

The West Wind

September/October 2009

Cranston High School West

Vol. XLVI No. 1

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

Students face consequences from web postings

by: Nick Sczerbinski
Editor-In-Chief

Facebook has become a worldwide Internet entity that is evolving into something beyond our control. In some situations, technology has become uncontrollable, resulting in occurrences that cannot be reversed.

"Technology cannot be stopped. Parents need to be educated and in turn educate their kids on making smart choices," said Cranston High School West principal Steven Knowlton.

Although Facebook is not associated with school in any way and is blocked out of the school Internet network, it has begun to have an effect on the school community as a whole. "I don't have a problem with Facebook, but when kids post things that are disrespectful, I see a problem," said Knowlton, "If it casts the school in a negative light, or is disrespectful towards faculty, staff, or kids, there will be consequences."

A recent incident occurred at Cranston West involving students that were reprimanded for pictures that were leaked through Facebook. Mr. Knowlton refused to comment on the situation.

Head football coach Steve Stoehr stated, "When you are wearing a Cranston West uniform, you should hold yourself to a higher standard because you are more visible in the community."

"The biggest issue about taking pictures that may be portrayed as disrespectful to the school/community," said head girls' soccer coach Charles Pearson, "is that no matter how private a student thinks their information is, you have to be careful. Anything you put on the Internet is there forever."

Senior football captain Colin Esposito assessed the situation and said, "People should learn from what happened and not make the same mistakes again."



Photo provided by Google

Facebook has become something that is creating many controversies among teens in and out of school.

Way Out Games find new home



Photo by Scott Dressler

Students at Pep Rally watch this year's Way Out Games. Most students were in school colors which seemed to take away from the class battle atmosphere.

by: Andrew DeCataldo
News Editor

For years, the week before April vacation, Way Out games were held. This tradition had taken place for over 20 years at Cranston High School West. This year, brought a halting stop to this spirited tradition. At a recent faculty meeting Principal Knowlton announced that Way Out games as we know them will be no more.

"I was never really enamored with the whole concept of Way Out games," said Knowlton. He believed that there were numerous safety concerns, that made his decision to cancel the spring time event that much easier.

"I feel like Way Out games was an event that brought everyone together," said senior, Aja Scioli. "A lot of kids are afraid to go to dances and stuff, but at Way Out games everyone is there to have

fun!"

The drinking of several students in three out of the four classes, and a large fight breaking out, ensuing police enforcement, gave Knowlton reason to cancel this event.

According to Knowlton, the fight that broke out was the final straw in canceling the event. "It [Way Out games] was a complete embarrassment to our school."

"I don't think it is fair to punish all students for the mistakes of only a few," argued student body president, Lindsay Burrows. "What happened was wrong, but those who followed the rules should still be able to participate."

Instead of the usual spring Way Out game, on Friday, October 9th, a mix between pep-rally and Way Out games occurred. This event will included class competition games, such as tug of war,

See WAY OUT, page 7

What's Inside



The football team has had an up-and-down season so far. The Fall season is under review on page 11.

The senior class was victorious at the Way Out Games during pep rally. See more about Homecoming Weekend on pages 6 and 7.



The Cranston West girls' and boys' soccer teams swept Cranston East in the 2009 City Cup. Read about it on page 12.

The Cranston West gymnasium has been completely renovated into a new and improved building. Read more on page 9.



The Prez Box

I hope that you all had an easy transition into this school year. Spirit week and Homecoming ran very smoothly and I hope that everyone had fun. We were complimented by many faculty members for our good behavior! With the first quarter coming to a close, Student Council has begun planning for the 2010 Winter Ball which will be held in January. If anyone has any questions or ideas regarding Winter Ball, feel free to talk to any Student Council delegate, or myself. --- Lindsay Burrows

As we all know, this is the most stressful, yet exciting year we have had at West. To relieve the stress and make our time together more memorable, the senior class council has some great things up our sleeve. Don't forget to come and support the graduating Class of 2010 and remember, ideas are always welcome. Good luck seniors! Have fun, be safe, and don't stress! -- Tayla Reo

Our year has already been quite hectic and we are only two months into the year. NECAPs went well and the Class Council is beginning to plan for Junior Prom. Remember, your junior year is what colleges look at, and make sure you stay up to date with all of your work. -- Pat Varone

The sophomores have been off to a great start this year! Coming back to school isn't the easiest thing for most students to do but the sophomores were ready for another exhilarating year. So far the highlight of the year has been way out games with an all star team consisting of Ashely Desimone, Giovanna Boscia, Kelsy Lawton, Allie Smedberg, Alyssa Fusco, Tyler Sepe, Patrick McAssey, Jake Dinerman, Konner Gershkoff, and Alex Terreault. We were not going to let a little rain and freezing temperatures get in our way of placing third, which was a step up from last year, and we are happy with our outcome. Ashley Desimone tells me "the games were so much fun and I think we did good!" which is a good sign to me! Next up are our symbolic rings, offered to capture all our high school fun times in one shining piece of jewelry. Sophomores were enticed at the thought of designing and customizing their own memories into a precious ring at the recent assembly and quickly deposited their money. Us sophomores are on fire this year and I advise my peers not to forget about our studies, and to burn brighter than ever before. --- Tyler Sepe

The West Wind

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Published 8 times a year, *The West Wind* is a public forum, with its student editorial board making all decisions concerning its contents. Unsigned editorials express the views of the majority of the editorial board. Letters to the editor are welcome and will be published as space allows. Letters must be signed, although the staff may withhold the name on request. *The West Wind* reserves the right to edit all letters at the editors' discretion. Opinions in letters are not necessarily those of the staff, nor should any opinion expressed in a public forum be construed as the opinion or policy of the faculty or administration, unless so attributed. Questions, concerns, or letters to the editor should be directed to B1-1.

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Photo by Ashley Ravo

Mr. Jones gets splattered with whipped cream after being hit with a pie as part of the DECA fundraiser. The pie toss raised a total of \$275 for the program.

Harry Potter Banned from shelves

by: Katie Salisbury
Contributing Reporter

There are some areas that the Catholic religion should keep out of, one being literature written by brilliant authors.

One of these brilliant authors is J.K. Rowling, the mastermind behind the Harry Potter Series. Her seven part series has been on and off the banned book list since the very first book, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, was published in 1999.

Many parents have made an attempt to have them banned from school classrooms and school media centers. Some of these complaints were successful, others were not. Many parents have complained about how Harry Potter is a series of books written of evil and promoting interest in witchcraft, while other

parents think that the seven part series is a wonderfully written fantasy story with a powerful message for kids about determination and overcoming challenges.

Between the years 1990-2000 the Harry Potter books appeared number 7 of the top 100 most frequently challenged books list put out by The American Library Association. Then in 2007 the ALA reported that between the years 2000-2006 the books jumped from number 7 to number 1.

The newest reason for the series being on the forbidden list came a few years ago during a press conference when J.K. Rowling made the announcement that Head-Master Ablus Dumbledore is gay.

For this sole reason the beloved children's fantasy will stay on the banned booklist until it goes out of print, which due to high selling rates won't be for a very long time.

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Roving Reporter

How do you feel about Way Out Games being held with Pep Rally?

Stefano Marziale
freshman-
"It is only my first year here, I wasn't here when it was different. It's no big deal, nothing changed for me."



Ariana Cappalli
sophomore-
"I feel that it shouldn't be held during pep rally because we're not in class colors but it's good because there will be less trouble."



Ashley Cabrera
junior-
"I think it is a bad idea because it doesn't give us anything to look forward to in the spring."



Casey Conley
senior-
"I'm mad. I'd rather have it in the spring. I feel like last year's Way Out Games just happened."



