

The Lance



October 2011

Livingston High School

Volume 52

Issue One

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Which Hogwarts House Are You In?
Page 4

Meet the Principal



The Craze Sweeping The World
Page 10



INDEX

News.....	1, 3, 8
Features.....	4, 5
In Depth.....	6, 7
Opinion.....	9
Lance Lite.....	10
Sports.....	11, 12

LHS Community Celebrates Homecoming and Spirit Week



Image Credit: Bernardo Ochoa

By Jillian GAIER '13

Livingston High School celebrated Spirit Week and Homecoming Weekend in mid-October, filling the hallways with elaborate costumes and excitement. Five inductees were also welcomed into Livingston High School's Hall of Fame.

People dug through their closets and raided costume stores in preparation for the much-anticipated Spirit Week, which began on Monday the 10th. Pajama Monday encouraged students to roll out of bed in the morning and come to school flaunting their signature sleeping attire. As the week

went on, more people participated in Team Tuesday, Wizard Wednesday and American Pride Thursday. On Friday, everyone sported their class color.

"Heritage was nothing like this," said freshman Molly Nagel. "I loved how everyone actually took Spirit Week seriously and went all out with the themes. Anyone could sense the enthusiasm just by walking through the hallway."

Before the bell rang on Friday afternoon, students gathered in the Fitness and Wellness Center to cheer at the top of their lungs in support of their class representa-

tives in various races. Performances by the dance team and cheerleading squad contributed to the fun atmosphere.

While many people enjoyed the competition between the classes, others found it less entertaining.

"I think that the pep rally is a great way to bring the whole school together, but I don't like the class activities," senior Patrick Xia commented. "Each year, the games are rigged for the seniors to win by cheating. It's just way too predictable at this point."

On that same day, the Student Government Association (SGA) gave tours of the recently updated building to Hall of Fame inductees Robert E. Grady ('75), Chuck Jaffe ('79), Alfred Savia ('71), Alan B. Krueger ('79), and Joanne Silberner ('73). The honorees, with the exception of Krueger, visited several classes during the school day to speak about their time at LHS and about their careers.

Musical conductor Alfred Savia enjoyed the visit back to his alma mater. "I'm very impressed with the amount of attention [students] have, the amount of

Continued on page 3

Somalia Ravaged By Famine

International Community Slow To Provide Aid

By Morgan LEVY '15

The recent famine in Somalia has killed tens of thousands of people and displaced millions, according to the United Nations. The crisis in Somalia was ultimately caused by many factors, which include drought in the Horn of Africa, low rainfall rates and inflated food prices.

Violence is also a serious concern; countless women have been sexually assaulted by Somali bandits. "There were three places where bandits attacked us," a 35-year-old mother said, "The first two times they took money and food. The last time, I had nothing left to give them. So they raped me."

According to the New York Times, Somalia has dealt with a weak, corrupt government since the early nineties. The country lacks a strong political system, and the country's leaders are struggling to effectively address the famine.

Despite the United Nations declaring the situation in Somalia "a crisis," relief



Image Source: New York Times

efforts have been slow. "The crisis has been building for several months, but the response from international donors and regional governments has been mostly inadequate and complacent," said Fran Equiza, the regional director of the British aid agency Oxfam, in a statement. "There

has been a catastrophic breakdown of the world's collective responsibility to act."

UNICEF is currently taking donations for famine victims; the humanitarian organization has already utilized funds to provide food and vaccinations for famine victims and their families.

The Lance Staff

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Carly Abenstein
Marlena Idrobo

NEWS EDITORS

Ari Gilberg
Karli Weitzman

FEATURES EDITOR

Emily Bae

OPINION EDITOR

Shivangi Khanna

SPORTS EDITOR

Madan Atreya

The Lance Staff would like to personally thank Ms. Deprospero for her years of dedication and commitment to The Lance. We miss you!

The Lance is a newspaper publication for the reading pleasure of the Livingston District. We encourage readers to submit their ideas and opinions. Unsigned editorials appear only with a valid reason for requesting anonymity and do not represent the staff's opinions. We reserve the right to edit all pieces for length, concerns, libelous content, and material which may cause disruption of the school and/or the district.

If you have any comments or suggestions e-mail us at:
lhslance20112012@gmail.com

30 Robert H. Harp Drive
Livingston, NJ 07039
(973) 535-8000 x8869

www.livingston.org/lhs

Joseph Trad
Advisor

CONTRIBUTORS

Adina Bolimovsky

Michael Botti

Doug Bresnick

Shaylah Brown

Anthony Casiero

Sam Cetrulo

Jillian Gaier

Vidita Gawade

Amanda Glatt

Emma Godel

Jared Goldsmith

Priscilla Jenq

Tori Kargman

Katherine Lee

Morgan Levy

Rebecca Myers

Rebecca Popper

Jason Radowitz

Talia Rosenstrauch

Jana Ruthberg

Chloe Seltzer

Lori Shaprio

Samantha Silverman

Joan Shira

Daniel Stone

Amy Xu

From the Desk of the Editors-in-Chief

“Drop” it Like it’s Hot

This summer, NASA’s 30-year space shuttle program concluded with the final flight of Atlantis. In July, the last Harry Potter film graced our screens. Gone will be the hype preceding the release of every movie, the elaborate costumes, the ecstatic fans at premieres, and discussions about what the movies left out on the car ride home from the theater. As with many other things, these events will fade into the background of our childhood and adolescent memories.

When school resumed in September, it seems that we should have been ready for change. Yet many people were quick to complain about the rotating drop schedule implemented this year. Some students criticize their new schedules as being too confusing and difficult to memorize, while others disdain the new restrictions imposed on them during unit lunch, such as not being allowed to eat in the hallways. While their concerns are valid, we believe there is a benefit to the new system: it is more relaxing. When we had a nine-period day, school was monotonous. We’d spend the periods of our most boring or difficult classes waiting for the bell to ring, only to find that the homework in those classes piled up after school. We wouldn’t be able to concentrate as much in our first and last period classes, and sometimes our grades reflected that. We’d scramble to finish in-class essays.

This year, the longer class periods give us more time to review material. One downside, however, is the decreased number of labs in AP science classes. But on the whole, teachers are handling the changes well. For example, instead of reserving longer assignments for the weekends, teachers are also assigning them during the days we “drop” that class from our schedules, which spaces these assignments out.

The biggest perk for seniors, though, is the amount of freedom we have during unit lunch. Unlike the students in lower grade levels, we are not confined to the crowded, noisy cafeteria and gymnasium at lunchtime. On nice days, we can eat outside on picnic tables, enjoying the picturesque view of the Oval as we listen to the sound of trees rustling in the breeze. With open lunch privileges, we can cruise around town with our friends and order food from delis.

This year, we should embrace the change for the better. As seniors, our schedules become crammed with applications for colleges, scholarships, and competitions. Despite the multitude of responsibilities that come with holding leadership positions in clubs, and the added workloads of higher-level classes, we cannot deny that we are now living the moments we’ve looked forward to for the past three years of school.

