



# Rampage

West Hempstead High School

Winter 2017

Digital Edition 3

## The Spirit of West Hempstead

By Robin Rodriguez

The title of Mr./Ms. West Hempstead has changed for the better in the recent years. It is not just merely a popularity contest, but a show of who can lead the high school in a positive way. Younger students may look up to the current Mr./Ms. West Hempstead, Dario Perciballi and Ashley Alongi, and think, "I'd like to be in their place someday," or simply think, "I want to be a leader like them." Dario Perciballi and Ashley Alongi represent the best of the school, and have proven themselves to be good role models for everyone watching. They worked hard to gain their titles, and the high school community is reaping the benefits.

### How does it feel being Ms. West Hempstead?

**Ashley:** It truly is an honor to be Miss West Hempstead. I love to see the Bronco Cheerleaders and all the younger kids look up to Dario and I as role models.

**Dario:** Being Mr. West Hempstead has felt amazing because I love helping out this wonderful community.

## Why did you want to be Mr./Ms. West Hempstead?

**Ashley:** I wanted to represent not only the school, but the entire town of West Hempstead.

**Dario:** I wanted to be Mr. West Hempstead because I wanted to become more involved with our community.



## What do you love most about West Hempstead?

**Ashley:** The people. Everyone here is so welcoming and outgoing! When I came here my freshman year from Island Park, everyone was so friendly and I really felt like I belonged here.

**Dario:** I love how diverse and welcoming West Hempstead is and how we all take great pride in our town.

## What are some things you want to encourage as one of the leaders of the school?

**Ashley:** I want to promote a lot of school spirit and positivity. As a cheerleader, I hope to find more opportunities for the cheerleading team to succeed during competition season.

**Dario:** As Mr. West Hempstead I would help support the clubs in our school. I would like to help some of them become more well known, so that more people could join and we can all come together to make this community even better.



## Homecoming Hits a High Note

By Adeena Siddiqui

Even the rain could not stop our parade! The annual Homecoming parade was a success. Many clubs, classes, teachers and community members marched in the parade as the band played through the streets of West Hempstead. One change this year was the newly designed banners by each grade level. These banners will now be displayed all year and used again during Class Nite activities in the spring. The game against Malverne was competitive with the scoring back and forth. Despite the loss, the cheerleaders did their best to pep up the crowd and show support for their team. The best part thing about the day was the show of support and school spirit from not only our present students, but from all the alumni who showed up to enjoy the day.



*Pep Rally Friday before Homecoming*

## Class Banners



**Class of 2017**



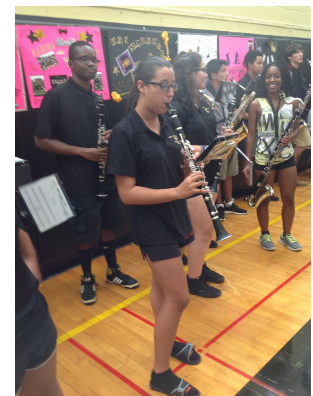
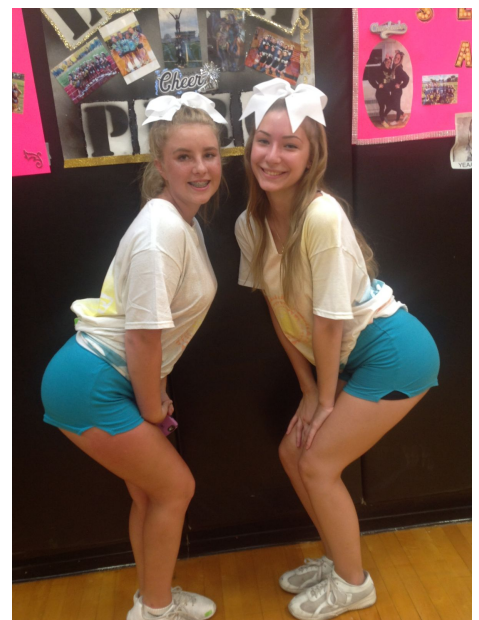
**Class of 2018**



**Class of 2019**



**Class of 2020**





## Acción de Gracias

By Rebecca Cunningham

Este año, días antes del día de gracias puedes celebrar con tus amigos y parientes. Con tu familia o con tus amigos puedes visitar un laberinto de maíz, cosechar la calabaza, cosechar manzanas, puedes preparar la comida de gracias, y si quieres también puedes visitar la ciudad y gastar tiempo o el dinero en lo que sea! Además, para el día de gracias pueden comer una variedad de comida- por ejemplo las familias americanas comen pavo, salsa de arándanos, patata dulce, el pan de calabaza, pan de maíz, el relleno, y mucho más!



Pero en las familias hispanas comen el perrito, pollo, los panes, pastel de manzana, ensalada de papa, arroz con habichuelas, pastel de tres leches y mucho más! A pesar de las varias diferencias entre las dos culturas, ambos celebran este día especial con sus amigos y familias.



