Helping Hands Reach the Stables

ELHS students volunteer at High Hopes
by Kate Kielty

Frank Sinatra’s song “High Hopes” talks about how a tiny ant is able to move a rubber tree plant. This mentality is evident everyday at High Hopes Therapeutic Riding Center. Here, along with the help of 350 volunteers, disabled riders are able to be ambitious and succeed just like in Sinatra’s song about the tiny ant.

Fifteen students from East Lyme High School volunteer at High Hopes in Old Lyme in order to help disabled children through therapeutic riding.

“Therapeutic riding is basically when the movements of a horse provide physical healing to the body,” said High Hopes volunteer manager Laura Brown. “Here our riders who are emotionally, physically and socially disabled can be helped in any way they need to be.”

“We really make a difference,” said volunteer sophomore Kati Ensulo. The volunteers help by walking next to the horse during lessons, preparing the horses, sweeping the stables, making sure everything is taken care of and organizing fundraising events to benefit those who attend the center.

Some volunteers, such as sophomore Luci Horspool, have a hands-on role at High Hopes. Horspool leads the horses and riders along the many trails surrounding the riding center. This type of riding helps the disabled riders immensely.

According to sophomore Cassie Bonin, most first time riders do not know how to deal with the horses. “I can really see a difference after the first couple of weeks,” she said. In fact, some of the riders she (continued as High Hopes on pg 6)

Recycling Reality:
by Natalie Kazierad

Early this school year, the Ecology Club came to a shocking realization. Much of the recyclable material was not recycled and ended up in the regular trash.

Recently the Ecology Club and the custodians of ELHS came to a compromise on the recycling dilemma.

“I did not know this was a problem,” said senior Sara Schwartz, a member of Ecology Club and head of Global Warming Committee. The Ecology Club learned of the issue when they met with head custodian Michael Hewitt to discuss grants for recycling bins on the athletic fields.

“[Mr. Hewitt] said it takes too much time and [the custodians] just don’t want to do it,” explained Schwartz. “But it’s part of their job and it’s state law. There should be no excuses.”

To recycle the contents from each room, custodians carry recycling bins to larger bins in the stairwell because there’s no separate recyclable sections in the trashcans.

Mr. Hewitt explained that recycling is a major challenge for the custodians. Trash must be sorted very carefully for proper disposal. For example, styrofoam plates that are thrown in the trash are nondegradable, which means they will never decompose.

Therefore, they must be separated from the remainder of the trash that can decompose over time. To separate waste so vigilantly is nearly impossible.

In addition, every school in the East Lyme district must sort their trash in the same way—which means that this issue (continued as Recycle on pg 4)
Lately, all the buzz has been about the presidential race to the White House. Here are a few last minute facts about each candidate and his policies you should know before hitting the polls or the mock election:

**John McCain**  
United States Naval Academy graduate, 22-year naval aviator, four-year U.S. House Representative (AZ), 22-year U.S. Senator

- To keep top tax rate at 35% and phase-out the Alternative Minimum Tax, a federal tax for those who owe personal and/or corporate income taxes; ban internet and cell phone taxes
- To devote 60% of Teacher Quality Enhancement Title II funding to reward high performing teachers in challenging educational settings; provide up to $4,000 for eligible students to enroll in online preparatory courses
- To increase the size of the American Military; support the government of Iraq until it is capable of governing itself and protecting its citizens so that it does not become a haven for terrorists, a failed state, or pawn of Iran; then withdraw all troops once Iraq becomes a stable democratic state

**Barack Obama**  
Harvard University graduate; eight-year Illinois State Senator; four-year U.S. Senator (IL)

- To provide tax cuts to 95% of workers in America; create an American Opportunity Tax Credit, which will make college more affordable for Americans by providing a $4,000 fully refundable credit per year for college education
- To create the Zero to Five Plan, which will provide support to young families and promote a voluntary, universal pre-school; double the funding for Federal Charter School Program
- To remove all troops from Iraq in a 16-month time period, however keep a residual, non-permanent, force there to conduct counter-terrorism missions against Al-Qaeda and protect American personnel; deploy at least two additional combat brigades and $1 billion additional non-military aid to Afghanistan