We watched in awe as previous seniors sprinted through the halls, spraying silly string, blowing whistles, and screaming at the top of their lungs. However, this is certainly not the only way one can show his or her pride for the Class of 2012. The real legacy we can leave behind involves taking actions to make our mark on the school, whether it is in class, on the field, or in clubs.

— Marlena & Carly



Lance News



Continued from page 1

discipline they have....They're really a great bunch of kids," he said in an interview with the Livingston Patch.

The spirit and energy carried on into Saturday night at the SGA's Homecoming Party. Students danced the night away in the autumn-inspired room. Seniors Eric MacBlane and Arik Mong of Replay Entertainment spun some of the most current music at the DJ booth.

Toward the end of the night, seniors Nancy Yang and Johnny Cherichello shared a special dance after winning the titles of Homecoming King and Queen.

When asked to comment on this honor, Johnny was thrilled to be able to wrap up his last Spirit Week at LHS so perfectly: "Nancy and I could not believe it when our names were called! Oh and [nominee] Jared Gelman...you can be prince."

Livingston Implements Strict Anti-Bullying Laws

By Adina BOLIMOVSKY '13 and Carly ABENSTEIN '12

New Jersey's new anti-bullying law, which created a state-wide program against harassment, took effect on the first of September. The law requires schools to implement extensive training for staff and students on bullying prevention, appoint safety teams made up of parents, teachers, and staff, and launch an investigation on all allegations of bullying within 24 hours of the incident. Forty-seven states have anti-bullying laws, but New Jersey's goes far beyond what most others entail.

designated the positions of District Anti-Bullying Coordinator, Anti-Bullying Specialist, and School Safety Team. The Code of Conduct states, "Bullying incidents that occur off school grounds will be investigated if they disrupt or interfere with the orderly operation of the school. Any adult or student who witnesses an incidence of harassment, intimidation or bullying must report the incident to the Principal that same day."

The code of conduct clearly defines the legal definition of harassment, intimidation, or bullying and thoroughly describes the consequences of those three actions.



Image Credit: Alyssa Evangelista and Marie Picillo

The suicides of several New Jersey teens over the past year have prompted a nationwide conversation on the issue of bullying. Two recent cases that caught the nation's eye were the suicides of Phoebe Prince and Tyler Clementi.

In January of 2010, Phoebe Prince hung herself at the age of fifteen after suffering through relentless taunting from her peers, including statutory rape, violation of civil rights with bodily injury, criminal harassment, and stalking.

Later that year, another student, Tyler Clementi, jumped off the George Washington Bridge after his roommate at Rutgers University secretly streamed a video of Clementi's sexual encounter with another male student.

As a result, New Jersey enacted one of the country's strictest anti-bullying laws in history. The Livingston school district has already made changes to attune to the new regulations. For example, the district

The Livingston school district has a zero tolerance for bullying and continues to work hard to make the school environment a bully-free zone.

Earlier this year, LHS observed Respect Week and concluded with a Respect Panel made up of exemplary students.

"We hope to build on Respect Week and the Respect Panel and have these attitudes continue through the year," noted Principal Stern on the subject. "Livingston High School's Student Assistance Counselor (SAC), Ann DeGennaro, always has her door open."

Ms. DeGennaro asserted that "students need to start being 'up-standers' and stop standing on the sidelines watching bullying take place. The concept of the Code of Conduct is great, but that is just the start."

Ms. DeGennaro is always available in B230. She hosts several support groups, including those about self-confidence and for those who have lost a loved one.

NASA Discovers Kepler 16b



Image Source: Cosmic Diary

By Vidita GAWADE '13

NASA'S Kepler telescope spotted a long sought "circumbinary" planet in a Saturn-sized world two hundred light years away. The planet, Kepler 16b, is the first planet found to be orbiting binary stars.

Binary stars are double stars that orbit each other and form eclipses at discrete points. The actual camera that spotted this planet does not take pictures, but acts like a photometer that observes the brightness of stars and detects a decrease in the brightness as planets pass over the stars.

The probability of finding sun-like stars and earth-like planets to be exactly aligned is .5%, and with the sample size given, there are hundred more similar discovered to be made. The binary stars and planet exist in the constellation Cygnus, the yellow star is 69% as big as the sun, and red one, 20%. Kepler 16b orbits this system every 225 days.

But one may ask, why is this all important? One speculation by astronomer Greg Laughlin is that this system has the potential to toss out planets, or toss them into one of the stars.

Unlike Star War's planet, Tatooine, Kepler 16b exists beyond the habitable capacity for liquid to exist. Kepler 16b is expected to be a cold world, composed of half gas and half rock. Lastly, Kepler 16b gives the best of both worlds, because it provides data on both the size of planets, which usually come from Transits, and size of binary stars.

Still Kepler's principal investigator William Borucki clims that this world has the potential to harbor life since most of our own galaxy's stars are part of the binary star system. With more of NASA's research, worlds part of science fiction like Tatooine in Star Wars created more than thirty years ago could become scientific fact, like Kepler 16b.

Facebook Introduces Media Sharing



Image Source: PC Mag

By Rebecca MYERS '13

After many recent changes to the Facebook newsfeed, Mark Zuckerberg and his team have come up with yet another idea. According to the New York Times, Facebook unveiled a media sharing platform that will allow users to share their favorite music, television shows, and movies. Digital music services such as Rhapsody, Spotify, Vevo and 8 or so others are rumored to be joining this service.

As result of the merger, a user's Facebook profile page will display the entertainment that he/she is listening to. A curious friend could then be directly linked to the entertainment source. Some may feel that allowing people to see what you are listening to or watching undermines privacy, a controversial issue that Facebook has dealt with in the past.

However, there are multiple benefits to the union of music and social networking. Music lovers are constantly looking to listen to music for free without all the hassles of subscriptions, advertisements, and pop-ups. Many sites discourage new users because they require payments in order to listen to music. By joining the top social network, digital music services acquire a new and larger audience.

Critics of the new service are concerned that prospective users will not subscribe to online music websites because they will be able to use them through Facebook. However, most music services affiliated with the Facebook merger are not concerned. Rhapsody president Jon Irwin has been quoted saying, "Rhapsody, which was founded 10 years ago and has 800,000 subscribers, is sticking to its monthly subscription rate."

According to Daniel Ek, Spotify CEO, users that connect with Facebook listen to more music, as well as a wider variety of music; they are also twice as likely to pay for music.

Regardless of the controversies, Facebook users have been responsive to the new media sharing platform.

Potterheads Unite: The End of an Era

A Breakdown of Pottermore, the Exhibition, and the Summer Premiere

By Shivangi KHANNA '13

The July fifteenth release of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2*, the final movie of the *Harry Potter* franchise, had theaters sold out for every midnight showing. Opening weekend alone pooled in a whopping \$476 million worldwide, according to hollywoodreporter.com — yet another record broken by the *Harry Potter* franchise. Even though the story has ended for both readers and movie-watchers, the legacy and fan obsession left behind will forever remain in our hearts.