Rolling Stone captures the essence of U2

by: **Ariana Joharjian**
Contributing Reporter

Gracing the October 15 issue of Rolling Stone magazine is none other than Bono and the Edge from the decade-spanning band U2. Ever since their start in the 1970's, U2 has captured the attention of fans just entering their teenage years to those well into their mid-life crisis.

This was even evident at Cranston West after many students took the trip to Gillette Stadium in Foxboro to see the sold out show in September that grossed more than twelve million dollars over the course of two nights. Sophomore Amanda Ruggieri stated, "It was really an amazing experience."

The fact that they've been around for so long and still put on such spectacular shows is really incredible. They have a great sound, especially live, and for anyone that does not know who they are should give them a chance because there really isn't anyone else out there like them."

In the article "Live from Outer Space", Brian Hiatt shows readers that being in the business of music is about more than just a good song. Hiatt gives readers a look into the planning and decisions that go into "the biggest tour of all time" that U2 has been on since June of 2009. If anything, Hiatt captures the entity that is U2 and makes the reader see them as a delicately poetic rock band worthy of god-like appreciation.

Hiatt shines an almost halo-like light on U2. The members of the band make time not only to create a massive stage setup and set list for their tours, but they also engage in activism throughout the world. Bono even writes new bridges for songs the band released fourteen years ago only hours before the band is scheduled to be on stage. This captivates the readers because it gives them a glimpse into the mind of a man many musicians call their inspiration. It is not often that average people are able to get inside the minds of prominent people.

One negative aspect is that the article is engulfed by pictures that take up more than half the page which leaves less room for the actual writing. Although the photographer, Sam Jones, captured many intriguing photos it seems as though there is more the reader can learn about the legendary band. Compared to the second major article in the issue about Wall Street that spans about ten pages, U2's coverage is more in depth visually.

What the reader can appreciate about this article is that they learn the members of U2 are concerned with relaying emotion to the crowd. Bono even stated he watches the faces of the audience in order to see how they react to the songs that are performed.

U2, a band that has been around for decades, only seems to be getting bigger. That is why the theme for their tour is outer space, it is the next biggest place they can go after their 360 tour.

Teacher Talk



What is your opinion on the new grading policy?



Mr. Durigan,
Technology-
"Over all I support it. Anything that will encourage students to work harder is a good policy, even if they don't like it."



Mrs. Pontarelli,
Spanish-
"I think it is going to make students work a little harder to get passing grades. It should motivate them."



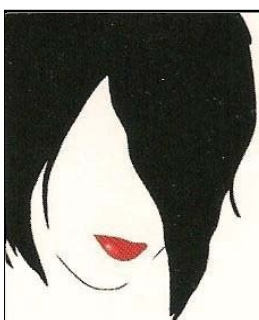
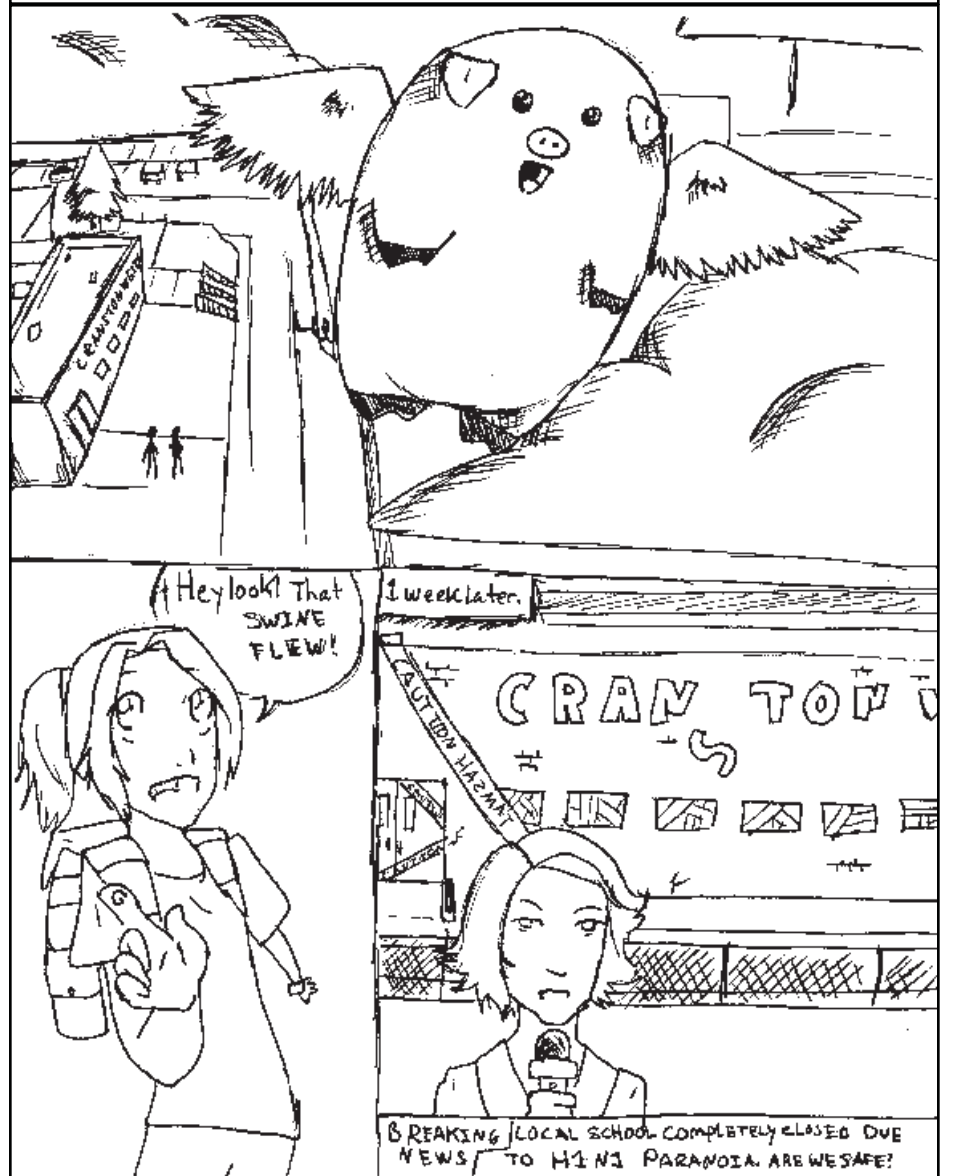
Mr. Mendes,
science-
"I wouldn't want to go to a doctor or lawyer that only knows 60% of his craft. I'm all about tougher standards."



Mrs. Capaldi,
English-
"I think it is good because the direction the state is moving with all schools is to have stricter requirements."

Comic of the Month

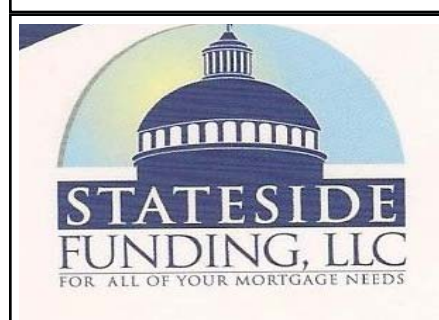
by: **Emily Boyer**



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Velino elected VP of SkillsUSA

Joins national office

by: **Katie Salisbury**
Contributing Reporter

During the competition for SkillsUSA held in June our very own Gianna Velino ran for elected office on a national level. She chose to run for Regional 1 National Vice President, a position almost as hard to obtain as the President of the United States coming from Rhode Island. The Ocean State only has 7 voting delegates as opposed to Massachusetts has 26 voting delegates. This has only been done three times in the history of SkillsUSA in RI. Not only did she run, but also she won.