*All information and pictures were taken from each of the candidate’s official websites

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**Don’t forget to Vote**

Mock Election ‘08

**Who:** All students from grades 9 to 12 who registered last week

“In order to physically enter, you must be registered,” - history teacher Jason Hine

**What:** East Lyme High School mock election for presidential and local candidates alike

**When:** All day today! (November 3rd) From 7:15 a.m. until 2:45 p.m.

**Where:** Room A203, the computer/language lab next to the history department

**Why:** To make students familiar with the voting process

“We are trying to make everything as real as possible. The same questions the voters will face are the same questions our students will face,” - Mr. Hine.

*If you have already registered, all students (except freshmen) please make sure to have a picture I.D. ready when you arrive at the voting site. If you are not registered, you may not vote.*
I’m a virgin...

Recently Fox News and CBS’s The Early Show have featured the YouTube campaign, Virgin Voting, run by Noah Gray, an 11th grader from Miami, Florida. He is not running for president, but rather urging virgins—voter that is—to vote in this election and document their first time. East Lyme High School students and teachers alike share their thoughts on virgin voting.

“I can tell you the first person I didn’t vote for, and that was Richard Nixon. I was involved in an anti-Nixon campaign...Not only is [voting] an obligation, but it is a privilege. If we don’t pay attention and exercise our right more and more, we will get [candidates] who are not qualified,”
- history teacher RoseAnn Hardy

“Since my birthday is on Halloween, I am able to vote by four days. I’m going to vote for Barack because he’s the only one that proposed the community service hours for college students to help pay for their tuition,”
- senior Reed McFarland

“The first time I voted, I voted for Bill Clinton. I was bad in college; I skipped an election and I regret that...You shouldn’t wait until you’re older to take ownership of your country. If you don’t vote you’re letting other people make the decision for you,”
- music teacher Anthony Maise

“When I was younger I used to go with my grammy and grampy into the booths and I got to see what it’s like to vote. Now I’m 18, there is no way I am not going to vote,”
- senior Myriah Reeves

“Have an opinion?
Email us at elhsvikingsaga@gmail.com
Attorney General Blumenthal Visits East Lyme

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal opened his speech to East Lyme High School’s students with this strong statement. He spoke to the sophomore Civics classes and other various ELHS students and faculty on October 22nd in the auditorium during Block F.

“He was my favorite speaker. He was the most charismatic and he spoke very eloquently. He didn’t go off on random tangents either and was well prepared for the questions people asked,” said senior Ashley Rotchford.

Over the course of his speech and question and answer period, Blumenthal reinforced how important this political race is and how important it is to get involved. He cited examples from his own life such as working in the election when he was a high school student.

Throughout the span of his five elected terms in office, Attorney Blumenthal has addressed many high profile issues which he discussed. For example, he helped to fight big tobacco companies in order to stop misleading marketing, ending with the stoppage of deceptive marketing and a multi-billion dollar settlement for Connecticut. Blumenthal is also fighting Pfizer on consumer fraud which is expected to settle later in the month.

With these cases, along with several other headline-grabbing topics, Blumenthal still finds joy in the cases that receive very little or no attention by the media.

“I try to fight for people who have nowhere else to turn,” explained Blumenthal.

With the rumors about possibility being in the running for the next Attorney General of the United States, however, Blumenthal may not be out of the limelight for long. When asked about the possibility of appointment he replied with “no comment.”

“He’s a strong presenter and I wish he could have stayed longer,” said history teacher Matthew LaConti. Thanks to the efforts of the Social Studies Department, ELHS was able to hear a very influential speaker. Blumenthal’s future is looking very bright in the political world and it was an honor for him to make time to visit ELHS.

Sara Schwartz and Ms. Rotchford lead the fight against Global Warming

(Continued from front page)

was occurring in the middle and elementary schools as well. Despite this large effort required to recycle regularly, the Ecology Club has made several attempts to do so over the past four years. They started out by making home-made bins for every classroom, but unfortunately, most of them were thrown away the following summer.

