



# Rampage

West Hempstead High School

Spring 2017

Digital Edition 4

## Prom Fashion Show

By Nathalia Melo



Thursday April 27th was the West Hempstead High School PTSA Prom Fashion Show. The evening began with the three hosts Ashley Alongi, Sofía Gutierrez, and Nathalia Melo thanking the wonderful moms who helped put this event together. We had a lovely group of teachers and staff accompanied by many of their own children, join us for the event.

Everyone who participated in the event was dressed to impress, many of the beautiful gowns worn were donated by Camille La Vie and David's Bridal, and as for the tuxes we must thank Schneider's Formal Wear.



The stage was decorated with a gorgeous gazebo that all of the participants were able to walk through and take pictures in. We were all pleasantly surprised by the beautiful stage and decor.



During the event many of our couples walking showed their very creative handshakes along with choreographed routines. While the show was taking place there was a few back stage mishaps, but I doubt the audience ever caught on. The event was a success, and was a great fundraiser for the senior class and their prom.



## The Top Tells All

By Muhammad Moughal

The Class of 2017's **Valedictorian** and **Salutatorian** have been announced. It is my honor to introduce Tina Tudisco and Nathaniel Vaduthala as our Salutatorian and Valedictorian. We've known each other since the good old days in WH Middle School and Cornwell. It is inspiring to see how far they've grown intellectually and as West Hempstead's citizens throughout their high school journey. This year, I'd like to interview them together instead of separately. I used a question and answer format and quoted them throughout this interview.

### How does it feel to be Salutatorian and Valedictorian of our high school?

Tina explained that although she's very nervous for the speech at graduation, she greatly appreciates being named Salutatorian of our class. She mentioned that "she's very honored to be chosen as the Salutatorian."

Nate said that "it's a great honor--it's a great honor to be seen as the academic role model of this school. But I definitely know that I couldn't have done it without the support of those around me -- especially anime."



### Do you feel that your titles establish you as an academic role model to other students?

Tina said yes, because if you can give students something to aspire to they'll aim higher. Seeing the past students receive their titles in the display case down by the circle inspired her to achieve greater expectations than she had set for herself initially.

Nate disagreed. He feels that the only way to have any form of success in this world is to have the support and friendship of others in order to propel yourself. He said that he "learned that from anime."



### If you could go to any place, where would it be and why?

Tina said "I would go to Sicily because that's where my family is from. And I would love to see the beautiful beaches and the culture that's still alive in the rural towns. Yeah that's really it."

Nate mentioned that he'd like to "visit Gunma so [he] can drift down Mt. Akina's mountain pass." He would also want to visit the Lapland region in Finland. It seems like one of the few places on Earth where nature has been left almost completely untouched. He would love to experience the rugged beauty of the Arctic region and watch the Auroras light up the sky.

### What are your plans after graduation?

Tina said that she is attending Adelphi University. She will be studying childhood education with specialization in history. She'll be a member of the Honors College. In the Honors College, everything is close-knit and discussion based. She mentioned, "I'm excited to form close bonds with people that share [her] sentiments." She hopes to teach in an elementary school where she was originally inspired to pursue this career.

Nate will be going to Notre Dame for mechanical engineering and applied math. He's part of the Honors College also. As a result, he mentioned that he'll "have access to greater research opportunities and have more opportunities to benefit [his] community." He is very excited for this Fall semester.

### Finally, what are your plans for this summer?

Tina explained that "this is the first summer that [she] won't have any homework, since elementary school and its summer readings." She's "going to try and relax a little bit before college starts." Tina mentioned that she'll be starting her first job. She'll be babysitting, saying "hopefully that will give me relevant experience in my future career." Nate said that he'll be "watching anime."





## The “Don’t Press Send” Assembly

By Ben Port

The Freshmen Class attended the assembly entitled “Don’t Press Send.” As the name suggests it is an assembly teaching children about the dangers of social media and how it is making us antisocial, etc. The main thing that made this assembly disappointing was the way the presenter taught these things to us. She may have forgotten she was talking to a high school audience rather than 5th graders. Another irritant was the fact that she doesn’t view phones the way we do now. She told us to avoid social media, but the packet she gave us lists social media sites and apps for us to use to contact her.

In one part of the packet it says, “I will not have my cell phone accessible during homework hours and set a reasonable time for it to be docked for the evening.” Little does Ms. Schumacher realize that these phones can be used as calculators and that docking your phone in the evening can have some long-term consequences? We can miss a storm warning or an Amber alert while the phone is inaccessible?