As Vice President of SkillsUSA, Velino is responsible for making sure that the SkillsUSA participants and teachers remain in contact via web conferences and to be available for competitions in other states around the country. "I decided to run after going to the national competition held last year," said Velino.

Working towards a national level position takes a lot of hard work and determination. To be able to run for vice president first Velino had to become president school level while being president state level while showing leadership skills and

community service. On top of these she had to complete professional development workbooks, put together a portfolio, present herself to a board and lastly running through a grueling competition exposing herself to the voting delegates and SkillsUSA community by making speeches and proving herself worthy of a position such as that.

"I'm extremely proud of Gianna," said Mrs. Velino, guidance counselor of CACTC. "I attended the competition as a chaperone so I was able to watch her make speeches and her campaigning."

"Gianna is very talented," commented Chef Martha, director of SkillsUSA. "She's a great representative of the Career and Tech Center for Cranston West and for the state of Rhode Island. She's a wonderful candidate."

Students around the country take part in the national partnership SkillsUSA, yet many students don't know what it is. In layman's terms it's a partnership between students, teachers, and industry to insure that the United States has a secure work force while students complete high school.



Photo provided by Lori Velino

Cranston West's Gianna Velino was recently elected national SkillsUSA Vice President. She represents all of the Northeast as one of five VPs in the entire nation.

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West students competing for Merit scholarship

by: Ariana Joharjian
Contributing Reporter

What do West seniors Meaghan Sullivan and Zach Gaines have in common with Twilight author Stephanie Meyer and director of The Sixth Sense Manoj "M. Night" Shyamalan? Both Meyer and Shyamalan were National Merit Scholars during their high school careers. Sullivan and Gaines are semi-finalists in the competition for a National Merit Scholarship and are waiting on selection by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Being recognized as semi-finalists means both students scored in the top 96th percentile of the 3.5 million students who took the Preliminary SAT / National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) during their junior year. Only semi-finalists, roughly 16,000 students, are allowed to continue on in the hopes of becoming finalists. This accounts for less than one percent of the country's graduating seniors.

Sullivan said she "did not go into the test thinking I would end up as a Merit Scholar" and "was more perplexed than anything because I didn't really know what it meant."

Mr. Krous, Sullivan's National Ocean Science Bowl Coach and Science Department Head at West, disagreed, saying he was "not surprised" that Sullivan received this recognition since she "is one of the most mature teenagers, she has a lot of self discipline." He also added, that "among all of the other honors she's received, it'd be expected." During his twenty years teaching, Mr. Krous ranks Sullivan as one of the "top two or three" students he has known.

"I had the ability to do well and just needed to try, and I hoped I would come out as a finalist," said Gaines after receiving Semi-Finalist recognition.

Mrs. Carolyn Lannon, assistant coach of the Math Team along with Mrs. Patricia Capuano and Math Department Head at West, said she was not surprised to learn Gaines was a semi-finalist because, she has taught his two older brothers and was "anticipating his arrival." Mrs. Lannon said she knows "he's a bright student." Mrs. Lannon also added that Gaines is "sociable, fun, well rounded, and can be counted on for a creative solution to a problem."

Gaines has big plans for his future, hoping "to major in International Studies first and if not either History or Political Science". His top school is Johns Hopkins and he is also considering the University of Rochester, Colgate, Cornell, and Dartmouth. Gaines also hopes to attend "either law school or even try and apply to the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins for graduate school."

Sullivan has had many academic successes during her time at West. Since she joined the National Ocean Science Bowl (NOSB) during her freshman year, the team has finished in the top four in the country. She was the first freshman to ever make the team, as is was generally upperclassman, and has been captain since her sophomore year.

Mr. Krous stated "her impact on the team has been tremendous." He even added it is "almost like having an assistant coach" because "she operates as a captain and keeps the team in line, which isn't required but she does it just because she has



Photo by Scott Dressler

Cranston West seniors Meaghan Sullivan and Zach Gaines are awaiting a selection by the NMSC to determine who receives the National Merit Scholarship.

that in her."

At the end of her career in the National Ocean Science Bowl, Sullivan is slated to receive the "Sean Walstead Memorial NOSB Fanatic Award" which has not been awarded over the past couple of years, because it has been reserved for the end of her career on the team.

Sullivan does not have a first choice and is simply applying to colleges and waiting to see where she is accepted before settling on any one school yet. Her

plan is to major in biomedical engineering and she "would like" to get a higher degree but she thinks it would "be nice to get some work experience" before doing so.

Mr. Krous commented on Sullivan's post-secondary education saying he "fully expect[s] she'll be on to a top college and top grad school and that he is "one hundred percent confidence she'll be a leader."

Multiple bomb threats spread through West

by: Andrew DeCataldo
News Editor

On October 8, a small bomb went off in Cafeteria East at Cranston High School West. Custodian Frank DiMascio was going along with his daily post lunch clean up routine when all of a sudden, a loud bang with a large cloud of smoke exploded.

"I was just picking up the (trash) bag, and it blew right up," DiMascio said. He saw nothing suspicious prior to the explosion and was completely surprised.

"It was more shocking because of the sound," said bystander Miss Patricia Gorman. "It almost sounded like a water bottle popping." The bomb was later described as a mass of tin foil with a thick fuzz surrounding it.

The explosion only had contact with the custodian's arms, but if DiMascio were any shorter he would have ended up blind, according to both the fire marshals and nurse.

As soon as the bomb exploded, DiMascio went straight to the nurse. He felt an itching, burning sensation on his arms, and washed it right off.

The person who committed this crime has yet to be caught, but administration is doing everything they can to catch

him or her. A \$5,000 reward will be given, from the fire marshals' office, to anyone who can correctly report who did this. Whoever did this, in Frank DiMascio's eyes, "needs help."

Principal Knowlton said that there is probably nothing that the administration can do to prevent something like this from happening again. The campus at Cranston High School West is so large and wide spread; Knowlton said it is nearly impossible to patrol all entrances.

Again on October 19, another bomb scare was reported. In her opinion, Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs, Lynne Burke believes the two situations are not related.

Anytime something of concern happens, the school has to respond. The administration, police, and fire marshals were at West at 5am the morning of October 19, searching every inch of the school. Burke says that the administration "takes nothing for granted."

While the first bomb scare is still under investigation, more information is needed to accurately point fingers. As Frank DiMascio says, anyone who would do something like this is "crazy", and if something like this does happen again, administration will again take every precaution needed.