Last year, as part of the “Cool-it Climate Challenge,” official blue recycling bins were placed in each classroom, and students were strongly encouraged to make use of them by their teachers. After all these efforts, “To find out that nothing was being recycled was very upsetting,” said Schwartz.

For this reason, Mr. Hewitt met with the other head custodians of East Lyme schools to discuss ways to recycle more effectively. He informed Schwartz and science teacher Laura Rotchford, adviser for Ecology Club and Global Warming Committee, that the recycling issue would be put to an end.

Mr. Hewitt explained that the recycling bins will be returned to the stairwells and the custodians will now be recycling paper every Friday.

To help, “we’re planning on sending a group of people to pick up cans and bottles every Friday,” confirmed Raymond Updyke, an officer of the Ecology Club.

Most importantly, students of ELHS must do their part. “Everybody needs to recycle,” said Ms. Rotchford. It is the students’ responsibility to properly dispose of their own waste, not the custodians. As of now, however, students are not taking full advantage of recycling at ELHS. “People just throw any old trash in them,” junior Alex Buckingham observed of the cans and bottles bins. As for the lack of recycling paper and cardboard, Updyke believes that most students “don’t know if it’s recyclable or not.” To clarify, it is.

Mr. Hewitt also strongly encourages the idea of student participation. His biggest piece of advice: “Clean schools are cool schools, keep it clean.”
Culinary classes are short on dough, according to culinary teachers Melanie Sandoval and Patricia Newton. The lack of money from students’ lab fees has required the two to do some creative thinking to keep the classes cooking. With Christmas a little over a month away, Ms. Sandoval had an idea: bake and sell Christmas cookies as a fundraiser to make profits.

Started in late October, order forms have been sent out by email to faculty and parents. The cost for one box of cookies will be $10. In the box will be about 35-40 cookies of 8 different types, including chocolate crinkles, gingerbread, sugar, spritz, candy cane, shortbread raspberry thumbprints, coconut macaroons and peanut butter blossoms.

The cookies will be available for pickup on Friday, December 19.

Ms. Newton hopes that they will make enough profits so they can purchase ingredients for future students next semester. “We do a cookie unit anyway,” explained Ms. Newton, “I’m hoping [the students] will work hard and do their best to make the cookies attractive and eye-appealing.”

With the latest economic crisis going on in the country, college prices may seem worse than ever. The guidance counselors at East Lyme High School are hosting an annual event to give people ideas to defray these expenses.

The annual Financial Aid night is November 12th at 6:30 p.m. and is held in the ELHS auditorium. At this event, a financial aid professional will be talking about the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), an online form that puts students in the running for student loans. The meeting will also discuss how financial aid is determined by certain colleges.

Robin Copertino, an assistant at the College and Career center, suggests that “all senior parents should attend to get all the latest financial aid information but students are welcome to attend if they would like to come.”
Far Away From Home

New student travels abroad to East Lyme

by Karie Simmons

It would seem strange to assume that sophomore Yuriy (pronounced Yur-ee) Harasymiv is anything but just another East Lyme High School student. His short brown hair, jeans and Adidas soccer jersey are not exactly an uncommon look.

Yuriy was born and raised in Lviv, Ukraine, an extremely large city near the Ukraine-Poland border. After only being in the U.S. for a few months, he has learned that life in America is quite different.

At Yuriy’s old school, there was no block scheduling. Each class lasted 45 minutes, and there were about seven classes each day. At lunchtime, however, students at his school were allowed to leave and eat anywhere they wanted. As for school security, Yuriy explained, “Nobody was watching.”

Outside of school, Yuriy spent time with his friends and played on the water polo team. He also took part in recreational soccer, which he has continued here at ELHS. He is currently on the boys’ junior varsity soccer team.

Science teacher and boys’ junior varsity soccer coach Kip Kotzan said that due to the language barrier, “It is sometimes hard to communicate about where to play on the field. However, Yuriy is a hardworking and talented player, and we love having him on the team.”