## “Adopt a Family” At West Hempstead!

By Navid Ashrafi

On the eve of Thanksgiving, dinner was delivered to dozens of families in the West Hempstead community to better help them celebrate the holiday. Beginning on Tuesday, November 1st, every first period teacher was given an anonymous family to provide for through food contributions.

There were students who brought in a can or two, and students who brought in a meal fit for a king. West Hempstead High School came together and donated nonperishable goods to 50 families in need. A big thanks to all the generous students at West Hempstead High School who furthered the cause.

We honor our students for contributing to this noble annual tradition. Another big thanks to the staff at the West Hempstead High School for their donations of turkeys to these dinner baskets. Let us not forget to thank the Key Club for hosting this event. The students and staff of Key Club helped sort, package, and deliver these contributions to the families and ensured that their Thanksgiving was one to remember.

Also, Key Club and AP Environmental teamed up to fundraise for *Habitat for Humanity* through the Thanksgiving Pie Sale. The sale greatly complemented the donations made by first period classes through *Adopt A Family*.

## Senior Year Stress

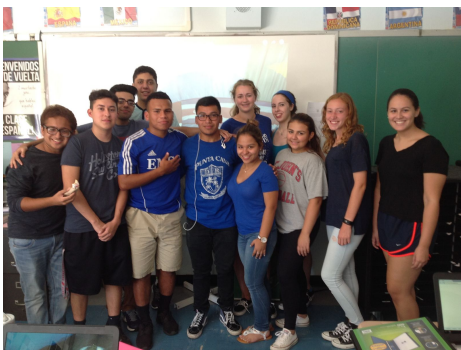
By Nathaniel Vaduthala

“Senior year is amazing! Don’t worry, you’ll have so much fun!”

“Oh man, senior year is great! It’s amazing.”

Either my cousins were lying, or they’re flat out insane. Senior year, as of now, can be summed up in one word: deadlines.

“Alright, FAFSA opens up October 1st, and to apply for Early Decision, I have to send in my Student Aid Report by November 11th. The application itself is due November 1st, so I have to finish my supplemental essays and my personal essay. I also need to get my teacher recommendations, so I’d want those by October 25th in order to apply EA. I also need to meet with my guidance counselor to ask her to write a letter of recommendation by October 25th. Then I need to ask my guidance counselor to proofread my essays. Wait, what about my SAT scores? They take about 2 weeks to send to colleges, so I need to send them by around October 15th. I also can’t forget to finish the Common Application. Wait, I need a letter of recommendation from my coach also!



Now that’s just for one college. Imagine how it feels applying to eight colleges. Yeah, it’s not the most fun thing in the world. Then throw into the mix worrying about current classes and extracurriculars (and if you’re taking AP classes and/or sports, good luck. You’ll need it.). You can see why senior year could get stressful. There are some times when senior year does seem overwhelming, and you feel like throwing your schoolwork and your laptop into a pile and lighting it on fire. Here are some ideas from current seniors on how to make your senior year, especially during college application season, manageable:

- “Use your guidance counselor. Mine has been a huge help in applying for colleges. Also, take advantage of your teachers for help.”  
-William Saulon
- “I always try to stay organized and manage my time. Find that balance between work and fun... It’s crucial that you always stay on top of the deadlines.”  
-Elaine Mendez
- “Join some after school activities. It’s a great way of contributing to the school while also spending time with friends and making that college application look good.”  
-Rebecca Cunningham



- “Finding that balance between schoolwork and having fun is really key. It’s alright to let loose sometimes and have fun. Otherwise, you’ll go crazy from the stress.”

-Hussain Khan



It’s idealistic to say that your senior year is a stress-free time where you can do anything. It’s much more realistic to understand that senior year, especially the first semester, is a crucial time that should be taken seriously. However, that doesn’t mean you can’t have fun. Join a club. Try out for a sport. Try something new. Take the risk. But be careful! Like many seniors said, make sure you find that perfect balance. Don’t get senioritis (colleges ask for mid-year reports!). It’ll all be worth it though once those acceptance letters start rolling in.



## Trump's Policies

By Muhammad Moughal

The 2016 Presidential Election is over. Trump has become the President-elect of the United States. Whether you agree with his ideas or not, it is critically important to understand his policies before passing judgement. There is definitely confusion about some of his key policies, such as his stance on immigration. This confusion has led to hysteria among US citizens and even among the rest of the world. The following information on immigration, abortion, gay marriage, and education will answer your questions on his policies as it is cited directly from his website and from his most recent interviews.

Trump's most well known stance is his position on immigration. Many believe that he will deport Latinos or that he is against all Latinos. However, that is not true. Trump will deport *illegal* immigrants. He isn't against legal immigration of Latinos. In fact, all the deported immigrants are given a chance to come back through legal immigration. Criminals will, of course, stay in their home countries. How will he distinguish between criminals and those who are good-hearted? Immigrants will go through a process known as vetting, which is just a fancy word for investigation. Any Latino who isn't a criminal and is willing to work hard will be granted

the same opportunity as any other immigrant.