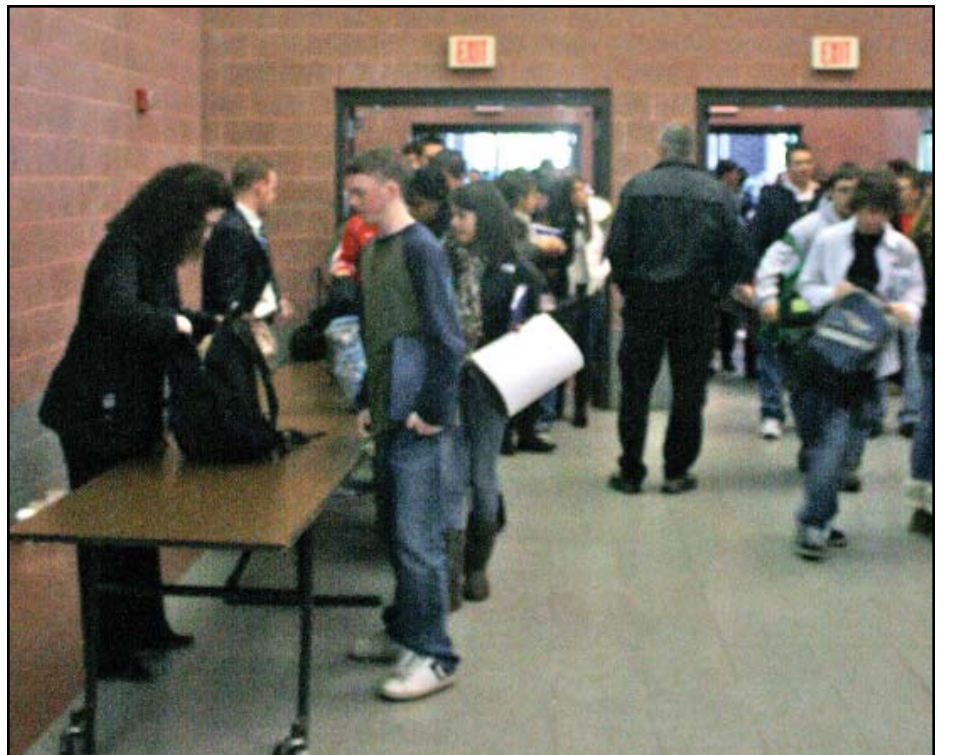


Photo by Scott Dressler

Cranston West students came to school for an early morning bag search. This is the fourth search at West in the last 3 years.

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Bing! Bang! Bash! Home

Football flies at Homecoming

By: Nick Sczerbinski
Editor-In-Chief

The Cranston West Falcons let up 79 total points in the three games that they played previous to tonight's Homecoming game against the winless North Kingston Skippers. The Falcon defense pulled hard from within tonight and played by far their strongest game of the season giving up only six points to the Skipper offense.

Five offensive touchdowns, including four on the ground, led the Falcons to a 33-6 win over North Kingston at Cranston Stadium. Sophomore running back Bryan Stetson led the rushing game for the Falcons with 103 yards on five carries, including two 41-yard touchdown runs. Senior back Kane Terilli picked up 57 total yards, adding both a rushing and receiving touchdown on the evening.

After suffering a 35-12 loss to the Hendricken Hawks last weekend, the Falcons had a tough week as they geared up for the Skippers. "We worked extra hard at practice this week, we had long practices," said Terilli, "But, if we're going to win like this, it's absolutely worth it."

Colin Esposito also added a touchdown for the offense, but the Falcons' defense rebounded very nicely after a few rough weeks. Led by juniors Jason Mollo and Victor Castriotta, four individual tackles each, the Falcons' defensive squad held the Skippers to under

40 yards on all seven of their drives in the game, including an interception by junior defensive back Zach Izzo late in the fourth quarter. The only touchdown of the game for North Kingston was a 33-yard pass by junior quarterback Adrian Tarbox.

Cranston West head coach, and Cranston West alum Steve Stoehr knew before the game that his team would play to their potential and feed off of the energy of the homecoming crowd. "The kids usually play up for the homecoming game," said Stoehr, "We haven't had a win at homecoming in the last three years so I know that the kids, especially the seniors, are pumped up for this game. They're ready to go."

Sophomore quarterback Matt Rousseau had a good day, going 4-7 for 40 yards through the air. Rousseau also picked up 15 yards on two carries. Junior halfback Brent Champagne had his share of work on the ground with 13 carries for 60 yards.

The special teams unit for Cranston West also had an impressive night. A muffed punt by Robbie Walker of North Kingston was recovered by the Falcons, which allowed them to continue a drive that started with a recovered onside kick.

With the loss, the Skippers remained winless on the year, dropping their record to 0-5 overall. Meanwhile, the Falcons improved their league record to 2-2, as well as upping their overall record to 3-3.



Recoming was a Smash!



WAY OUT continued from page 1

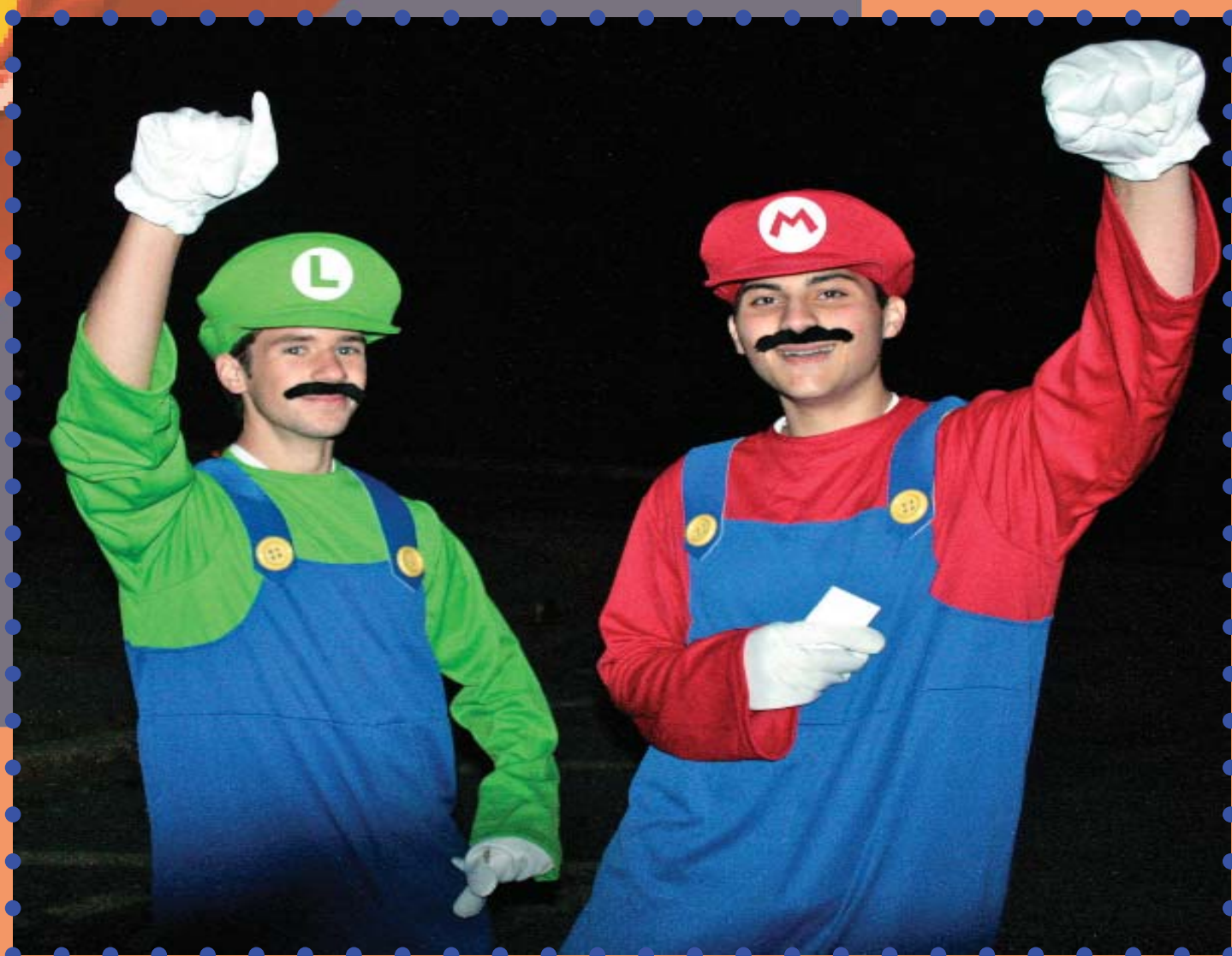
but also contained pep-rally festivities as well.

Senior class president, Tayla Reo stated, "I think that pep-rally was really fun and exciting, but in no way does it take the place of Way Out Games. I don't think it's fair to not have Way Out games in the spring this year, especially for us seniors."