Yuriy chose to come to East Lyme for a better education and more opportunities to succeed. His mother has worked at Pfizer in New London for years while Yuriy lived in Ukraine, so East Lyme was a very convenient and smart choice.

As for adjusting to his new life, reading tutor and Study Center Coordinator Patricia Ward said, “Yuriy is doing generally very well for only being here a few months.” He has a certified English Language Learner (ELL) teacher who teaches him and other students basic English vocabulary and works with oral and written English language.

Yuriy also has an assigned resource teacher, Mary Jennings, who helps him manage and complete his homework. “In America, homework seems very easy. In Ukraine, it was hard. However, it is difficult for me here because I do not know the language. If I did, it would be easier.”

Ms. Ward said that Yuriy, although an excellent student, has trouble in some areas because he is not yet fluent in English. American Civics, for instance, has been tough for many of the foreign students because they have no knowledge of American government. To assist them in certain classes, Yuriy and the other foreign students use an electronic translator.

“It takes about five to seven years for foreign students to catch up to their peers,” said Ms. Ward, but she stresses that students can help just by reaching out. The more they are around other people, the more they will learn and benefit from American culture.
Attention Seniors!

Haven't found your dream school yet?
Well, look no further...

by Karie Simmons

We have all heard of Naviance and CollegeBoard, but there has to be more college resources out there. Here are the best and worst features of some popular college resources you should know about:

**The Best 368 Colleges**

The Princeton Review

**Overall Rating:** B+

**Thumbs Up:**
- In the beginning of the book there is a list of 62 best/worst: for example, “Most Beautiful Campus” or “Party Schools.” This allows prospective students to focus on what is most important to them in their college hunt.
- Sidebars like “Survey Says” and “The Inside Word” are a great advantage because one polls the current student body on questions, while the other discusses how hard it really is to be admitted.
- A couple pages are dedicated to each school and include well-written reviews.

**Thumbs Down:**
- Many of the colleges listed in this book have low acceptance rating and applicants with high SATs and GPAs.
- Many high-quality universities are left out because they did not make The Princeton Review’s “Best” list. However, they still provide excellent education and should not be disregarded because they are not in the book.

**Private College Counselors**

**Overall Rating:** A

**Thumbs Up:**
- Can read, edit and help you write college essays.
- Perform mock interviews.
- Most genuinely try and find colleges that are your “best fit” and adhere to certain requirements you may have.
- Are experienced in the admissions process.
- Most attend programs and informational meetings especially for college counselors, which provide information sessions and inform them about certain colleges.
- Schools that you never even thought of can be brought to your attention.
- They help form a relationship with you if you feel like you cannot go through the admissions process alone.

**Thumbs Down:**
- College counselors can be expensive depending on the person’s level of experience and whether they are in high demand.
- This might not work if you are an independent person because it is their job, as college counselors, to constantly make sure that you are staying on track and are doing work on your own.

Where in the World is Mr. Roberts?

What our old principal is up to after his retirement

by Dana Tricarico

After almost four months it still seems impossible to imagine East Lyme High School’s former principal Larry Roberts doing anything but taking care of issues at ELHS. But since his departure last year he has been doing a lot more relaxing than he ever used to.

“I am not ‘go-go-going’ seemingly 24-7,” said Mr. Roberts. Over the summer he spent two weeks in California and Arizona with his old college friend going to baseball games.

“We saw seven games in nine days in Phoenix, Anaheim, San Francisco, Oakland, Sacramento, Los Angeles and San Diego,” said Mr. Roberts. He also noted the 642 “oldies” songs played and the 28 hot dogs eaten in the process.

After a summer of relaxation, Mr. Roberts could not stay away from education. He recently took a job with the University of New Haven as the Education Coordinator for the Southeastern Campus, which is based at Mitchell College. There he works with aspiring teachers and helps them develop teaching skills. Mr. Roberts explained that this job allows him to be “out-and-about” with people, much like he could at ELHS.