Another reasonably strange section reads like this, “I will choose to use an alarm clock and not a cell phone because I know it creates an unhealthy attachment and will prevent me from engaging in potentially harmful dialogue.” How can using a phone as an alarm clock create “an unhealthy attachment?” Do you mean using the smart phone for extensive amounts of time creates an unhealthy attachment?

Many of us have had to experience these assemblies one way or another through the years. Some of them were actually somewhat helpful while others just repeated the same things over and over again. But this is no way to teach children about smart phones and the consequences of social media. From time to time it sounded like Ms. Schumacher never wanted smartphones to exist in the first place. This assembly was probably better suited for the younger grades, than for high schoolers who use their phones for everything.



## Staff and Students Turn Out to Donate



The National Honor Society hosted its annual Blood Drive again this year. Members of the National Honor Society organized the event, recruited students and staff, and worked the entire day in the gym to insure the success of the Blood Drive. The New York Blood Center Representative sent a note to advisor Mrs. Lawson stating, “thank you so much for such a great turnout yesterday where we collected 64 blood donations out of 81 who wanted to participate. This was the best outcome since 2010.” Thanks to the entire West Hempstead community for helping us to surpass previous year’s donations.



## Lip Sync Battle Brings Out the Stars

By Nicole Bonilla

This February, the West Hempstead High School senior class of 2017 presented our first ever Lip Sync Battle! The set list consisted of nine hilarious and impressive acts performed by not only students of all grades, but also teachers. We heard some hit “send it back” songs like Bye Bye Bye by *\*NSYNC*, Wannabe by *The Spice Girls*, and Telephone by *Lady GaGa*, as well as amazing commentary by our hosts, Natalia Roberts and Efi Masliansky. So many tickets were sold that our box office ran out of extras, and audience members had to be admitted without tickets in hand!

Our second place winners were an amazingly choreographed group self titled, *The Jonas Sisters*, who performed Burnin’ Up by their long lost twins, *The Jonas Brothers*. Alex Imperioli, Ciara Levey, Jasmine Henriquez, and Elene Bibilashvili proudly took home the first runner up title.



The night’s first place winners, decided by our amazing panel of judges, were Kendal Corrado and Taylor Curry who hysterically Rick Rolled the entire audience mid-way through their performance of Justin Bieber’s hit song Baby. It was an amazing and eventful night that many were proud to be a part of, and we all look forward to experiencing it again in future years.

## Battle of the Wits

By: Dan Martinez, Kevin Sarwan, and Matthew Friedman

Even a two hour snow delay couldn’t stop the annual **Quiz Bowl** from occurring. Quiz Bowl is a yearly team event hosted by The National Honor Society. It is composed of 4 players per team answering trivia questions on a variety of topics. The event also includes many student participants and volunteers. This all day event includes both breakfast and lunch, with the finals held during period 8. Groups of two teams compete against each other and by the end of the day the two teams with the highest amount of questions answered correctly faced off in the auditorium.



The teams this year that competed in the finals were the **Bad Hombres** and **Chink in the Wall**. The team named “Bad Hombres” was named after the spanish phrase “bad boys” and included 11th graders; Ross Schimmenti, Mark Liebel, Matt Siegelson and Gabe V. The winning team “Chink in the Wall” was named from the myth “Pyramus and Thisbe” and included: Darien Lombardo, Matthew Piseddu-Moyer, Jeffrey Schreck, and Neven Vaduthala all 10th graders. This team also won Quiz Bowl last year as freshmen. This year they received a trophy and gift card to Avellino’s.

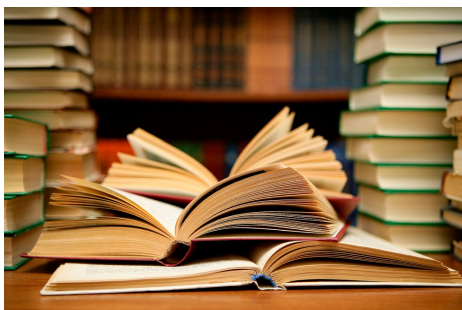




## Family Literacy Night Brings the Community Together

By Chris Khan

Family Literacy Night took place on Thursday, February 23, 2017. This event is run by the Mrs. O'Farrell, the Director of the English Department, to encourage all students to read at home together with their families. The evening was a huge success with many high school volunteers and elementary school students showing up to participate in this event.