Spirit week was also different this year. In the past spirit week was always held the week of Way Out games, in the spring, but this year it was held at earlier time, beginning the week of October 5th.

Knowlton said that there is no evidence that supports the decision to bring back Way Out games in the spring. The decision to cancel the event was a "faculty supported decision." Knowlton wasn't alone in his choice, the majority of the West faculty agreed with his decision.

A tradition was stopped here at Cranston West, and a new one has just begun, all because of the mistakes of students at Way Out games Spring 2009.



Swine Flu causing problems

by: Marissa Manfredo
Feature Editor

Throughout the past year many people have been concerned about the safety and well being of the people in Rhode Island. The swine flu or H1N1 is a new strain of the influenza A virus, which is spread throughout coughing, sneezing, or touching contaminated surfaces.

Symptoms, which last up to a week, are similar to those of the regular flu. The regular flu consists of fever, cough, sore throat, headache, chills, muscle aches and fatigue.

"It's really good that the school is taking precautions about the flu this year, compared to last year when all the Purell containers were empty for months at a time", said Ana Estes a senior at west.

"With the swine flu you would usually have a temperature above one hundred and two degrees and might have some respiratory symptoms along with the regular flu symptoms," said Mrs. Mollicone, the school nurse.

People who have a higher risk of hospitalization and potentially death are people with condi-

tions such as asthma, diabetes, obesity, heart disease or a weak immune system. Someone with a fever has to be temperature free for twenty four hours without medicine to come to school. H1N1 viruses are not spread by food.

Mrs. Mollicone advised for all students to; "Frequently wash hands, sneeze in elbows, no sharing drinks and if you have a fever the night before school to stay home the next day."

Many concerned parents went to the citywide meeting at Cranston High School East on September 14, 2009 from 6 to 8 pm. Here Mayor Fung and Cranston school superintendent Peter Nero worked with the school department to ensure that the people in our city are informed about the virus.

Mayor Fung commented, "This event is so that we can be an informed community. The best way to be prepared is to be educated, and I am pleased to work jointly with the school department to ensure that the people of our city are confident in the information that they are receiving and know who to turn to if they have questions as we move into the flu season."

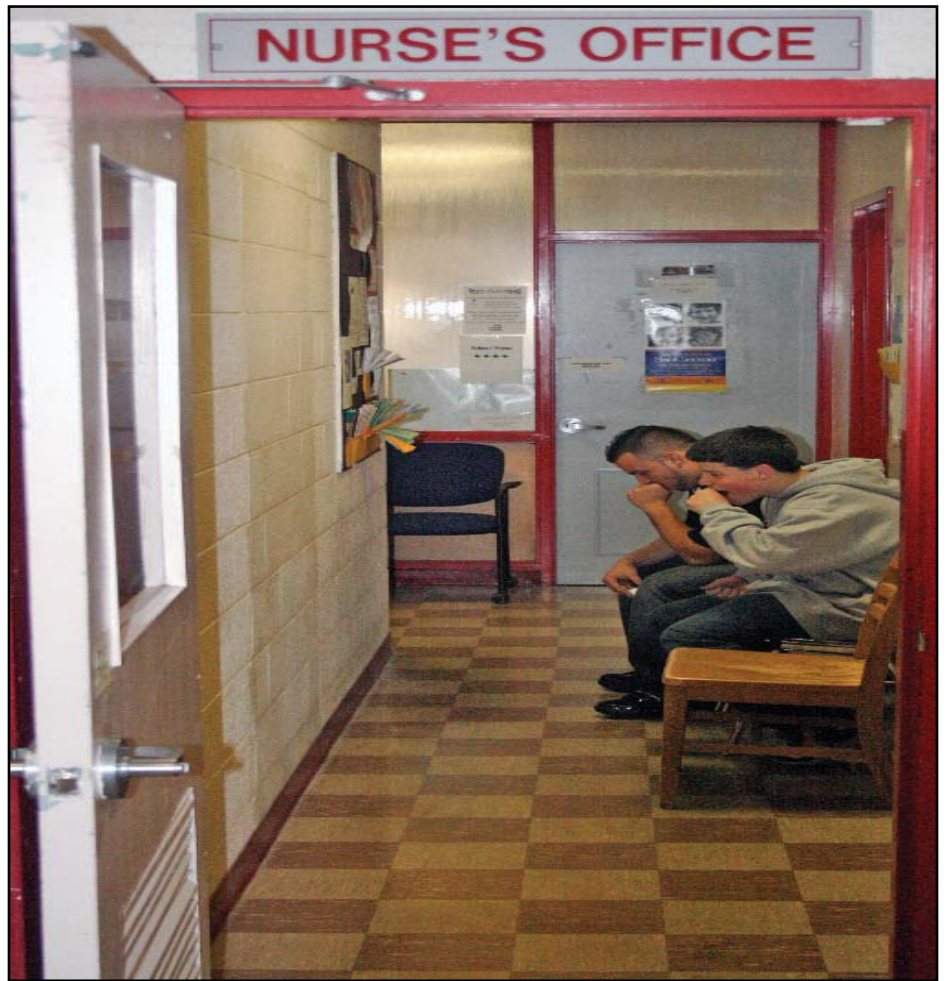


Photo by Scott Dressler

The nurse's office at Cranston West has been a very busy place so far this year due to the swine flu scare.

Activities attempting to resurface

by: Rachel Smith
Contributing Reporter

Colleges and parents love seeing students in extra curricular activities, and students love to be in them. But, what if these activities are disappearing?

Recently this year there has been a decline in West's extra curricular activities. One of the activities cut was school literary magazine, *Contempra*, "I don't know why it was cut. It was one of the least expensive programs available," said Ms. Feole, former *Contempra* advisor and English teacher here at Cranston West. Ms. Feole was, "very disappointed the activities are being cut."

Principal Mr. Steve Knowlton was forced to make difficult choices, "There was no easy decision in any cuts, "I really hoped I didn't have to go there. But, I had to do what I had to do."

Mr. Knowlton took into ac-

count that some of the activities weren't getting good reports, and some were only one-week activities. Money was getting distributed to all these activities when some only lasted for a week, so instead he sought volunteer advisors.

Financial reasons aren't always the issue for some activities. Mock Trial tried to be brought back, but the lack of student interest and the retirement of Ms. Titon was the driving factor. "I really miss it, it was a lot of fun", said senior Johnna Mernick, a former Mock Trial member.

Students, parents and teachers can help get these activities back. There is a School Improvement team meeting on October 29, where a school wide fundraiser will be presented to get all activities back and students interested. Knowlton assured that every positive option will be explored, and "nothing is set in stone."

Bagels are back with a new healthy option

by: Ariana Colella
Contributing Reporter

The owner of Café International has created a new bagel healthy enough to sell here at Cranston West. The new bagel is half wheat and half plain. On October 13, Ms. Lagasse got an e-mail from Superintendent Nero allowing the sale of bagels.

"I'm happy that Mr. Nero has given us permission to start back up. It really would have been tough for us this year funding wise without the table," explained Lagasse.

The bagel table has been left empty in the D wing since the open of school, and questions have stood among students whether or not the table would ever re-open. At the time the rumors were true. Because the city of Cranston is under the process of converting lunches to "Healthy Lunches," the bagels sold here at West did not meet the city's standards.

For years now, bagels have been sold by the girls' cross country and track teams. Profits from the bagels have gone

directly to those teams for out of state meets, supplies, and clothing. As for the bagels, they come from Café International on Oaklawn Avenue. Bagels from Café have been sold in wheat, plain, and the most popular flavor, cinnamon sugar.