Pottermore, a brand new website brought to you by Sony and J.K. Rowling herself, opened its doors to beta testers this past summer. The site brings an interactive “Wizarding World” to the web, and allows readers to follow along with interactive scenes giving extra insider information with every click. Users can read characters’ backstories and discover the history of magical artifacts such as the Sorting Hat. Have you ever wondered why Professor McGonagall is so strict? Want to know Professor Quirrell’s favorite pastime? Here’s a hint: it’s floral.

All witches and wizards are sorted into their respective houses (Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, and Slytherin) as they collect house points and vie for the elusive House Cup. Practicing spells, dueling other Hogwarts students, brewing various potions, and exploring Diagon Alley are all part of a day’s work on Pottermore!



The Harry Potter Exhibition in New York
Image Source: Abelow PR

Times Square was home to Discovery’s *Harry Potter: The Exhibition* beginning last winter. Although the exhibit is now closed, it allowed millions of fans to take a step into the movies as they walked through the story, scene by scene, surrounded by real props from the movies. According to Discovery, the exhibit housed over two hundred authentic costumes and artifacts including the wands, books, the Marauder’s Map, Quidditch uniforms, Bertie Bott’s Every Flavor Beans, and each of Harry, Ron, and Hermione’s Yule Ball attire. Insider tip: walk all the way to the end of Quidditch for a chance to practice your shooting skills with Muggle-friendly Quaffles.

As you enter the underground temporary museum, you walk into a fog, Hogwarts Express to your right, straight into

your very own Sorting Ceremony. After that, you’re free to explore at your own pace through sets such as Hagrid’s Hut, the Forbidden Forest, and the Great Hall. But be careful, as the echoes of Mandrakes being plucked by other Potterphiles can be heard great distances away!

Though, the screams of the Mandrakes were nothing in comparison to the shrieks of fans as they chanted “Rupert, Rupert! Tom, Tom!” in the largest Potterphile gathering I’ve ever witnessed firsthand. Yes, the red carpet rolled out for the New York City premiere of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2*. Fans came from Canada, California, and Minnesota, just to name a few, so that they could see their favorite *Harry Potter* stars, including Tom Felton and Rupert Grint, walk out of their limos and say a few words about their experience. In the sweltering August heat, while water was scarce, fan frenzy was abundant.

Even if the original story is complete, the internet is exploding with *Harry Potter* fanfiction, that is, spin-off stories written by fans and read by fans, in addition to YouTube videos, Photoshopped graphics (these have flooded Tumblr, a popular blog site), songs, parodies, and art.

So remember, my fellows Potterheads, even when the hype of the Potter Era has come to an end, *accio* your favorite book or movie from the series and get ready to relive the excitement one more time.

Roving Reporter: Teacher Edition

Which Hogwarts Subject
Would You Want to Teach?



Image Source: Photobucket

By Tori KARGMAN '13

“Most people think that I would like to teach a History of Magic, but personally, I like the exciting Defense Against the Dark Arts. I get to fight bad guys.”

- Mrs. Feeley

“Flying Lessons! I’ve always wanted to ride a jet pack.”

- Mrs. Vandriel

“Potions...maybe I could create the next Sorcerer’s Stone!”

- Ms. Keller

“Expressive Chanting for Spells.”

- Principal Stern

Is the End of the World Approaching? Mysteries and Theories About Doomsday 2012

By Katherine LEE '13 and Amy XU '13

With the rumored apocalypse approaching in few months time, America is very much divided over the possibility of the world coming to an end.

According to Mayan mythology and the Mayan Long Count calendar, December 21, 2012 will mark the end of the 5125 year long cycle of the “fourth world” that we are currently living in and the beginning of the “fifth world”. Although this is an established fact, there are conflicting interpretations on what this “end of our world and beginning of a new one” actually means.

Some critics believe it to be the beginning of a positive change or a new age while others (the ones we usually hear from) believe it be, quite literally, the end of our world. Most experts, however, agree that there is little possibility for any apocalyptic events as soon as 2012. The Mayans believed in the end of the world and many of their inscriptions make references to dates after the “fourth world.” All in all, 2012 is viewed as nothing more than a silly



Image Source: MaxUpdates

speculation, one that is causing a bad reputation for Mayans.

On the other hand, with the recent natural disasters rocking America and the rest of the world, some begin wonder if it really is the “beginning of the end.” No sooner did eastern America have an 5.8 earthquake (when earthquakes are generally restricted to the rest of the United States), Hurricane Irene hit immediately after, causing property damage and flooding. According to Beth DeFalco from Chron.com, Irene was the third hurricane to hit New Jersey in two

hundred years, further suggesting that perhaps these natural disasters are not simply typical works of nature.

Countless doomsday theories have spawned revolving around 2012. Among the most popular are a galactic alignment that will cause a gravity shift that consequently sucks us into a black hole, a geomagnetic reversal that will release enough energy to decimate our planet, a head on collision with another planet, an alien invasion, and the popular zombie apocalypse.

While all of these theories have already

been discredited, many people still insist on preparing for the end. Movies such as *The Knowing* and *2012* only add more fuel to the beliefs of 2012 zealots. While the Earth is far from being consumed by the sun as depicted in *The Knowing*, the common theme of “what happens when the numbers end?” holds true. In addition, the earthquakes in the U.S. and Hurricane Irene as well as global warming may very well tie in to the first parts of 2012.

In general, end of the world reports are far from extraordinary in our sensationalist culture. One of the most recent and laughable reports was one from *Weekly World News* in November 1997 when an extraterrestrial supposedly warned scientists of imminent destruction due to God’s wrath. Taking into account that all of the end-of-the-world theories have come to nothing, the 2012 theory may as well be another high point in a longstanding trend of apocalypse hysteria. Regardless, whether or not 2012 will be the end of the world as we know it will be determined soon enough.

Fall Television Premieres Outshine Summer Favorites



The *New Girl* Cast: Max Greenfield, Jake Johnson, Zooey Deschanel, Lamorne Morris

Image Source: www.seat42f.com
Sam CETRULO '13, Jared GOLDSMITH '14, and The Lance Staff

Move over, *Jersey Shore*! A slew of new, highly anticipated television shows have begun airing this fall. These include Simon Cowell's *The X-Factor* and Fox's critically acclaimed *New Girl*. Returning primetime favorites have also sparked public interest. Notably, *Two and a Half Men* debuted a new protagonist, played by Ashton Kutcher in lieu of Charlie Sheen.

The X-Factor, a show that has aired in the United Kingdom and several countries worldwide, recently arrived at America. Many news outlets and critics have called attention to the competition the show will have with *American Idol*. *The X-Factor* is a new reality singing competition, similar in format to *American Idol*. In addition, two current *X-Factor* judges, Simon Cowell and Paula Abdul, are former judges of *American Idol*.

