qualified for the 2009 State Drama Festival with their performance of A Midsummer's Nights Dream.

Four of Cranston West's senior theatre members have made it to compete in three State Drama Festivals over their high school career. Although Mrs. Nancy Vitulli had her doubts of the outcome of A Midsummer's Nights Dream, she turned out to be wrong. "I didn't have faith in them [drama students] doing a Shakespearean play, but we did it," stated Vitulli, "They all gave a brilliant performance."

A Midsummer's Nights Dream consists of four interwoven stories. One

being Thesus and Hippolyta's wedding, the second being the young lovers conflict, the third, which is workmen presenting a play of Thesus and Hippolyta's wedding, and the fourth being the supernatural world of fairies.

According to Matt Zanfagna, "We did lots of research, watched Shrek to work on character development."

By excelling their acting, the drama club will participate in the Rhode Island Drama Fest, on April 18th through April 20th, at the University of Connecticut. Talia Deluca's expectations are, "We plan on just having a good time and see what other schools do, appreciate the arts."

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Matzner makes return to the court

By: Ethan Smith
Staff Reporter

After battling a life-threatening disease, which kept him off the court last spring, Mr. Steve Matzner returned to coaching tennis at Cranston High School West this season.

"I love this sport, working with the kids and getting them ready for competition as well as becoming a long-term role model for them," said Matzner.

Coach Matzner was diagnosed with Myelo Fibrosis last year and was forced to take a year off from teaching and coaching. Myelo Fibrosis is a disorder of the bone marrow, in which the bone marrow is replaced by scar tissue. As a result, blood forms in places other than the bone marrow. This causes the organs to become enlarged. It leads to progressive bone marrow failure and severe anemia is another resulting condition, as is low platelet count and spleen enlargement. The cause is unknown.

Coach Matzner has been coach-

ing tennis at West since 1980 and is very consistent in his ways of coaching. "His rules don't change and they are the same for all players," said senior Brian Ahern.

At the beginning of the season, Coach Matzner has his players write down their goals for the team along with individual goals and place them in an envelope. At the end of the year, the envelope is opened. "There is a lot more dedication to the team this year and to everyone's individual game. The atmosphere is more serious," said senior Nick Luchetti.

The Falcons are having a tough season with a 1-9 record and are at the bottom of the Division I standings, but the team is definitely happy to have their beloved coach back for this spring. "We are all really happy to have coach back, he does a real good job preparing us for games and he runs tight practices," said Luchetti.



Photo by Tess Povar
Coach Matzner returned to the courts this year after being diagnosed with Myelo Fibrosis. Above, he is offering his tennis knowledge to freshman Jay DeRobbio.



Photos by Tess Povar
(Above) Coach Matzner walks into the tennis court to coach a practice. (Below) Matzner enlightens Scott Dressler (right), and Tom Durigan (center).



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Falcons sweep title series in dramatic fashion

By: Dan Palmisciano
Sports Editor

4.3 seconds. This short amount of time separated Cranston West and Barrington from sudden death overtime in game 2 of the state championship series. The Falcons won Game 1 and they could win it all this game.

Mike AlMBERG lined up for the face-off, with RJ Ricci and Phil Doucette to his left, and Andy Ruggiero and Justin Sacco behind him at the blue line.

The puck was dropped, and AlMBERG won it to his left. The puck slid right through Ricci and onto the stick of Doucette.

In one swift motion, Doucette took the puck and flipped it into the net, and the arena erupted. Doucette was immediately tackled by Ruggiero and Sacco.

"I didn't believe it at all when it happened," said goalie Jared Dauphinais, "A play like that happens once every 20 years."

After the celebration, the team lined up for the face off with 1.9 seconds left. The puck was dropped and the buzzer went off. For the first time in 8 years, the Cranston West Falcons were state champions. Ruggiero jumped on Dauphinais, and they were soon mobbed by the rest of the team.

"It feels great," said sophomore Mike Tomaselli, "We've worked hard for this all year."

"It feels amazing, it's indescribable," said Ruggiero, "It still hasn't hit me yet that we brought home the state championship."

Head coach Mike Boyajian's former team was the Barrington Eagles and it seemed like he knew how to beat them



Photo by Jay Jones

The Cranston West Boys' Hockey team takes a team picture with the state championship plaque. Phil Doucette, (Front right, with A), holds up the MVP plaque that he received for his great performance throughout the playoffs.

when he got to PC.

Under Boyajian, the team excelled during the playoffs and played well together as a team.

"Coach knows how to run things," said Doucette. He did know how to run things, resulting in the Falcons 4-1 playoff record.

"We had a hard work ethic, and our goal was to make it to PC, and once we made it, we knew what we had to do," said Dauphinais.

But the road to PC was not an easy one. The Falcons went into Burrville

for Game One of the state semifinals and they won 5-2. In Game Two at Cranston Veterans Memorial Ice Rink, the Falcons lost a close 2-1 game.

So they went back up to Burrville for game 3. After going down 2-0 early, the Falcons cranked it up and scored four unanswered goals, and won the game 4-2. This win was the one that would bring the Falcons to the state championship.

The COX Frozen Finals MVP award, given to the player most valuable to their team in the championship series, was given to Doucette.

Doucette, finished the finals with 3 goals, and 2 assists, not to mention the game winning goal in the championship game.

"He really deserved it," said Ruggiero.

For the first time in 8 years, the Cranston West Falcons won the state championship. They worked hard for it all year, and it paid off in the end. The Falcons had an amazing year, and it's one they won't soon forget.

Championship performance in the clutch



Photo by Jay Jones

Justin Sacco, (9), tackles MVP Phil Doucette, (6), and Mike AlMBERG (15), after Doucette scored the championship winning goal with 1.9 seconds left in the third period. R.J. Ricci, (11), gets ready to join in the celebration.

West clinches title with 1.9 seconds left

By: Dan Palmisciano
Sports Editor

Mike AlMBERG had the toughest job of everyone, as he had to win the face off successfully to Phil Doucette, if the play was to work. "I basically told Phil to go hard to the net", said AlMBERG, "I tried putting it on his stick, and it worked out perfect.

"The puck never goes through", said Sacco, "It ended up on Phil's stick and he put it in, it was crazy".

Andy Ruggiero and Justin Sacco had a bird's eye view of the play from the blue line. "I was lined up as a point man in case Barrington broke out", said Ruggiero. There was no break out though, and Ruggiero watched the play unfold, and proceeded to tackle Doucette near the boards.

The players on the bench were in a frenzy, but the player who felt the greatest at that moment, was Doucette.

"There were four seconds left, we were down there, I told RJ [Ricci] to get on the inside, and get the puck to the net", said Doucette, AlMBERG sent it over, I put the puck around and it feels great".