Coach Sheila Lagasse tried to save her team's fundraiser by attending meetings and contacting committee members, but the city still denied her request.

Senior Rob Millerick explained, "I never buy lunch at school, but when bagels are sold I usually buy a bagel over the school lunches." The bagel table has always brought long lines to the D wing during lunches due to their popularity.

Sophomore and cross country member Julie Maccarone was on that got to taste test the new bagel. She said, "In my opinion I think the new bagels are even better than the old ones. I'm glad to see the bagel table open again."

Bagels started up again October 15, and bagels are on sale at all four lunches on Tuesdays and Thursdays for \$1.75 and \$2.00 with cream cheese.

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A new era is beginning in the aquaculture program

by: Adam Carbone
Staff Reporter

Yes, what exactly is going on in aquaculture? I'm sure we all know about the aquaculture program in Cranston West's Career and Technical center but what is going on behind those double doors of room V17? (and should I say what's going on in room v14 as well?!)

To begin with, Mr. Baker received a class area separate from the lab area. Plus a new alligator named Irwin was added to the lab to go along with another alligator and crocodile already there.

Mr. Baker said, "We have new salt water raceways, which serve as touch tanks so when we bring students in they can see them as well as touch them. The class will also be participating in growth studies on rainbow and brook trout and breeding the trout and tilapia. We are also going to be getting hybrid striped bass. The green house is not fully hooked up with water and electricity for growing aquatic plants."

Mr. Baker went on to say that the new alligator arrived on September 10, given as a neighborhood donation. He said, "Students will learn about the anatomy and lifecycle of it.

(American alligator's are originally from south eastern United States but with proper equipment you can create a natural like environment for them to live)."

Baker dispelled the dangers and safety concerns, "Students go through a week of safety procedures and are required to complete the safety test. Although the lab contains potentially hazardous things like electricity and water, the students are trained."

According to Baker it is somewhat abnormal to have an alligator in a north eastern high school aquaculture program. He laughed and added, "Certainly not traditional. Very rare if any other aquaculture programs do, but the students do not handle them."

The newly acquired space provides distinction between instructing content knowledge and hands on experience, he said, "It's nice to have a classroom that's specifically for lecture and lab space. Before we had an in between classroom, it was in the lab and during lecture the students were often distracted by the lab."

Some Students in the Level 3 of the Aquaculture program were asked about the changes in the lab and new classroom. Kyle Scott said, "Much better for the classroom, we have more room."

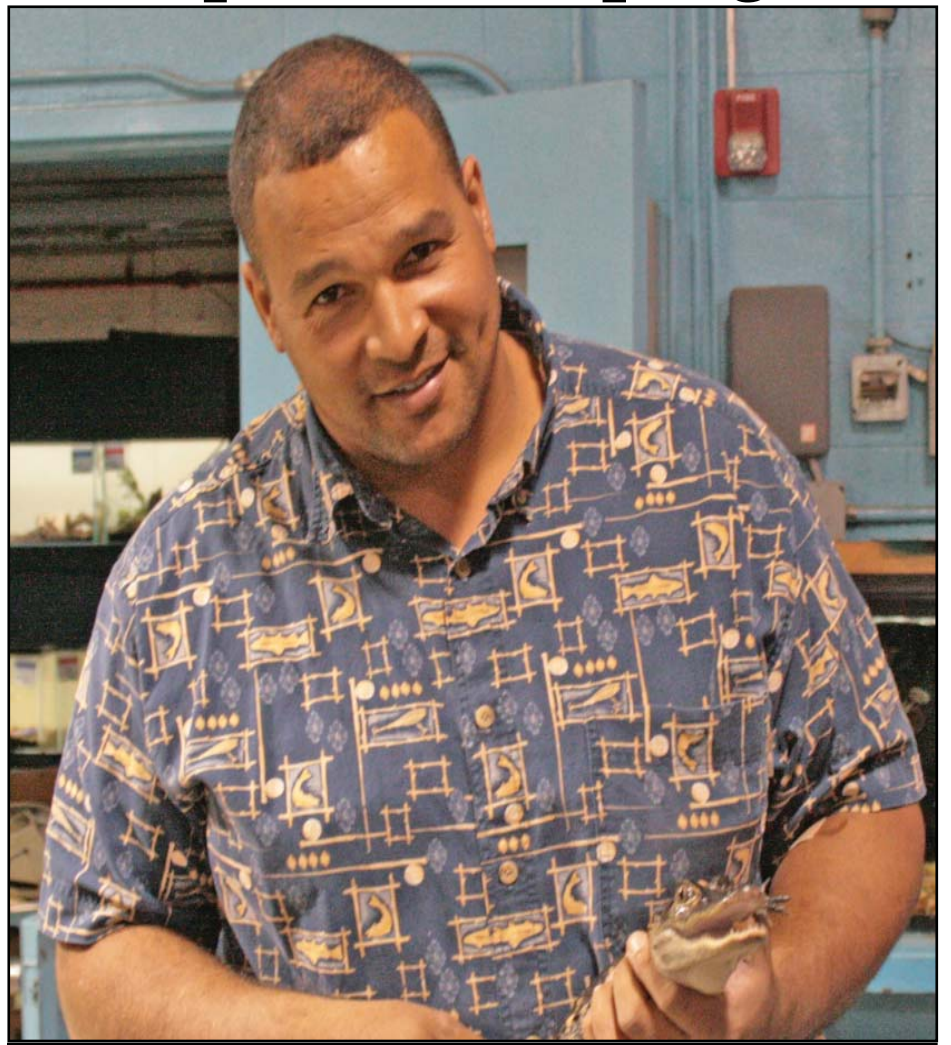


Photo by Adam Carbone

Mr. Baker, the aquaculture teacher here at West, holds the programs newest member, Irwin the alligator.

New gym in the works at Cranston West



Photo by Scott Dressler

There has been a summer-long job of renovating the gymnasium at Cranston West. Aside from new bleachers and a new floor, there are more features still to come.

by: Marissa Manfredo
Feature Editor

Over the summer Cranston West renovated the school gym for the upcoming school year. Many hours of labor and a lot of money was put in to make the gym come out looking like a brand new facility.

The thing that was significant that most people might not notice would be the brand new roof. The original roof dated back to the early 1960's and had many problems with leaks of rain and snow last year. The workers sealed the crevices of the fiber glass edges at the top of the gym. These were so old and thin, water penetrated the material.

The company also fixed the floors. The floors were sanded down to the bare minimum of being pure wood. They were re-painted with the Falcon symbol along with the volleyball and basketball lines, along with the walls having a new coat of paint. The new bleachers that were put up are one hundred percent handicap accessible.

"Looks nice! The bleachers were falling apart and the floors were all scratched up. Kids should take care of the

new gym so it can last longer," said Coach Stoehr, as he is concerned about students taking care of the new facility by not eating and drinking there.

They are hoping to put in new carpeting, backboards, baskets, and padding against the walls. "[the gym] looks beautiful but its not finished yet. When we take pride in how we look and play with pride and determination, and when the teams take pride in how they look it gives the team a positive attitude and pride to the school," as said by Principal Knowlton.

Students throughout the school have appreciated the improvements of our good looking facility. "I like it [the new gym]. I've never seen the old one, but it's better than Western Hills' gym. Said Tyler Hallbauer, a freshman here at west.

The estimated cost of the new gym would be \$130,000 to \$150,000. This money didn't come out of the school budget but out of capitol improvement, which takes care of the repairs and maintenance done throughout Cranston Public Schools. According to staff members, students, and faculty, taking care of the gym can potentially help to maintain its longevity.