Mr. Roberts explained that this job allows him to be “out-and-about” with people, much like he could at ELHS. “ELHS is a pretty special place; of course it will grow and change, but I hope it will never lose its unique spirit,” said Mr. Roberts.
Unity: These days, the best place to find it in America is a football stadium.

At this time, the people of the nation are divided and feeling economic strain. The election serves as a powerful magnifying glass of the various cultural, religious, and political differences that infect our country. But it is times like these when the power sports has to unify is revealed.

I saw these national bonds of fanhood for the first time last year on a trip down to Kansas City to visit family and see a Chiefs game. The Red Sox were engaging the Cleveland Indians in the ALCS at this time, and sure enough one of our plane stops was in Cleveland.

As I walked through the airport with Red Sox apparel, I was stopped around every corner by Cleveland and Boston fans alike to trade smack-talk or hope for a Sox victory. We had never seen one another. We may have had completely conflicting ideologies. But we immediately had something in common. We were united by our fanhood.

When I took my first steps into Arrowhead Stadium, I was immediately part of a makeshift family. The only thing that mattered was whether or not you were wearing red. Politics, religion, and other dividing forces were all thrown by the wayside.

In the horrific aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans was able to find hope with the Saints, who came out of nowhere to make it to the NFC Championship Game.

There are YouTube videos of the silent streets of Indianapolis during crucial playoff games.

What else has the power to quiet or ignite an entire city?

In these turbulent times, sports may be the only force left to break down all boundaries and prove that the people of the world are not so different after all.

That’s the juice. 
_This is the opinion of Brendan Welch._

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**Vikings Thrash Waterford in ALS Cup**

*The Vikings proudly pose with their new trophy after demolishing Waterford in the latest ALS Cup*

Over $3000 raised for disease reasearch

_by Raj Thanabal_

Not even the enormous waves of fog slowly creeping out onto the field could possibly diminish the night that junior Phil Ziegler was having.

In the October 16th boys’ soccer game against Waterford at Bridebrook Park, Ziegler broke in a new pair of cleats by scoring all four of East Lyme’s goals in the 4-1 rout of the Lancers.

“It was nice especially because it was against Waterford,” said Ziegler. “The team gave me a lot of opportunities and I was just able to finish them.”

The night was not just about a high school rivalry game, however. Since 2006, the East Lyme and Waterford soccer teams have played for the ALS Cup along with raising money for awareness of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig’s disease.

Since 2006, the two schools have combined to raise more than $7000 with this year’s game. This year, in addition to the boys fundraising, the girls’ soccer team is also pitching in. Both teams are working hard to contribute to such a worthy cause.

This year, the game was especially important because it marked the first ALS Cup since the death of Karen Bonavita, the wife of former East Lyme High School teacher and soccer coach Bill Bonavita. Karen was a teacher at Southwest Elementary School in Waterford for more than 35 years.

“It was especially important to do this for Mr. Bonavita with all that he’s done for the team and East Lyme soccer,” said East Lyme head coach Paul Christensen.

ALS is a neurodegenerative disease that paralyzes the body, but not the mind. There is no cure or effective treatment for the 350,000 who suffer from this disease.

The ALS Cup was started in 2002 in the state of Massachusetts by a New London alumnus, David Greenblott. Since then, it has spread to Connecticut and other states. This year’s game was dedicated to the memory of Karen Bonavita.

“We’re proud to be a part of this event and we like to give back to the community,” said Waterford head coach Gregg Swanson.

“We hope to continue this event with East Lyme for many years.”

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**VIKING CHAMPIONS: STANDOUT ATHLETIC PERFORMANCES**

- **Phillip Ziegler**: Four goals vs. Waterford, 10/16
- **Kevin Miao**: 129 rushing yards and 2 TD’s vs. Woodstock, 10/17
- **Abby VanLuvance**: 10 kills vs. Laurenton Hall of Milford, 10/14
SURPRISE SUPERSTARS
Nobody expected these athletes to rise to Viking glory so quickly...