Despite these similarities, *The X-Factor* has distinct variations from *Idol*. Any-

one ages 12 and up is eligible to audition for *The X-Factor*, which takes place in a giant arena, whereas *American Idol*'s auditions are held in small rooms and do not go into arenas until much later in the season. Also, groups of singers may enter the competition, not just one person. Perhaps, what is attracting so many contestants and viewers is what *The X-Factor* calls "the largest prize in television history": a five million dollar recording contract. Judges for *The X-Factor* are Simon Cowell, Paula Abdul, Nicole Scherzinger, and L.A. Reid. *The X-Factor* airs Wednesday's and Thursday's at 8PM on FOX.

The long running CBS sitcom *Two and a Half Men* returned for its ninth season on September 19th. Promotional videos for the upcoming season called it "the most anticipated season premier for this fall". Newcomer Ashton Kutcher replaced the infamous Charlie Sheen, who was fired from the show earlier this year. The new role of Walden Schmidt, portrayed by

Kutcher differs significantly from Charlie Harper, who was Sheen. Walden is a free-spirited "airhead", whereas Charlie Harper was a successful jingle writer, alcoholic, and, at times, a bit of a "low-life".

With Charlie gone, the dynamic of *Two and a Half Men* has changed. The comical relationship between Charlie and his brother Allen, (portrayed by Jon Cryer) beloved by fans, is gone. As far as the critical reception of the premier goes, many are struggling to figure out the new character, Walden. Viewers feel that he cannot "fill the void" of Sheen's well established character. *Two and a Half Men* airs Monday nights at 9 PM on CBS.

The freshman comedy *New Girl* has impressed viewers and critics alike with its wacky comedy and eccentric characters. Zooey Deschanel plays protagonist "Jess," a quirky girl searching for a new apartment after a bad breakup.

Jess moves in with three unusual men: Nick, a broken-hearted romantic, Schmidt, a narcissistic player, and Winston, a sensitive basketball player. The show follows the antics of the four unlikely friends, who support each other despite their individual idiosyncracies and flaws. "Deschanel is adorkable," said Tom Goodman of the *Hollywood Reporter*, "and that works, too...there are more than enough laughs, a winning combination." *New Girl* airs at 9 PM on FOX.

Mainstream Modern Music

By Joan SHIRA '14 and Emily BAE '13

Music has the unique ability of bringing people back to specific moments in time. Your first heartbreak was soothed by a Taylor Swift breakup song. Your first kiss at sleepaway camp was accompanied by a cheesy Katy Perry love song.

So, in the midst of cold fall weather, sultry summer melodies bring back warm memories. Topping the charts since June, is Adele's heart-wrenching ballad, "Someone Like You"; the song details an emotional story of past-lovers and is sure to bring tears to your eyes. After fifteen weeks on the charts, Maroon 5's "Moves Like Jagger," a funky, fun pop collaboration with Christina Aguilera, continues to dominate at the number two spot. LMFAO's "Party Rock Anthem," arguably the "song of the summer," stays strong at number five.

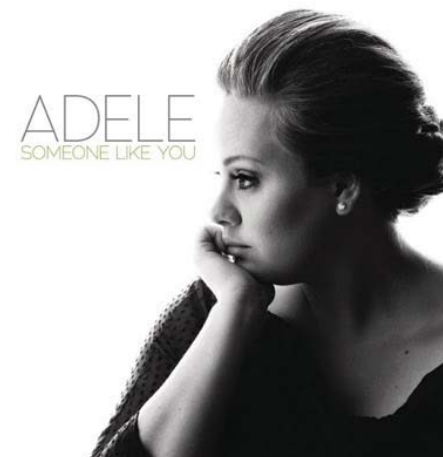


Image Source: CariCole.com

This fall, there are many strong additions to Billboard's top ten. Newly popular, Foster the People recently rose to fame with their song, "Pumped Up Kicks." The song is light and upbeat, but the lyrics contradict the song's airy tone. The song's focus is poverty, specifically the threat of getting shot because of having nice shoes.

Demi Lovato's new album, *Unbroken*, came out on September 20th. *Unbroken* details Lovato's struggles with bulimia, anorexia, and depression. Although "Unbroken" has a more R&B feel than her previous pop-rock albums, it undoubtedly gets her message through – that she will persevere.

JBieb's fans can look forward to his upcoming, all-original Christmas album; it hits shelves on November 1st, featuring artists like Usher, Boyz II Men, and The Band Perry. Justin tweeted that the album *Under the Mistletoe*, is "not the normal Christmas album." For Coldplay fans, *Mylo Xyloto*, set to be released on October 24th, has already showed great promise as their released song from their album, "Every Teardrop is a Waterfall" debuted in the Billboard 100 at number thirty. And according to frontman Chris Martin, the band's collaboration with pop sensation Rihanna on their song "Princess of China" is his "favorite bit."

Pretty in Pink: Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October



Livingston residents participated in 2010's Go Pink! 5K Run/Walk at South Mountain Reservation. Image Source: LivingstonPatch.com

By Emma GODEL '13

Every October, women and men across America sport bright pink apparel in support of Breast Cancer Awareness month. The color pink, and specifically the pink ribbon, are international symbols of breast cancer.

This month, wearers of the pink ribbon demonstrate their moral support for the victims of breast cancer. The ribbon is pinned on people's shirts, tied around trees and lamp posts, hanging from ceilings in malls and public buildings, and

posted on posters and websites in honor of breast cancer fighters and survivors and in memory of those who lost the battle to the disease.

The pink ribbon only became associated with breast cancer 20 years ago. According to Pink Ribbon International, it was first seen when one was handed out to each participant in the 1991 Susan G. Koman race for breast cancer survivors in New York City. One year later, the ribbon was recognized nationally as the official symbol of Breast Cancer Awareness

month. The pink ribbon became popularized when Alexandra Penney, the editor and chief of *Self* magazine, put real ribbons on the cover of the magazine's second Breast Cancer Awareness Month issue.

The pink ribbon was assigned to breast cancer because pink is generally connotated as a feminine color that represents beauty and goodness, and breast cancer is usually thought of as a women's cancer. Breast cancer, however, also affects thousands of men. According to the US National Cancer Institute's Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) database 13,000 men had the disease in 2007. In honor of the men who are plagued with the disease, Nancy Nick, founder of the John W. Nick Foundation, created a pink and blue ribbon, adding a masculine touch to the national breast cancer symbol.

Today, the symbol is international. More than thirty countries and five continents use the pink ribbon to represent breast cancer awareness. Avon has a line of pink ribbon products that is sold every October to support breast cancer awareness. Likewise, Saks Fifth Avenue sells a Key to the Cure T-shirt that flaunts the pink ribbon. Even the NFL ads a pink ribbon to their logo in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness month.