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Fame isn't everything

by: Nina Rose
Staff Reporter

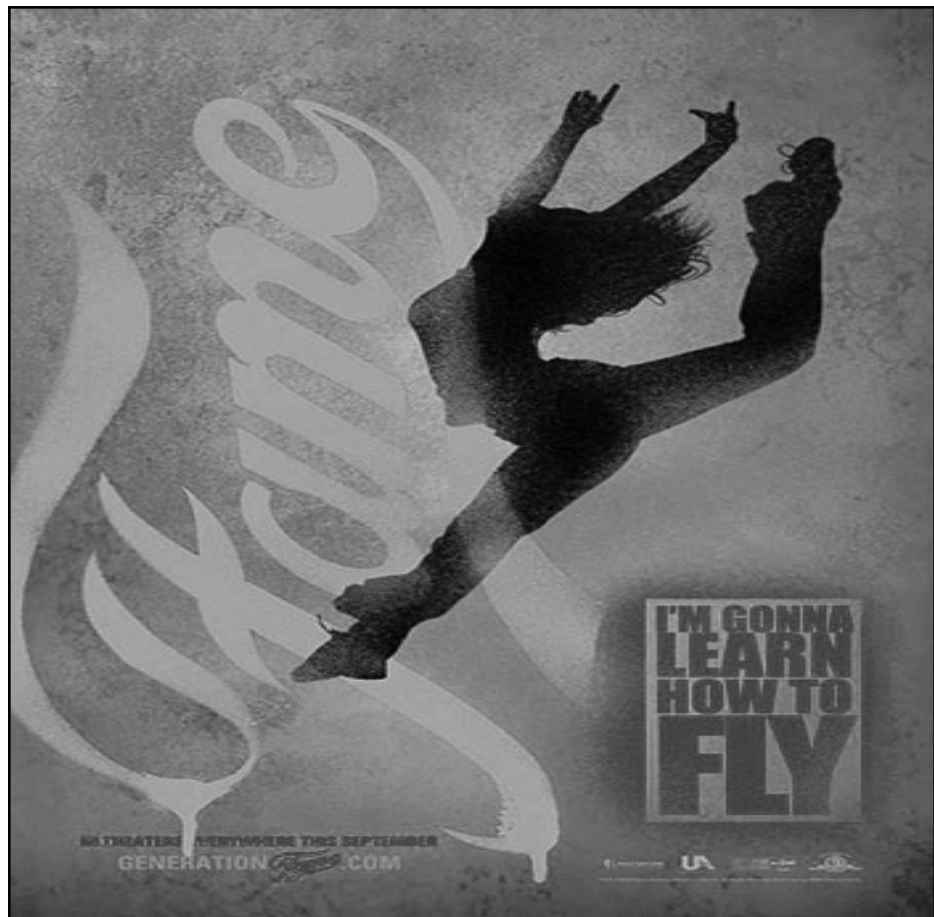


Photo from Google

Fame was a huge hit in the 80's and now it's back with a new cast and a whole new group of fans.

"Remember my name, *Fame!*" These 4 words set the standards for entertainment in dance and singing in the early 80's. On September 25th 2009 the reinvention of *Fame* stormed the movie theaters with an audience of all different ages.

Expectations were high as the hype of this film kept growing. However, overall the film lacked creativity, good acting, and the breath taking performances that make films of this genre entertaining.

The *Fame* school Principal, Angela Simms, played by Debbie Allen, assured her students 4 years of hard work and that only the ones who truly wanted it would make it. They had to be one hundred percent motivated to their craft. The 4 years moved by so quickly it was hard to grasp each and every student's talents.

Every performance was either too short or interrupted with another scene. The students attending the school each had issues outside school as well. The off stage drama conflicted with the on stage drama and there was not an equal balance of the two. For people that thrive on performing and entertaining they were left feeling short handed.

Nautri Naughten's character

Denise showed off her talents by singing and playing the piano. Starting off as a classical pianist she moves into the more pop scene. Her parents are not too thrilled about her decision but they support her in the end. Her story was too predictable and there was not much excitement.

Joy, played by Anna Maria Perez de Tagle, is a character that struggled to find herself as an actress and has to choose between academics and her career in acting. We were able to see short glimpses of her decision making, but nothing concrete. Anna stated that her "character was a hard-worker and had determination and perseverance." She also said that she "put her heart and soul into the character."

Most of the other characters were barely mentioned at all. They would just randomly show up, but not like the other main characters such as Malik played by Collins Penne, Jenny played by Kay Panabaker, or Marco played by Asher Brook. It was hard to distinctly remember all of the characters talents and only a select few stood out.

The film felt rushed and did not allow the audience to really connect with the characters and the story. The original piece inspired many actors, dancers, and singers but it was part of the 80's, and that's where it should stay. It will be hard to remember this name in fame.

Fame puts high school drama programs back in the spotlight

by: Nina Rose
Staff Reporter

Imagine living in a world where there was no music, entertainment, or art. There would be no television to turn on, movies to go see, and no songs to listen to. For some schools this fantasy is a reality. Music and art programs have been cut from numerous schools over the past few years. For a great deal of people this reduction has been devastating. People have made acting, singing, or dancing their whole lives and a lot of their exposure to their passion came from the schools they attended.

Anna Maria Perez de Tagle star of Disney's *Hannah Montana* and *Camp Rock* and recently played the character Joy

in 2009's reinvention of *Fame* feels very strongly on this subject. After having the opportunity to personally speak to her we found out to She is an active member of VH1's "Save The Music," and has raised thousands of dollars for various schools.

In a recent phone interview, Anna states that, "Kids want to express how they feel and if it's not through a sport or anything else, music is the next thing," and feels that, "Every school should have a music program."

Some would disagree with these statements whether it is because of budget issues or just because it interferes with basic studies. The Center of Education shows that "44 percent of districts" reported cutting time from activities in schools including art, and music being two of

them.

The movie *Fame* is all about students trying to fulfill their dreams as singers, dancers, or actresses. The film inspired many in the early 80's and continues to do the same now in 2009. The newest *Fame* shows us not to give up on our dreams and that if we believe we can do something, we can. Ms. Vitulli, West Drama director, and theater teacher here at Cranston West felt inspired by the "dedication, motivation, and talent that the characters in the film had." She also believes that "any quality exposure to the arts can help you realize the importance that it has, and the arts impact people in all ways of life."

Senior Matt Zanfagna, a performer in various school productions said

that, "The arts is like a reflection of the world, everything comes out in the arts." For Matt performing is how he "channels everything."

Another senior Johnna Mernick, who has also been involved in singing and acting in school performances, expresses that, "Being exposed to the arts in school is extremely important because the arts help you grow."

Just at Cranston West alone the arts have great influence on many individuals and dramatically affect each of their lives. It is safe to say that if the arts both physical and visual were to be taken away the whole school would suffer greatly.

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Fall sports season coming to a close

by: **Frank Meyers**
Contributing Reporter

With the fall sports season in full fledge; here is a quick review of what is going on with all the West athletic teams.

The girls' cross country team led by seniors, Arianna Colella and Alyssa De-Quattro are the Morris Division champions. They went 8-0 in their dual meet season. "We had a really successful season, the new freshman contributed a lot and everyone is looking to get the top spots at states," said Colella.

The girls' volleyball team has been a powerhouse. They are tied for first in Division II with a 15-1 record and look to be a strong playoff favorite. Casey Conley, senior back row said, "We're playing at a high level right now so if we keep up the intensity, we'll be strong playoff contenders."

The boys' cross country team are 6-4. Junior captain, Bobby Allen and senior captain Barrett Wall are extremely good athletes and have shouldered most of

the load for the boys this fall. Senior captain Barrett Wall said "The team as a whole is very talented, and we have a very good chance of making it to states, and showing RI schools that West is not to be underestimated. It has been a great season, I've seen how far the team has come over the years, and I am very proud to be their captain."