Brianne Mirecki
by Hannah Barner

It is rare to find a high schooler willing to race up and down hills with some of New England’s fastest runners, much less one that achieves a 5K time of 20 minutes and 12 seconds on such terrain, but junior Brianne Mirecki has proved herself as not being the normal athlete.

In her first year on the cross country team, Brianne placed 16th out of 205 runners in the Varsity Large Division race at the Manchester Invitational in New Hampshire.

“I was a lot faster and better at track than soccer so it made sense for me to do something that I was better at,” explained Brianne. “I wanted to get better at track and I figured the best way to do that was by running cross country.”

“Girls coming from soccer to track or cross country have had a long history of being successful,” explained head coach David Sdao. “But whatever decision it was hers... She called me from Italy to tell me. She said that she missed the [distance team from track]. It wasn’t pressure, she did it because she missed the girls and just how important they became to her.”

For someone who was only looking to improve her skills as a track runner, Brianne served a shock when she started placing first on the team in almost every race.

“I was actually surprised that I’ve been doing really well for myself, and the team’s been doing really great as well,” she said.

Coaches Sdao, Jen Carney-Brush and Carl Reichard have been helping Mirecki with the transition.

Brianne’s intense determination has made her an instant cross country star.

“Most of the beginning of the year it was hard to run by myself, I wasn’t used to it,” said Brianne. “Sdao, Reichard and CB [Mrs. Brush] kept telling me to relax and saying that ‘the expectations [on track] haven’t changed, just the conditions.’”

Brianne also has a habit of making sure to carry out every one of her pre-race rituals.

“I have special socks and a certain kind of jelly I eat that my friend’s mom actually makes and I have a peanut butter and jelly sandwich with it everyday before I race, I’m rather superstitious,” she said. “I carried everything over [from track] but I got new socks for the season.”

During the regular season, Brianne achieved the startling feat of qualifying for state opens in her rookie year. She finished seventh at the state meet in Manchester, CT, on October 25th. Her postseason race took place during the spirit week pep rally, too late for the results to be printed.

Stay tuned on how Brianne did at her final race!

Soccer Underclassmen
by Shane Davies

When you take a look at the amount of girls in East Lyme High School, 632, to be precise, you would figure that they would have enough depth to fill a varsity soccer team with underclassmen.

But this year is a different year for the ELHS girls’ soccer team, as more underclassmen find themselves on varsity.

The squad has a good balance of seniors and juniors on the team, but the sophomores and freshman have stepped up to the task and put their skills on display.

“There have been a number of underclassmen that have stepped up to the challenge,” said soccer coach Rachel Redding.

The team has five sophomores one freshman that start. One in particular has earned the most well known position on the field to herself.

Sophomore Rachel Skelton started the season at the goalie position and has not done anything out of her own control to lose this position. An injury earlier in the season caused her to miss a few games.

“She has really stepped up for us, it’s not easy playing on this level when you’re a sophomore,” said Redding. “But Rachel has years of experience and I am confident in her skills.”

Rachel is not the only sophomore who has stepped up for the varsity team. She is joined as a starter by classmates Olivia Moore, Samantha Lyle, Jessica Lilquist, and Lexi Hadcock. Although they do not get as much playing time as Rachel, they all admit that it is an honor to be playing at the varsity level.

Sophomores are a rare enough find on any varsity team, but a freshman is almost never seen. But freshman Kennedy Nickerson has broken that mold. In fact, she is the only freshman in the entire school starting on a varsity team.

Even more impressive is Kennedy’s incredible batch of statistics. She is tied with junior Bridget Buckley as the leading scorer, and is leading in assists. As a freshman.

“I try not to let the pressure get to me, and I just stay focused,” Nickerson said.

It is almost scary to imagine what a force Kennedy will be for Viking soccer in future years.

Even though the underclassmen have made significant contributions to the team, don’t forget that this is still a group that relies on its talent and chemistry. Despite the youth movement, the depth of the Lady Vikes is not to be questioned.