Meet the New Faculty at LHS

Mrs. Lane
Subject: *Business Education*
Favorite Book & Movie: *Gone With the Wind*

Ms. Rhodes
Subject: *Tech/Fam Living*

Ms. Davidson
Position: *CST/Psychologist*

Mr. Dillman
Position: *Guidance Counselor*
Favorite Movie: *Finding Nemo*

Mr. Dzama
Subject: *History*
Favorite Song: *Wish You Were Here - Pink Floyd*

Ms. DaCosta
Subject: *Special Education*
Favorite Quote: "That which does not kill us makes us stronger."
-Friedrich Nietzsche

Ms. DeGennaro
Position: *SAC*

Dr. Pernia
Subject: *Chemistry*
Favorite Movie: *Wall-E*

Ms. Leibowitz
Subject: *English*

Mr. Carr
Subject: *Special Education*
Favorite Song: *Ain't No Reason - Brett Dennen*

Ms. Buyes
Subject: *English*
Favorite Quote: "Whatever you fear, go there."
-Billie Jean King

Ms. Morano
Subject: *Spanish*
Favorite Book: *Waiting for Snow in Havana*

Ms. Keller
Subject: *Chemistry*
Favorite Book: *Harry Potter*

Ms. Montalto
Subject: *World Language/Italian*



Illustration by Rebecca Popper '14

Mr. Matheus
Position: *Math Supervisor*
Favorite Book: *Angels and Demons*

Ms. O'Leary
Position: *Vice Principal*
Favorite Quote: "To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift."
- Steve Prefontaine

Mrs. Vossler
Position: *Teacher of the Deaf*
Favorite Quote: "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart." - Helen Keller

Ms. Pachikara
Subject: *Chemistry*
Favorite Book: *Memoirs of a Geisha*

Ms. Ericksen
Subject: *Special Ed/English*

Mr. Yersak
Subject: *Tech*

Faculty Spotlight: Principal Stern

Cross-Country Camper, Shakespeare Enthusiast, and Led Zeppelin Fan

By Marlena IDROBO '12

What is your greatest challenge as principal?

My greatest challenge is my desire to want to do everything at once. There are so many games, classes, clubs, and professional development workshops happening – I want to be involved with everything at the same time, but I can't.

What are your expectations for this year?

To learn a lot; I'm in a new role myself. I get to ask "why" a lot.

What is the best part of being principal?

The best part is getting invited to see wonderful things happening. I love working with students who are so involved and hands-on, as well as a talented teaching staff. I love the enthusiasm here. The students, teachers, and parents want everyone to do well. There's a good support system.

How is the new rotating drop schedule going?

I'm pleasantly surprised about how quickly everyone embraced block scheduling and unit lunch. There was apprehension and concern at first, but within the first week, we were functioning. Because eating lunch in the



Image Source: LHS Website

hallway didn't work out, we reverted back to our original plan of using the main gym.

What are your hobbies outside of school?

Hiking and camping; my one-year-old son is also very much a hobby of mine. My wife and I went cross-country camping on our honeymoon, but we haven't gone much since our son was born. I love nature, and I think it's important that we turn off all of our electronics sometimes and take care of ourselves.

You used to be an English teacher.

What are some of your favorite books?

To Kill a Mockingbird and *Our Town*. My favorite Shakespeare play is *Henry IV Parts 1 and 2*. It's about a prince whose father has all these heavy expectations for him. It's about the process of what to do with the expectations – should I work hard to please my father or rebel?

What are your favorite movies and music?

My favorite movie is called *Amadeus*. I also like the movie *A League of their Own*; I'm a big fan of baseball as well as football. As for music, I listen to mostly classic rock. I'm a big fan of the Rolling Stones and Led Zeppelin. I also like instrumental jazz.

If you could only describe yourself in one song title, what would it be?

"Hip to be Square" by Huey Lewis and the News, because I'm not very cool, and I think I'm okay with it.

What is your favorite season?

Fall – the weather is cool, the leaves are changing, and I'm a fan of flannel shirts.

What were you like in high school?

I'd like to think I was well-rounded. I was very active in school and felt connected to the community there. I participated in band, musicals, the swim team, and student government. I had a

diverse group of friends, and had great times with them. As a student, I did especially well in English classes.

If there was a movie made about you, who would play you?

Paul Giamatti -- another bald, frumpy guy.

If you could eat dinner with anyone, living or dead, who would it be?

I'd have to eat dinner with Shakespeare, as cliché as that is. I would need to know how he understood the human condition, and made great points about the world and about people in a way that everyone can understand. He was incredible.

What is your advice for students?

Personal accountability is imperative – whether it applies to getting that paper done, spacing out your work, or modifying your behavior. Especially with the popularity of websites like Facebook, the things that you say become permanent.

Are you willing to listen to criticism?

I've got no choice. You have to listen to criticism; that's how I learned to grow. You have to measure compliments and criticisms and take them for what they are. The key is to balance them.

Roving Reporter: Unit Lunch

By Talia ROSENSTRAUCH '12 and Samantha SILVERMAN '13

"It causes more cliquishness."

- Ilana Bier '13

"Parking is annoying -- no one wants to drive because they're afraid they'll lose their spot. Additionally, checking in with security when we get back takes a while."

-Herbie Bolimovsky, 12

"I'm never sure where to sit because the seats keep changing and the lines for food get way too long."

- Sofia Soroka '14

"It's really nice that you're guaranteed to eat lunch with whomever you want, but it's hard to coordinate going out for lunch because of lab."

- Sara Vossler '12

"It's more productive, but I would hate it if I wasn't a senior because I would have to stay in school."

- Anne Yu '12

"There has been less camaraderie among the teachers than I expected since we are all busy."

- Mr. Carr

"It's good but chaotic."

- Scott Rosenberg '15

"I like it because I get to eat with all my friends but it's really crowded and hard to find a place to sit."

- Lori Shapiro '13



News



Turmoil Continues to Brew in Libya and Syria



Image Source: *Russia Behind the Headlines*

By Priscilla JENQ '13 and Lori SHAPIRO '13

The wave of Middle Eastern revolutions began with the Tunisian Revolution in January and the self-immolation of a Tunisian man, which both fueled the flames of riots, protests, uprisings and revolutions throughout neighboring countries.

Following the successful regime toppling protests in Tunisia, Egypt, and now in Lybia after the death of Qaddafi, other regions continue to demonstrate against their own authoritarian government.

On February 15th, 2011 a revolt broke out in Libya in response to the 41 year rule of Colonel Muammar el-Qaddafi, the world's longest-serving leader. The revolt began as

a series of peaceful protests in the city of Benghazi after the arrest of human rights lawyer Fathi Terbi, but the movement quickly spread.

Qaddafi responded to such revolts with extreme militant violence that left 38 people injured. Soon after, angry protestors retaliated with an increasingly aggressive movement and radical goal of replacing the Qaddafi-led government with a more democratic one and now they seemed to have succeeded.

“Six months of bloody, non stop battle...”

Momentum of the war seemed to shift to pro-Qaddafi forces as they

were armed with better weapons and were at first able to force the Libyan rebels back, but increased coordination between the rebels and NATO, as well help from Britain, France, and Italy, have led to more effective airstrikes and territorial gains.

On March 19th, military operations began as forces from the United States and Europe began a campaign of strikes against Colonel Qaddafi and his government. As stated by the New York Times, “they unleashed warplanes and missiles in a military intervention on a scale not seen in the Arab world since the Iraq war.”