That evening I was in the gym and my only job was to keep the kids active and having fun. I was playing basketball with two other students, Shawn Brar and Sebastian Rivas. The kids we worked with were between the ages 9 and 12. We practiced different techniques such as passing, dribbling and shooting. The last event was playing each other one on one. Once the kids were finished playing basketball they headed over to the cafeteria for quick refreshments before moving on to their next activity. Afterwards they participated in arts and crafts, coloring, reading and much more.

This was my first year taking part in Family Literacy Night and I had an amazing time because I got to play my favorite sport with the kids. It was a positive experience and a great night. I will continue to volunteer for this event in future years.



*Mr. Villacorta's class celebrates Foreign Language Week*

## Going Beyond Google Contest Winners

The West Hempstead High School Library sponsored a contest during the month of April. The contest was in celebration of National Library Week which was the week of April 9-15, 2017. This contest was entitled, "Going Beyond Google" and involved students learning the importance of using Library databases, for research. This was done by having them watch a short video entitled, "Google vs. Databases" as well as reading an article and a blog post on the same subject. All answers were posted on the Library blog.

On Tuesday, May 9, 2017, two winners were announced. The grand prize winners were junior Deanna Gonzalez and senior Julia Granatelli. The winners each received a gift basket containing a \$25.00 Visa Gift card, soda and candy. The library staff would like to thank each of our contest participants for "Going Beyond Google."





## Freshmen's First Look at Class Nite

By Omosefe Ikpia

Class Nite really brought my fellow classmates and I closer together. We were able to put our differences aside to compete and hopefully win some of the events. In one of the games we took on all of the grades in a mini plunger race, which concentrated on total upper body strength. Surprisingly, we were able to beat them all at this race. After that win it made us more competitive and we gained a lot more confidence because we actually started saying to ourselves, "Oh my God, we can actually do this." The next game included a frisbee. The objective of the game was to throw the frisbee and have it land on different colors which each had different point values. We won this challenge and it gave us even more confidence. There was another game which most of us thought was funny where we had to throw ping pong balls at our class advisor, Ms. Mejia. Well, not exactly at her, but in a bucket she was holding.

# Class Nite

Finally, what all people were waiting for was the *Tug-of-War*. We were all nervous and happy at the same time. We knew we had to win this because it might move us above the sophomores in the final scoring. We all were at the rope getting ready to start, when to our surprise the seniors came by and started cheering us on. It was so unbelievable that we started laughing. We really couldn't believe what was going on. We gained a lot of confidence and when we heard the whistle and we pulled as hard as we could and just hoped for the best, and that is exactly what happened. We won. It was another case for the boys, they lost but that didn't hurt us at all. After that we felt like we owed the seniors for helping us, so we did the same for them. We cheered them on when they went up against the juniors. We ended up in 3rd place, which was really good because as freshmen nobody expected us to win. We are always "supposed to come in last," because we are younger than everybody else, but we proved them wrong. Class Nite ended with a slide show of the seniors and their favorite high school memories. It was a great way to end the night.



## Sophomores Short-Handed

By Jacques Naugus

Our class worked hard in the early months getting prepared for Class Nite. Only weeks before the big event did we realize that one of our class members was having her Sweet 16 on the exact night of Class Nite. Many of us were frustrated, but we prevailed and the night went well. Even though we had less people than usual, we still worked our hardest during each competitive event. The night of Class Nite exceeded my expectations and the highlight for me was having our boys team win the *Tug-of-War*. I hope next year will be as good or even better than this year.





## Second Place Stings Juniors

By Robin Rodriguez

2nd place. You're kidding right? I rather have gotten last then have lost the chance to be first by 10 POINTS. It hurt, I won't lie. But, I guess it was nice. I saw the potential of my class. I saw how much of a family we are, and how hard we will work for one another. Yeah, we got second but darnit, we did well.

All of us were screaming. How could they not count that ping pong game? We were stunned. A win there could have put us in the lead. Then, a bigger moment finally came. I watched my whole class screaming. We finally won *Tug-of-War* after three years! That's what made the night for me, along with many other people. Every year we dread the *Tug-of-War*, scared of another loss. This year, something changed. We were determined to win. So determined that I made my own mother cough up her sneakers and go barefoot so that one of my stronger friends could participate. These are all examples of the Class of 2018's potential. Just watch out next year!