For students, education and college loans are important. What is Trump's stance on this issue? Regarding education, he believes that education should be regulated at the local/state level, mentioning, "We cannot have the bureaucrats in Washington telling you how to manage your child's education." He's also not okay with our college loans, saying, "These student loans are probably one of the only things our government shouldn't make money off of and yet it does." He believes that every child deserves an equally great opportunity to education no matter what their background is; hence, he will add \$20 billion towards school choice. States that heavily support school choice and privatization of education will be favored in this investment. School choice allows parents and students to select a school, public or private, that will best serve the students' needs/wants. School choice increases competition between schools, which then directly leads to the betterment of such schools. And more importantly, it gives access to greater educational opportunities to disadvantaged kids. To read more about school choice, visit this informative site: <https://www.edreform.com/2011/1/1/just-the-faqs-school-choice/>.

Regarding abortion, gay marriage, and the LGBTQ+ community, Trump has a variety of positions.

On abortion, Trump used to be pro-choice, but now he is pro-life. However, he supports abortion in cases involving rape, incest, and where the life of the mother is concerned. Trump also wants to appoint judges that would repeal the Supreme Court decision that allowed women to have the right to have an abortion. While Trump supports some women's healthcare issues, he wants to defund Planned Parenthood because of its focus on abortions. He wants to instead reallocate federal funds to build up community centers that provide comprehensive healthcare for women. Simply put, he believes that states should be the ones controlling issues pertaining to women's health. On gay marriage, he doesn't believe in interfering with the Supreme Court decision that protected the fundamental right to marry for same-sex couples nationwide. However, the LGBTQ+ community may be at a disadvantage because he may nominate judges and other officials who disagree with this ruling. Trump may have been one of the most polarizing candidates ever. Pushing a campaign to "drain the swamp" and make Americans stop singing to the "false song of globalism," Trump managed to secure 270 electoral votes and win the election. Whether you love him or hate him, starting January 20th, 2017, he will be your president. Only time will tell if Trump lives up to his promises and makes America great again.

## Get to Know West Hempstead High School's New Teachers!

By Stephanie Martinez

Many new teachers have joined the West Hempstead High School staff this year, from varied backgrounds and with many different goals. For example, Ms. Valencia is the newest member of the English as a New Language team. She has been teaching for seven years now in places like Mexico and the Bronx. Ms. Valencia was inspired to teach in college, where she worked as a tutor. Then, through programs in education and resident directing, she developed a love for helping students grow.

Ms. Flinn has been teaching for three years now, with previous experience in Brooklyn. She now works with West Hempstead students in the resource room. Some of Ms. Flinn's goals in her career as a teacher are to engage children and develop positive relationships with them, all while trying to make learning easier and more fun.



Welcome Ms. Dodenhoff!

Ms. Dempsey has had an interesting road to the world of education, originally majoring in fashion design and merchandising.

At first, she wanted the “glam” life of a fashion designer, but over time discovered that working with children was her true passion. She earned her master's degree in education and worked in Harlem for several years before coming to West Hempstead. Ms. Dempsey now teaches Living Environment. She aims to do the best she can to help students do the best they can. Her ultimate goal is to one day become a school principal.

All three teachers noted how kind and welcoming the students and staff of West Hempstead High School have been towards them. They feel that the students, especially, have helped them adjust to the new school district and made them feel at home. Ms. Flinn noted that West Hempstead “feels like a community full of acceptance.” Welcome to West Hempstead Ms. Valencia, Ms. Flinn, and Ms. Dempsey!



Mrs. Valencia



Ms. Dempsey



Ms. Flinn



## Soccer's Successful Season

By Sophia Caldwell

The West Hempstead Girls' Varsity Soccer Team had an outstanding season. Led by seniors Sophia Caldwell, Natalia Roberts, Lisette Palomo, Kelsey Reichert, and Kendal Corrado, the team ended the year with a 8-4-3 record. They fought hard in the first round of playoffs, losing 1-0 against Wantagh, in overtime.

The team's goalie, sophomore Sydney Reitz, had many crucial saves and was an anchor for the team all season. Her return next year will ensure a strong defense again next year. Forwards, Lisette Palomo and Aruna Mathura provided the team with a key goals. One key to their chemistry this year was the way the team blended like a family, both on and off the field. This tight-knit bond showed itself in the team's success.

Winning county recognition for their hard work this season was Lisette Palomo, Sabrina Rodrigues, Taylor D'Alessandro, Natalia Roberts, and Lydia Almeida. They won accolades such as All County, All Class, and All Conference. These girls were leaders on their team, and their awards were much deserved.

## SPORTS

### JV Football Wins Big Against Friends Academy

One of the highlights of the JV Boys Football Season was their game on October 24th against Friends Academy. Our team beat Friends Academy, 27-8. We were fueled by several great plays. Number 11, Nick Duran, intercepted a pass and returned it for a touchdown. Several great tackles aided the defense and number 15, Scott Defex, aided the offense with his punt returns. Congrats to our JV football team!



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

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