The girls' tennis team was in a tight playoff race. They finished with an 8-5 record in Division II South which puts them in second place, and the team is still very motivated. Senior captain, Marisa Cipolla said, "We're going to make the playoffs."

Colin Esposito, senior captain and starting linebacker was optimistic about the football team's chances. Even with a divisional record of 2-3, he simply said about the playoff potential of the team, "Good."

Girls' and boys' soccer both had playoff berths. The girls' team lost in the opening round of the playoffs 4-1 against Smithfield. The boys' team also lost in the first round in a 7-0 game against Central.



Photos by Nick Sczerbinski

Senior captain Sam Nolte led the girl's soccer team to a fourth-place division finish this season.

Junior goalkeeper Steven Sacco saw a large amount of playing time towards the latter end of the season that helped the boys' soccer team reach the playoffs.



Girls' volleyball leads the path of Falcons success

by: **Chris Burrows**
Contributing Reporter

The Cranston West girls' volleyball team is having an extremely successful season. With a record of 11-0 going into the week of October 11, the experienced Falcon team felt as if they could cruise through the rest of their season.

With a bye in the first round of the playoffs, the Falcons will have their first game on Thursday November 5. They will play the winner of Westerly and Warwick Vets.

"Going into the playoffs is exciting. Especially when we had as good of a season as we did," said senior Captain Anne Gladding.

One of the Falcons' accomplishments this year was that they were the only Division 2 team to be ranked in the state.

The team suffered their first loss on Tuesday October 13 against Mount Saint Charles. The Falcons immediately bounced back winning their next match against Mount Pleasant to improve to 12 and 1.

The Falcons capped off their regular season on October 28 after defeating Johnston High School 3 games to 0.

Finishing their regular season 15 and 1, means that the Falcons will enter their playoffs as one of the top seeds and Senior Ashley Signorello thinks they have what it takes to win it all.



Photo by Jenn Ricci

Ashley Signorello has led the girls' volleyball team with her play on the court throughout her senior season.

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Athlete Alley: Ariana Colella



Photo by: Scott Dressler

Senior cross-country star Ariana Colella has excelled this season for Cranston West, hopefully on her way to a State title.

by: Dan Palmisciano
Sports Editor

Girls' cross-country is a very well respected sport at Cranston High School West. Yet this year, there is one runner who is doing extremely well. Even well enough to be named "Athlete of the Week" in *The Cranston Herald*. That runner is Arianna Colella.

She runs a 3.1-mile race and has many victories this year, including some over Coventry, Tollgate, and East Greenwich.

But this year has not been the only year Arianna has shined. She made all state last year, and her sophomore year and she is looking to repeat that. "I'm hoping to do the same this year, top five hopefully," said Colella.

Others have also noticed Arianna's consistent success, including her coach Ms. Lagasse. "Arianna is a very talented runner," said Lagasse "She has developed into one of the top runners in the state, as well as the entire New England region."

Coach Lagasse has done a very good job with the team this year, and with the help of runners like Arianna, the team is 10-0 this year. "We are looking to come in first place this year," said Colella.

Arianna recently got a personal record of 18 minutes and 38 seconds in her 3.1-

mile race. The team has one class meet left on October 31st, followed by the state meet on November 8th for those who qualify. The team will definitely be ready since they train so hard. "We have been working hard all year," said Colella "We have practice every single day."

Although this is Arianna's last year running for West, she doesn't plan on stopping. "Me and Alyssa Dequattro are hoping to get division one or two scholarships," said Colella.

Arianna has a lot of support too. "She should be an inspiration to the other members of her team," said Lagasse "She leads well as an athlete and as a good person."

Arianna is excited for college, and has been talking to two in particular. She has talked to Providence College and Stone Hill College, although she says she is leaning heavily toward Stone Hill. She also said that she talks to the Stone Hill coach on a daily basis. Yet Arianna does admit that she will miss some things about West. "I'm really excited to run in college," said Colella "But I'm going to miss the girls and the competition of high school."

Arianna has had a ton of success running in high school, and her and many others are hoping she can do the same in college.

Soccer sweeps at City Cup

by: Dan Palmisciano
Sports Editor

The Tony Tribelli Soccer City Cup is a long standing tradition between the two Cranston high schools. It consists of boys' and girls' soccer games.

Going into this year, Cranston High School West has won the girls' City Cup six straight times. The game started at a high tempo, and at 13 minutes in, Ashley DellaVentura scored a goal that was assisted by City Cup MVP Julie Vasconcellos. Vasconcellos scored two minutes later, but in an unorthodox way. Ariana Stanton was tripped up and given a free kick. As Vasconcellos went in for the rebound attempt, she re-directed the shot past Cranston High School East goalie Jesse Handler putting West ahead 2-0. Late in the first half, East captain Liz Torres bent a corner kick that got past West keeper Tayla Reo. The goal seemed to be a wake up call for West, as they picked up the pace on offense and defense.

In the second half, seniors Brittany Furney and Sam Nolte each scored to put West up 4-1. East was able to put one more goal past Reo to make it 4-2, and that is how the game ended giving the West girls' took their seventh straight city cup victory.

For the third straight year, the Cranston West boys' soccer team defeated Cranston East. This year, by the slim margin of 2-1. The game started off with a lot of intensity and aggression. East drew first blood when Dino Simas deflected a kick by sweeper Alex Legacy that bounced past keeper Alex Padilla. "They scored on a fluke goal," said Legacy.

Fluke goal or not, it was the only goal East would score all game. Shortly after, Kevin Patrizio nearly scored, but was denied on a memorable save by East keeper Wondy Pierre. The tying goal for West came later when Dave DiNapoli scored over the head of Pierre.

Both teams played hard and aggressive, and it showed with many penalties on the field. Stopper Justin Loiacono made a pair of tackles as he, along with Alec Nadeau, led West's very strong defense. "We locked them out and shut them down," said Loiacono, "We didn't let anything by us."

It appeared West would take the lead when DiNapoli scored again, but the official made an offside call that was very much against the opinions of both the fans and players. So the struggle for the lead continued without any real threats. Finally, Patrizio cut through the East defense and fired a shot into the goal, sending the Cranston West bleachers into a frenzy. Even with the go ahead goal, West could not afford to let up. They kept up constant pressure and their defense continued to play an extremely strong game. DiNapoli was given a penalty kick attempt late in the second half, but was denied on another great save by Pierre.

Although they failed to score again, West's defense held strong. The defensive effort was led by sweeper Alex Legacy, stopper Justin Loiacono, and backs Justin Sacco, Alec Nadeau and Mike Tomaselli.

Freshman goalkeeper Alex Padilla also did a superb job in net for West. "He played great for a freshman," said Alex Legacy, "He definitely held his own out there."

The game continued, but the new era of Falcon Faithful felt a win coming with 2 minutes left. Then, after 80 minutes of pure aggression and draining competition, the referee blew the whistle, signaling the end of the game.

Cranston Stadium erupted. Players ran onto the field hugging and jumping on one another. The West players were then presented the City Cup for the third straight year. It was an emotional time for the West team because City Cup means so much. DiNapoli was named MVP for his



Photo by Jenn Ricci

The Cranston West boys' soccer team defeated Cranston East, following suit of the girls' team, who won as well.

outstanding play in the field, and his huge goal in the first half.

Both the boys' and girls' soccer teams did extremely well at City Cup, beating East for the 3rd and 7th straight

times respectively, and both teams have earned playoff berths. Although the game didn't count towards their schedules, the players played their hearts out and gave them confidence going into the playoffs.

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