## The Send it Back Seniors Win Class Nite

By Nathaniel Vaduthala

One of my favorite things about Class Nite is that it gets better every year. This year was no exception. Every year, students from grades 9 through 12 compete against each other to see which class reigns supreme. Students spend countless hours completing daunting tasks, such as creating enormous posters, synchronizing dances and skits, and ensuring that everything runs smoothly for their class. This year, Class Nite was once again a huge success, with the Send it Back Seniors winning first place. However, what made it such a great event was the huge participation from all the grades. There was a healthy sense of competition between the grades, resulting in exciting battles.

What truly makes Class Nite such a great event, in my opinion, is that it allows people to go out of their comfort zones. Fellow class members encourage their peers to take risks and try new things.



Students who would've died to go up on stage now are seen participating in a dance or a skit during Class Nite. Class Nite also, almost paradoxically, creates a stronger sense of camaraderie amongst the members of all grades, despite it being a competition between grades. The bittersweet ending of Class Nite also adds to that heightened sense of school spirit. Seniors are able to look back and smile sadly at the memories they have created, while all the other grades are able to start realizing that one day, it will be their turn to watch their respective slideshows. I can only imagine that Class Nite will continue to get better and better with each consecutive year, as the battles get more competitive and students get more involved.

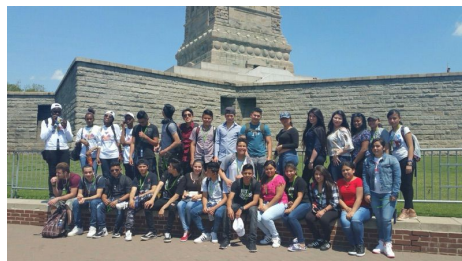


## Promposals

It's not enough to get asked to the prom anymore. Now people are getting more creative with the way of asking their dates to the prom. Promposals can happen anywhere. We have spotted them in classrooms, the hallway, the cafeteria, and at Class Nite.



## ENL Trip to the Statue of Liberty



## AP Environmental Science Volunteers at Habitat for Humanity

By Stephanie Martinez

Mr. Trupia and the AP Environmental Science class have been working hard since the fall to volunteer at a Habitat for Humanity site on June 1st. One of the most difficult tasks was raising the money for a bus to take us to the event. With the help of Riesterer's Bakery, the class sold 75 pies during Thanksgiving as one of their fundraisers. Another fundraiser was selling environmentally friendly candles.

On the day of the trip, the class travelled to Mastic Beach to help with the building of a home. Our main objective was to put the siding on the house, which involved measuring siding pieces, cutting them, and nailing them to the house. Although we were exhausted at the end of the day, the experience was worthwhile. We hope future classes get to experience this for themselves.





## Virtual Enterprise Wins Big in Virginia

By Elizabeth Vargas

From the beginning of fall to the end of February many West Hempstead High School students sold one dollar chocolate bars. The chocolate was sold for the purpose of lowering the cost of a highly anticipated trip. There has not been a overnight trip at West Hempstead for years and we were all hoping to earn enough for our first overnight school field trip. Throughout the past months we had always mentioned the field trip and Project Management took tally votes for our Project Management department in their process of organizing it. This goes without saying, but I was totally excited. But the main purpose of this trip was the Virginian Trade Show. Before going we had to worry about sending in the correct documents for competitions and printing out our sales materials.

The actual bus ride to Virginia was not as bad as I thought it would be. Though long, we had movies, friends, and the threat of Mr. Silberman snapping a photo of our sleeping figure to keep us awake.

The first night we just got to our hotel settled down a bit and went to dinner. Dinner was at a Japanese steak house where we got cool bursts of flames and shrimp thrown our way. When we got back to our rooms, many of our students started practicing for the competitions that were going to be held tomorrow. I who did not have any oral competition sat in the lobby quietly supporting them.

We had gotten to the community college early in the morning only to have some rush off immediately to compete in competitions. Those with no scheduled activities set up our show booth and checked out all the competition. It was interesting to see other firms and the way they marketed. It was not a very large trade show and we set up our booth in a long hallway. Many of the firms were from out of state and as soon as we were able to sell we began to interact with everyone. Talking to students from other firms was very enjoyable and we even got to see Mr. Silberman dancing (I probably could have gone through life without witnessing that).



In the end, both West Hempstead firms brought home a total of ten awards! We were all excited and extremely happy. Adding to the fun of this trip was a night of roller skating and a stop in Washington DC at the Air and Space Museum. I thought it was a great experience and hope future classes can continue on experiencing new and exciting things through these overnight field trips.