The super sophomores of the girls’ varsity soccer team are a solid foundation for both this pyramid and the team.
by James Compton

Rock Band has more instruments and the capability of more players. You get to play the guitar, the drums, the bass, and even sing.

Yet, while Rock Band has more player options and more game play options, people still prefer Guitar Hero.

According to senior Dave Kennon, “Guitar Hero is the better game simply because it has better songs, that’s all it needs.” Songs such as “Through the Fire and Flames,” by Dragon Force cannot be found on Rock Band.

Or, what if you are playing with a lot of people and the singer cannot sing, the drummer is not coordinated and all you have is a guitarist. That seems to be more frustrating than fun.

Not only does Guitar Hero have a more captivating, direct gameplay, it also has different gaming options, such as career mode, quick play, cooperative mode, face-off mode, and battle mode.

Some of the game play options Guitar hero offers are; career mode, were you can try your hand at the being a rock star and see how you fair. You can just play songs to pass time or practice, or you can play face-off and see who can play a song more efficiently. You can even play battle and try to make your opponents gaming harder by switching up their notes or how their controller works or by disabling certain button commands for them.

Guitar Hero is the way to go. So keep playing and don’t worry, there are many more Guitar Heroes on the way. *James is a hero on guitar*

by Kiersten Sinko

People can fulfill their rock star dream from their living rooms thanks to Harmonix Music Systems when they plug in their microphone into a video game called Rock Band.

Rock Band is an upgraded version of the cult favorite, Guitar Hero. Not only does it have a guitar, it also comes with drums and vocals. Players can make bands with up to four people, consisting of a lead guitarist, a bassist, a drummer and a singer.

Guitar Hero only allows for two people to play at a time, while four people can play Rock Band. This allows large groups more fun because everyone is guaranteed to have a turn. Teenagers are not the only people who enjoy living out the rock star lifestyle.

Math teacher Roger Templeton says, “My ultimate fantasy is to be in a pit rock band. Rock Band helps me live that fantasy.”

Ricky Connell is East Lyme’s official legend on XBOX Live for Rock Band in the “Battle of the Bands.” Connell is number one worldwide for singing the songs “Don’t Fear the Reaper,” “Brain Power,” and “Creep” on expert on Rock Band.

Although he has achieved a lot in his solo ventures, Connell thinks that the band aspect of Rock Band is important. "I would say that Rock Band is more fun than Guitar Hero because of the cooperation and four-player action,” says Connell.

Who doesn’t like Rock Band? With the amount of people who can play, and the exceptional song choices, Rock Band can never go wrong.

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by Amber Lamha

The plays at East Lyme High School are always exciting, and this latest production, *Who’s Wives Are They Anyway*, is no exception.

Running from November 7th through the 15th the show follows the story of John Baker (senior James Compton) and David McGachen (junior Stephen Clement), two successful business partners with zany wives. But just like real married men, they are just looking for a little alone time, so they send their wives shopping and sneak away from to go golfing at a country club.

Everything is going smoothly until they meet their new boss, D.L. Hutchison, played by senior Ryann Foulke. In conversation she mentions that any man who ditches his wife to go golfing would never work for her. Oh, the irony!

Not wanting to lose their jobs, John and David invent wives to assure her that they didn’t leave their wives. How do they prove to her that they did not do what they did do? You will have to see the show to find out!

Advisor Grant Place’s attention to detail is evident, and encompasses everything, even down to the delivery of James Compton’s effeminate impressions.

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by James Compton

Still married men, they are with zany wives. But just like successful business partners Stephen Clement), two David McGachen (junior (senior James Compton) and follows the story of John Baker 7th through the 15th the show Running from November no  exception.

*Wives Are They Anyway*, is this latest production, School are always exciting, and The plays at East Lyme High

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by Kiersten Sinko

A sneak peek of the latest drama production

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Stephen Clement and James Compton cozy up during a drama rehearsal.

By the end of the night they will have you saying “Who’s Wives Are They Anyway?”
Pretty in Pink: Two years ago, when I told my friends that I was going to see Legally Blonde on Broadway, many of them did not believe that the hit movie could be turned into a musical.

