

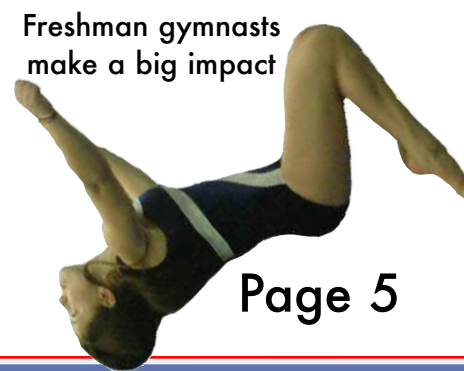
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Raider super fan



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Where are the Wild Things?



Freshman gymnasts make a big impact

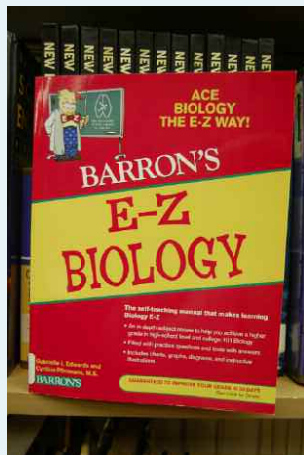
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Recent graduate makes guest shot on *Gossip Girl*

Sarah Marable, Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Class of 2007, made her debut appearance on the hit CW11 series, *Gossip Girl* on Monday, Oct. 5. Marable, plays the mean girl Celeste on the show, one of the girls vying to replace Blair as the queen of Constance Billard school. Marable made her first television appearance in 2003 in a promotional video for NOGGIN, and last year she appeared in a commercial for Epiduo acne medication. Catch her on *Gossip Girl* Monday nights at 9:00 p.m.

Science teacher writes review book



Science teacher Cynthia Pfirrmann is the author of Barron's newly released review book for advanced placement and first-year college biology students. Available through major retailers and college bookstores, *EZ Biology* covers all areas of biological science. Pfirrmann is now working on a bigger project for the Barron's series: a review book for New Jersey's end-of-course biology/life science assessment.

Rep. Lance shares views with students

New Jersey Republican Rep. Leonard Lance, visited the high school in October to speak to Advanced Placement Government and Economics students about a variety of issues including health care, the economy and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. After Lance gave his opinions and discussed what life as a member of Congress is like, students were given the opportunity to ask questions. "Rep. Lance answered my question about health care genuinely. He gave me his actual viewpoint, and not just the one of the party," said senior Mike Demmel.

New policy allows cell phones in school

by Jeffrey Marks

Students began the school year reveling in the trial run of a new cell-phone policy, one that allows the use of cell phones before and after school, in between classes in the hallways and during lunch in the cafeteria. As in the past, cell phones in the classroom will remain strictly prohibited.

"Technology is rapidly changing our lives, and the vast majority of students possess a cell phone, which was not the case when the [original] policy was adopted," said Principal David Heisey, Ed.D., regarding the reason for the amendment of the rule. MP3 players are also permitted under the same guidelines.

A survey of teachers conducted by the Discipline Committee last year became the basis for the change. "The overwhelming response was that the cell-phone policy in place at the time was definitely not working," said Vice Principal Edward Braun, and therefore, "the Discipline Committee developed a new set of rules that we believe will be more effective."

The new rules, which are on a trial run during the first marking period, also introduce new consequences. They read as follows: "Cell phones, iPods and MP3 players will not be permitted in the following areas: upon entering a classroom, anytime during a class period, and on field trips, unless students are authorized to use them by a teacher."

A first offense brings about a



Photo by Jeffrey Marks

Juniors Paige Della Badia and Rikanya Williams make last-minute calls and text messages before they enter the classroom. All students must have their phones off and out of sight throughout class.

warning and a confiscation of the device; a Saturday detention is issued along with a confiscation after the second offense; a third offense earns a student two Saturday detentions and confiscation. "I believe it's about finding the happy medium. One hundred percent tolerance in the halls and zero percent tolerance in the classroom seems to be doing the trick," said English teacher Marc Cicchino.

Students are well aware of the

rules. Junior Conor Lockier said, "With great freedom comes great responsibility."

Some staff members are unsure of the rule's effectiveness, seeing it as an enhanced opportunity for students to cheat. Claiming that there is no need for suspicion, Braun said that "if a student can 'cheat' on a test by referring to a brief text message, then one has to question the validity of the assessment in the first place."

Thus far, said Heisey, "noth-

ing significant" in terms of disobedience has occurred; "However, we have had violations." Heisey reminds students that when they "leave a classroom to go to the restroom, water fountain, etc. They are not permitted to use their cell phones or iPods. They are permitted only between classes and in the cafeteria." Furthermore, taking videos or pictures from a phone is prohibited in all areas of the school.

Global perspectives course encourages innovative world view

by Kaitlyn Magnus and Jonah Offitzer

"Mind blowing, crazy, fantastic and innovative." Not exactly words that one would use to describe a social studies class, right? Well, this is how Global Perspectives teacher Scott Osborne describes the new 11-grade social studies course.

Starting this school year, all

course to be relevant to students' lives, incorporating concepts like global citizenship, security, globalization and planet awareness. "We are building this course from the ground up, making sure to design it around the needs of the students," said Siegel.

Daniel Valentine, Jonathan

'The ultimate goal of the class is to make students better global citizens.'
Daniel Valentine, teacher

juniors are required to take Global Perspectives as their social studies course. World-mindedness is the main focus of the new class, in which students investigate current issues and learn about the specific needs of individuals and nations.

Supervisor of Social Studies Bradley Siegel developed the

Stack, Susan Wolf, Andrea Karanik and Brooke Wagner are teaching the course this year. According to Valentine, "This class is a true social studies class where students construct their own understanding of the world around them."

There are four central units in Global Perspectives: global citi-

zenship and identity; tension and the resolution of tension; planet utilization; and comparisons among political, economic and cultural systems.

The course will be taught without a textbook, giving students "a much richer, versatile learning experience," said Siegel. "There will be limited tests...many different types of assessments will be given, with a big focus on class and individual participation. Individuals will be given the opportunity to show their own knowledge and progress, but a lot of the class will be more collaborative in nature."

The course proficiencies state that students will apply geographic perspectives to current global issues, evaluate the roles and responsibilities of global citizenship, and make judgments about how the individual views his or

her place in the world. Students will also analyze terrorism, learn about the nature of human rights, understand economic systems, and identify the agents of globalization.

"The ultimate goal of the class is to make students better global citizens. We want students to understand that there are tools and resources to help us understand the world we live in. [We want to] increase the students' understanding of world events; what causes them and what their effects are," said Valentine.

"I like the course because it gives me a chance to put myself in a position to learn about topics every day that I would normally not acknowledge," said junior CJ Sciara.