By May 2011, the rebels broke a siege of the city of Misurata, and had made territorial gains east and

west of Libya by August. Later that month, the protestors surged into Tripoli and started to celebrate in the streets, eventually gaining control over the city on August 23rd.

While the Libyan revolution has already advanced quite far, the revolution in Syria has only just begun. Unrest in Syria began in March when citizens in the southern Syrian town of Daraa gathered to protest the arrest and torture of teenage boys who had vandalized city walls with anti-government graffiti.

About a week later, citizens in major cities assembled to demand an end to government corruption. The “Day of Dignity” protests on March 18th unleashed the most unrest in decades and though generally peaceful demonstrations continue, many protestors die at the hands of the government military.

Approximately 100 protestors perished in the clash with the regime's security forces as it began an 11-day siege of the city.

According to the United Nations, the death toll in Syria as of early September has been estimated to be 2,700 people and human rights groups declare that more than 10,000 people have been arrested.

Republican Nomination Is Still Up For Grabs



Image Source: *Zimbio*

By Mike BOTTI '13

According to the Gallup poll as of October 2nd, 2011, 46% of voters would rather vote for the Republican nominee than vote for

President Obama, who received a surprisingly weak 38% of votes. Which Republican candidate will receive that 46%?

Over the past month, three Re-

publican debates have taken place, all covering a wide variety of opinions and policies. The debates featured Mitt Romney, Rick Perry, Ron Paul, Newt Gingrich, and newcomer Herman Cain.

While Mitt Romney flaunts his exceptional business skills and economic reputation, conservative and left-wing politicians alike feel that he cannot be trusted. In fact President Obama's strategist David Axelrod called his history of ‘flip flopping’ ‘appalling.’

Mitt Romney was the original front-runner for the GOP nomination; however, once the debates began, Rick Perry and Herman Cain

quickly stepped into the spotlight.

Perhaps the most bizarre twist thus far regarding the GOP nominees is businessman and politician Herman Cain. In the Florida straw poll, which had a total of 2,657 votes cast, Herman Cain won an astounding 37% of the votes, winning by a landslide over both Mitt Romney, 14%, and Rick Perry, 15%.

Rick Perry, the current governor of Texas, has been called by many a conservative through and through. Newsmax.com called him the “Best Hope for Solid Conservative in 2012.”

Opinion

Head To Head

Should Troy Davis have received the death penalty?

*Troy Anthony Davis' execution under the death penalty has stirred controversy across the nation.
The Lance has decided to present opinions from both sides.*

YES

By Chloe SELTZER '14 and
Karli WEITZMAN '12

Mark MacPhail, a police officer and former United States Army Ranger, was shot and murdered by Troy Davis on August 19th, 1989. When an altercation began in the parking lot of a local Burger King, MacPhail attempted to diffuse the conflict, but his intervention led only to his death.

Although the prosecution's case was based almost exclusively on witness testimonies, nine individuals provided key eyewitness accounts implicating Davis. Two of the statements confirmed that Davis had privately confessed to his role in MacPhail's death. An additional 34 people also supported the case against Davis.

Sometime after MacPhail's death, Davis drove to Atlanta, Georgia, while the Savannah police department conducted a massive search for him. He claimed that he was unaware of the manhunt, but returned several days later, at which point he voluntarily turned himself in. He was eventually charged with "one count of malice murder, one count of obstruction of a law enforcement officer, two counts of aggravated assault and one count of possession of firearm during the commission of a felony," according to the press release published by Georgia State Attorney General.

The prosecution also linked Davis with another shooting prior to that of MacPhail. Though the murder weapons were never



Troy Anthony Davis

Image Source: internationalist.org recovered, ballistics experts confirm that the bullets at both scenes originated from the same gun and Davis, not coincidentally, was identified at both crime scenes.

Media reports have sensationalized Davis's case and capitalized on the small margin of reasonable doubt presented by the prosecution. As the media reports continued, many influential people and organizations, including Amnesty International and former President Jimmy Carter advocated Davis's innocence. Due to their support, Davis was portrayed as an innocent victim of the unjust judicial system.

The truth amidst the confusion has nothing to do with the opinions of famous figures and organizations that are far removed from the actual trial. Davis is the obvious murderer and the evidence provided supports such a statement well beyond reasonable doubt.

NO

By Jana RUTHBERG '13

Troy Anthony Davis was murdered on Wednesday, September 21, 2011 by the State of Georgia in Jackson, GA. Technically, the term for Davis' death is not labeled "murder" in the eyes of the government. His euthanasia is deemed reasonable punishment and an inevitable consequence for his accusation; however, the death of Troy Davis is in fact, "cruel and unusual."

Davis was accused of killing Officer Mark MacPhail outside of a Burger King in Savannah, GA, on August 19, 1989, and was eventually put on death row. However, as years and trials passed, Davis's guilt became increasingly questionable.

Seven out of nine witnesses who originally claimed Davis was the killer, recanted their statements and admitted to lying under oath due to police intimidation.

Twenty seven-year-old witness Quianna Glover said she was at a party where Coles was "drinking heavily" and said Coles admitted that "he was the one that committed the murder" and threatened her by saying he would "get [her] if [she] said anything."

Additionally, there is no DNA evidence that incriminates Davis, showing the lack of evidence to convict, let alone kill him. The death penalty is not only flawed in that it risks the killing of innocent men or women, such as Troy Davis, but on a larger scale, the death penalty itself is hypocritical and unconstitutional.

Many influential groups have spoken out against this inhumane form of punishment, and have taken large roles in fighting not only against the death of Davis, but also against the death penalty as a whole. "The state should not abrogate unto itself the right to kill human beings" and "a society that respects life does not deliberately kill human beings" according to the American Civil Liberties Union.

The killing of Davis, as well as other death sentences, go against democratic values and the rights and liberties secured to all citizens in the U.S. Constitution.

According to a Amnesty International study in February 2011 the U.S. is part of the 29% minority of nations that continue to use the death penalty as legal punishment while 71% of the rest of the world's nations either do not use the death penalty, only use it in times of war, or have completely abolished it.

Why is our nation so behind? Why are we among the last to realize the simple ideal that "an eye for an eye makes the whole world blind"? That "two wrongs don't make a right"?

The death penalty is hypocritical and terroristic even for those who have committed murder. For the innocent Troy Davis however, whose only crime was being in the wrong place at the wrong time, the execution is barbaric, disheartening, and most importantly, unconstitutional.

Happily Never After in Hollywood

By Shaylah BROWN '12

Hollywood relationships represent many things in mainstream culture: exquisite beauty, intense passion, and "flawless" love. However, the "A-list" couples that live lavish lifestyles and exude perfection have surprisingly weak relationships. The covers of multiple tabloids headlined Jennifer Lopez and Mark Anthony's separation. The Arnold Schwarzenegger cheating scandal was spotlighted on Entertainment Tonight, a celebrity news program.