To my surprise, the musical turned out to be outstanding. From the different shaded pink spotlights, to the endless amount of blonde jokes, Legally Blonde: the Musical instantly became my favorite Broadway show.

“Oh My God You Guys,” “Positive,” “So Much Better,” “Whipped into Shape,” and “Bend and Snap” are just a few of the songs from the musical. The songs are catchy, and the people who sing them have spunky personalities.

Laura Bell Bundy played Elle Woods in the shows during 2007 and 2008. She perfected the character and, to many, she seemed irreplaceable.

This summer, MTV proved me wrong. The station aired a show called Search for the next Elle Woods in order to find someone who qualified to be the character. In the end, Bailey Hanks earned the role and is currently performing on Broadway in New York City.

Ever since the show, Legally Blonde has become so famous that they have taken the show on tour. Fortunately, the tour is appearing at The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts in Hartford from December 9th until December 14th. With tickets being sold from $25 to $75, Legally Blonde will most likely be the hottest ticket to have this holiday season.

Christine Snitken, a dance teacher at Shoreline Dance Center, saw Legally Blonde on tour.

“I liked the music and the dancing,” says Christine, “and I do feel as though it is the sort of musical that people of all ages can see. It is good family fun!”

So if you get an opportunity to see the tour, do not pass it up! Not only will it educate on the proper way to do the Bend and Snap, it will show the dance to go along with it!

My Favorite Things

Like Maria von Trapp or Oprah, I have favorite things. Here is the item of the week:

So Tina Fey has been my hero for quite some time now. In my eyes she can do no wrong. From being the first female head writer on Saturday Night Live to Mean Girls to one of my favorite shows 30 Rock, it is almost impossible for me to be indifferent to what she puts out to the public.

And then I saw it. I think the whole country must have seen it.

Clad in a red suit with an oversized flag pin and looking strikingly familiar to a controversial figure of today, Tina Fey uttered her altogether famous lines of “I can see Russia from my house!” and “Don’t refer to me as a MILF!” further cementing her into my all time favorite person.

Her Sarah Palin impression is spot on—the accent and resemblance are uncanny, and the videos of her doing it are online everywhere you go.

And in the passing weeks, SNL has provided three more Tina Fey induced Sarah Palin sketches, the most notable of which was when the Republican vice presidential nominee confronted her on the air and uttered the famous line “Live, from New York, it’s Saturday Night!”

While Tina’s impression provides entertainment to those who watch it, it has also reinvigorated the interest in the declining SNL. In recent years, many have complained that the new episodes are not even funny compared to old ones (your definition of old episodes might extend back to the Gilda Radnor days, or more centered around Adam Sandler and his ilk). But with this new impression, additional people who have never seen the show are tuning in to see what happens next.

Obviously, she can’t do it forever, but we may as well enjoy it while we still can.

The resemblance between Tina Fey and the Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin is uncanny.
If you could pick a person in our school to be president, who would it be and why?

“Nate Zwillich because he’s the best.”
- Ms. Poole’s Block A English Class

“Chris Sandford, because only his ego could take hearing ‘Hail to the Chief’ in the bathroom. And although he’s no longer here, his ghost still haunts us.”
- Art Teacher Mr. Warykas

“Mr. Brooks because he’s my hero.”
- Senior Hadlai Neff

“Definitely not Matt Coxe.”
- Senior Charles Modzelewski

Words of Wisdom with Matt Heath

Over Columbus Day weekend, James Compton Kyle Kuchta and I had the pleasure of visiting Rock and Shock, a horror movie convention held in Worcester, Massachusetts.

As if stands filled with bootleg DVDs and comic books were not exciting enough, we got the chance to meet Clerks’ Brian O’Halloran and star of Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back Jason Mewes.

After briefly speaking with both stars, Mewes mentioned that there will no longer be live action Jay and Silent Bob movies, but that the characters will appear in Clerks, the animated feature. Although the production of the movie is not official yet, we can anticipate a spin-off of the short lived Clerks animated series.