## Badminton Team Conference Champs

By Aniyah Granger

This season I had the pleasure of working out with the badminton team. With a lot of effort, confidence and teamwork we were thrilled to complete an undefeated season. We won our conference and became the champs. The fun didn't end there! A couple of girls, such as Anisa Mathura competed as our top singles player and the team of Sophia Caldwell and Madison Cinnamo participated in the county finals as our top seeded doubles team. And then on May 16th in the first round of the playoffs, the team went up against the higher seeded Great Neck North team at their school. We won a few matches, but they won overall. We finished the season with a record of 12-0.

Special thanks to coach Hutt, because she taught us many things. She helped us become better badminton players. Not only did she teach us the game, but she taught us the value of teamwork. As a freshmen I became a better player. I focused more and became more involved, as did many other freshmen. Not only did we become more active, but we met people along the way from our team and other schools we played. Our team became a

# SPORTS

which also helped us excel and succeed. I would like to thank all my teammates for making this season special to remember and cherish. Thank you to all the seniors, and congratulations on achieving your goals. You showed us that we could do anything as long as we believe and put our minds to it. You also opened doors for us, leading us in the right direction. Thank you so much, and good luck on your journey. We made it! With over 30 girls on the roster this season, the team hopes to come back strong again next year.



## Track Highlights

The County Championship for boys and girls track was held on Wednesday May 24th at Cold Spring Harbor High School. The following students qualified for the meet: John Regan, Ariel Chajon, Tariq Shreitah, Matthew Friedman, Lincoln Jerome, Timmy Ralph, Eric Oh, Chris Jean-Louis, Zion Spruill, Malik Jones, Fiona O'Connor and Shayla Burrell. Special congratulations go out to Shyla Burrell who finished in the top 7 in the county in the Long Jump and the 100 meter race, and to Fiona O'Connor who finished in the top 8 in the county in the shot put. Both girls will move on to compete in the State Qualifying Meet. On the boys side, a special shout out to Christian Jean Louis who placed 3rd in the triple jump and the long jump. The 4 by 100 team of Lincoln Jerome, Timmy Ralph, Eric Oh, and Chris Jean-Louis also have also had an excellent season and will also move on to complete in the State Qualifying Meet during the last week of May. Congratulations to all the Track and Field members this season.



family. We helped each other out when we were struggling,



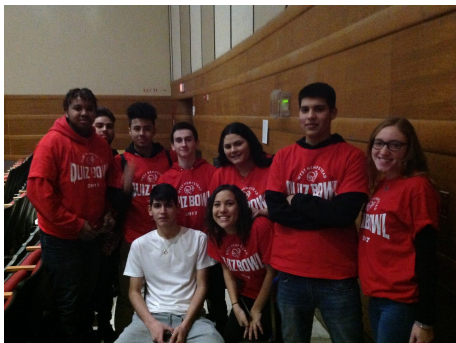
## Senior Scholar Athlete



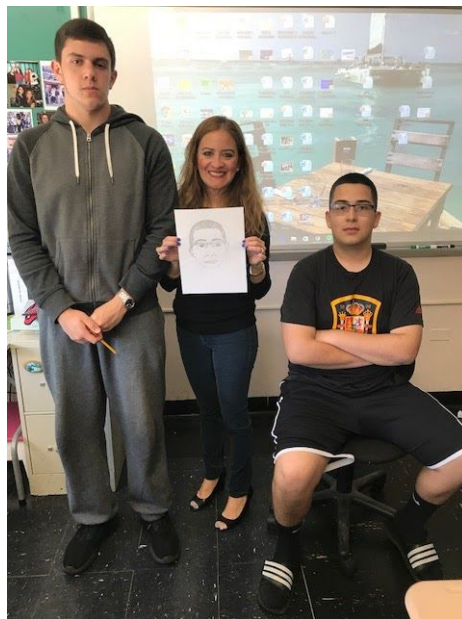
Lisette Palomo has been selected as a News 12 Scholar Athlete. Mr. Escobar said, "I believe that in the last 17 years that I have been here, this is only our third student to receive this recognition. News 12 came to interview her and her Soccer coach Mike Scaturro. They will also be filming her in the library and on the soccer field. Lisette will be playing soccer at Iona in the fall.







## Caught On Camera



### Meet The Staff Writers, Editors, and Photographers

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