The idea of breaking up seems all too common for most high profile relationships. Most celebrities endure hectic schedules and face a great deal of pressure to succeed; these factors alone can stress a relationship. "Industry" couples lead such a fast paced lives, which include rigorous work schedules, excessive traveling, and small amounts of privacy. These stresses



Image Source: tunto10.com

inevitably place a strain in relationships.

Many viewers and readers have become desensitized by these breakups; many expect to find articles on the newest celebrity breakup or cheating scandal.

Ordinary couples must work to keep

things together; it's even more challenging for high-profile types. I believe the first couple split that evoked a high level of emotion and disbelief was "Jen and Brad." Everyone from teenage celebrity-gossip junkies to devoted, middle-aged

fans voiced an opinion about it; "Can you believe they broke up?" Yes I can!

Publicity tabloids and paparazzi create many beguiling stories that concoct rumors and perpetuate drama. The rumor mill can interfere with celebrities and their desires for having long lasting relationships. Even the couple from the reality show, "Jon and Kate plus Eight" may have split because of the lime light and constant publicity.

Perhaps Hollywood-types were not meant to be together, as their relationships seem to be one big revolving door. As viewers, we should understand that celebrities are not perfect, and neither are their relationships. In reality, they are far from it.

However, there is still hope for the future generations, e.g., Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez. If that's not pleasing enough, we still have Brad and Angelina and Beyoncé and Jay-Z...for now.



Lance Lite



Sophomore Perspective

By Rebecca POPPER '14



What are YOU Willing to Sell? Bizarre eBay Items



Image Source: ListNine.com

By Dan STONE '13

SERIAL KILLER'S FINGER-NAILS FOR SALE. This and the following are real items that have been auctioned off on E-bay.

- In 2005, a new mother by the name of Melissa Heuschke auctioned off the rights to name her newborn son after not being able to decide what to name him. After a bidding war, they were finally sold to a casino called Golden Palace for a whopping \$15,100. Upon payment, the casino decided to name the baby GoldenPalace.com.

- A man in 2007 sold his imaginary friend named Jon Malipieman for \$3,000 dollars. His reasoning for selling him was, "My imaginary friend Jon Malipieman is getting too old for me now. I am now 27 and I feel I am growing out of him. He is very friendly. Along with him, I will send you what he likes and dislikes along with his favorite things to do and his personal self portrait."

- In May of 2006, a man living in Australia tried to sell the entire country of New Zealand for a penny. The bidding reached up to \$3,000, until Ebay shut down the auction due to violation of Ebay's policy. Countries are not to be sold on the internet without consent of its citizens.

- There have even been 2 cases of women selling their virginity on Ebay. One got up to ten thousand British pounds. All the money evidently went straight to the girl's college fund, and the man who purchased it never actually took up her offer. Sounds like a win-win.

The Not-So-Subtle Art of Planking



Planking on a tractor.
Image Source: Oddee.com

By Amanda GLATT '15

You're strolling down a street when you suddenly catch a glimpse of a man lying motionless on the ground. His body is rigid, with his arms by his sides, and cars are swerving to avoid him. Another man is grinning and recording the event with his iPhone. The good Samaritan that you are, you waste no seconds in rushing to the man's aid. You are a foot from the scene when the man leaps up, beaming. "Did you get it?" he asks the man with the iPhone. They laugh. "Let's

post it on Youtube!"

You just witnessed planking. "Planking," or the "Lying Down Game," is an activity that has recently become a worldwide popular fad. In it, people lie face down in unusual locations, while someone takes a picture or records it. The competition is on to plank in the most bizarre and impossible places, whether it be on a car, a pole, or the roof. Supposedly invented as early as 1994 by Tom Green, a Canadian comedian, only in recent years has it spread to the rest of the world like wildfire, spawning additional weird activities, such as "owling," "teapotting," "horsemanning," and "batmanning."

Crazy as planking may seem, there are always those select few who take it to entirely new levels of lunacy. Here are some examples: A baby planking on a microwave, a teenager planking on two camels, a woman planking on bags of ice, a man planking on a buoy in the middle of the ocean, a woman

planking on a police car, and...wait for it...a cat planking.

No country, no region, is free of this all-pervading trend. Dwight Howard, all-star center of the Orlando Magic, planked with hundreds of fans on September 2, 2011 in Beijing, China. Max Key, son of the Prime Minister of New Zealand, John Key, uploaded a picture on Facebook on May 29, 2011 of himself planking on a lounge suite with his father standing behind him. That caused quite a political uproar. Even Ivy League universities aren't safe anymore, as demonstrated by a planking event at Princeton University earlier this year.

Planking may be, I admit, hilarious and wild, but it has already led to numerous injuries and at least one confirmed death. So, please, for you non-plankers, watch out for plankers in the streets. Certainly people will soon tire of planking, and it is anybody's guess what the next wacky activity will be. My prediction is... "coneing."

Lancer Fans Support Varsity Football Team

By Doug BRESNICK '13

After a landslide win during the homecoming game against West Side, the Livingston Varsity Football Team has proved their doubters wrong with an impressive 6-1 record.

“It’s only getting tougher as we move on down the road.”

“It hasn’t been easy,” said junior Hunter Bushwell, a defensive back on the team. “It’s only getting tougher as we move on down the road.”

Livingston was able to pull out a key victory against Nutley a few weeks ago. After letting up a quick score to the Raiders, senior quarterback Andrew Egner led the Lancers down field for a touchdown.

Rather than kicking an extra point to tie the game, Coach Kostibos chose to go for the two-point conversion.

Senior End Chase Larengera lined up at the tackle position on the offensive line and ran a quick rout to the end zone. Egner fired the ball to the senior wideout, and Livingston was on its way to a perfect record.

“Chase Larengera has really come up big for us all year,” said Coach Cirlincione, the Offensive Coordinator of the team. “He is willingly doing everything he can to help the team win.”

“Livingston was on its way to a perfect record.”

Coach Cirlincione has been with the Livingston Football program for a while now, dating back to high school when he was himself a player. He also helped coach the 2008 team to a State Championship. The question swirling around the minds of many right now whether this year’s team will be able to accomplish the same feat, or not.

LHS Boys Soccer Team Stays Determined



Ankush Rakhit and Billy Mandl
Image Credit: Andrew Mordzynski

By Doug BRESNICK '13

The Livingston Boys Soccer team suffered a tough 3-2 loss to Seton Hall Prep. Their current record is 7-8-2. Despite the fact that this wasn’t the start the Lancers were hoping for, the team still remains optimistic about the rest of the season.

“The mood around the guys really hasn’t changed much,” said se-

nior defender Angelo D’Ecclesis. “We’re still keeping the same light mood we’ve had in years past. We know that our record is not an accurate reflection of our play.”

Livingston led Seton Hall Prep at halftime 2-0 with goals scored by juniors Tomer Niv and Ryan Ladell. However, the lead was not enough to hold back the resurgence by the #2 team in the state.

A key factor that separates this year’s team from teams of recent years is the lack of returning Varsity players.

“Some aspects that have been holding us down is the fact that we graduated 11 seniors from the previous season, 9 of which were starters,” said Niv.

“We also moved up into the American Division, which is arguably the hardest conference, containing the number 2 and 3 teams in the state. However, even with the odds against us, I still believe we have a strong squad.”

Tigers Force Yankees Early Exit



Image Source: Yankeeology

By Anthony CASIERO '12

The New York Yankees entered the 2011 playoffs as the number one seed in the American League, with a record of 97-65. New York finished 6 games ahead of the second place Tampa Bay Rays in the highly competitive AL East Division, making them a favorite in October baseball. Their first and ultimately last opponent in this year’s playoffs was the Detroit Tigers, led by AL Cy

Young frontrunner Justin Verlander and the league’s batting title winner, Miguel Cabrera.

Game one took place in New York with C.C. Sabathia facing Justin Verlander, in a duel of aces. Unfortunately, this game was suspended due to heavy rainfall, and continued the next night with rookie Ivan Nova on the mound for the Yankees, and Doug Fister pitching for Detroit. Perhaps the rain helped

New York in the end, as a Robinson Cano grand slam helped carry the Yankees over Detroit in a 9-3 win.

The second game of the series proved to go the Tigers way, as Detroit pitcher Max Scherzer pitched a gem, limiting the daunting Yankees lineup to only 2 hits and no earned runs through 6 innings. The final score was 5-3 Detroit. Game three took place in Detroit with the original game one starters on the mound. In this rematch, Verlander got the better of Sabathia, and the Tigers won 5-4 to go up 2-1 in the series.

With the Yankees facing elimination in game four, Manager Joe Girardi sent inconsistent starter A.J. Burnett to the mound. This decision paid off as although Burnett looked shaky in the earlier stages of the game, two fantastic plays made by Curtis Granderson in center field helped him get out of trouble. This enabled Burnett to let up just one earned run through five and two thirds innings en route to a 10-1 vic-

tory over the Tigers, forcing a decisive game five.

The fifth and decisive game of the series was back in New York, and it was as dramatic as the rest of the series was. With the game two starters taking their places on the mounds. The tension was great as both teams fought tooth and nail for a spot in the League Championship Series. The Tigers jumped ahead in the first inning, a lead they never lost, and won the game 3-2, knocking the Yankees out of the post season.

A major reason why the Yankees failed to defeat the Tigers in the ALDS was due to the poor production from Alex Rodriguez and Mark Teixeira, who batted a combined .139.

Yankees manager Joe Girardi disappointed with the result but optimistic about next season remarked, “You just got to remember this feeling and we’ll be determined next year.”

Giants Defy All Expectations



Image Source: NY Daily News
By Jason RADOWITZ '13

Information: espn.go.com

The Giants watched the free agency wire pass by, letting wide receiver Steve Smith and tight end Kevin Boss leave for different teams. New York was predicted to have a mediocre team this season due to many injuries on the defense, and was viewed to be a long shot to make the playoffs.

The Philadelphia Eagles, nicknamed the "dream team" and touted as one of the best teams in the NFC, were predicted, even before the start

of the season, to run away with the NFC East. Defensive tackle Jason Babin proclaimed back in August, "I feel like we are the Miami Heat of the NFL," wrote Babin on Twitter "Except we win the final game."

Now, over a month into the season, the Eagles stand in the cellar of the division, having given up late leads in four out of their six games en route to a 2-4 start, while the Giants sit in first place at 4-2, a game ahead of the Redskins and Cowboys who both sit in second place

with records of 3-3.

Big Blue's 2011-2012 campaign has been a rollercoaster ride. The G-men opened up their season with a loss to the Redskins, a team viewed to finish last in the division. Coming off this week 1 loss, New York won three straight games, beating two teams from the lowly NFC West in the St. Louis Rams and the Arizona Cardinals, and managing to stun the Eagles 29-16 during a week 3 showdown in Philadelphia.

Going into the Eagles game, there was a lot of optimism on how well the Giants would play. Polarizing Eagles quarterback Michael Vick was playing injured, due to a concussion he had received during the Eagles week 2 matchup against the Falcons.

The Giants defensive line capitalized on this opportunity to face Vick without him being 100% healthy and constantly knocked him to the ground, sending him to the sidelines multiple times in the second half. Coach Tom Coughlin thought the offense, defense and special teams

played well as a whole, which led the Giants to a big upset victory over their hated rivals.

"Yes it was a good win for the Giants and the thing that pleased me the most was the fact that all three phases complimented each other well." Coughlin said. "We played well. We had real good effort and a lot of contributions from a lot of people."

Coming off their 3-1 start, the Giants were stunned by the Seattle Seahawks at home, and slipped into second place.

The week before the Giant's bye, New York pulled out a come from behind victory over a good Buffalo Bills team, to regain first place in the East.

The Giants will rely on breakout stars Victor Cruz and Jason Pierre-Paul as well as accomplished veterans Eli Manning, Ahmad Bradshaw, and Justin Tuck in order to have a chance to make the playoffs, and breaking their two year drought. If not, then it will be another long and disappointing season for the Giants.

Jets Underachieve Early On

By Jason RADOWITZ '13

Jets fans entered this 2011-2012 football season with the idea in their minds that the third time's the charm. Having advanced to the AFC Championship game the past two seasons, the Jets have failed to win both games and reach the Super Bowl. Their ultimate goal, preached by head coach Rex Ryan many times; to win the Super Bowl. This year, Ryan is confident, like with the last two seasons, that the Jets will bring the Lombardi Trophy back to the Big Apple.

"I believe we are the best team in New York. My goal is to be the best team in the National Football League, not just in New York," proclaimed Ryan. "I'm not backing down one bit from that statement. I believe that will be the case."

After nearly a third of the season underway, the Jets sit at third place



Image Source: Avenue80s

Information: espn.go.com

in the AFC East with a record of 3-3.

With pro-bowlers Antonio Cromartie and Nick Mangold injured, there is a need for other players to step up on defense. That someone could be 2nd year cornerback, Kyle Wilson, who picked in the first round by the Jets last year, has yet to prove himself. With veteran safety Jim Leonhard also struggling, there is a need for players in the secondary to improve their play and help out the defense.

The Jets under Ryan have been considered to have one of the best defenses in the league. But, so far this seasons, they have let up an average of 126.9 yards on the ground per game, towards the bottom tier of the NFL.

For the Jets the problems don't end with just the defense.

Quarterback Mark Sanchez has been very inconsistent in the first half of the season. Sanchez has posted a quarterback rating average

of 83.0. During the Ravens game, Sanchez had a awful 30.5 quarterback rating, by far his worst performance this year.

Sanchez's highs in his career have come in the playoffs; including wins last season against top quarterbacks Peyton Manning and Tom Brady in back to back games.

Gang Green took a giant step in saving their season upsetting the chargers 27-21 going into their bye week. After being down 21-10 at halftime the Jets went on to score 17 unanswered points in the second half, shutting down the Chargers' high powered offense led by pro bowl quarter back Phillip Rivers.

The Jets hope to use this momentum going into the second half of the season. New York has a mediocre schedule ahead with their opponents' combined record 27-23.