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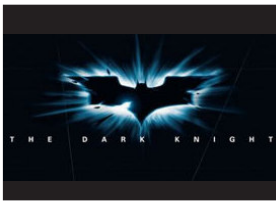
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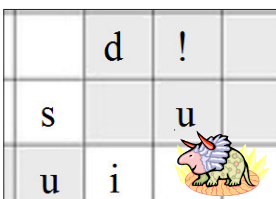
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New Principal Enters John Jay!

By Erin Russell

A new year brings new beginnings—one of them being Mr. Pochintesta, John Jay's new principal. Pochintesta has experience from being a high school Italian teacher to being a house principal. He began his teaching career at St. Raymond High School, where he taught social studies and Italian. He continued teaching at IS 144. He then went to Le Salle Academy, where he worked as both a principal and assistant principal. Most recently, he held the position of House Principal at Arlington High School.

Pochintesta plans to assist



Principal P. mills around the booths at Freshmen Orientation.

and support the educational goals of both our high school and the district. When asked if he planned on implementing

changes in John Jay, Mr. Pochintesta replied that at the moment, he would like to learn how current rules influence school culture and based on that, he will make informed decisions.

Mr. Pochintesta advises incoming freshman to become involved and to participate fully in both the classroom and extracurricular activities. He understands how important it is to "take your role seriously by living up to your responsibilities."

On a final note, Mr. Pochintesta said that he is very excited to be at the school and that he looks forward to getting to know students and staff.

John Jay High School 101 for Incoming Freshmen

By Marie Solis

Since I'm now a sophomore, I still have a vivid recollection of my first days and weeks here at John Jay. Unfortunately for me, when I was a freshman no one composed an article such as this to give me the boost of confidence that is always much-needed.

Despite this fact, I survived my first year of high school relatively unmarred, and you freshmen can too. So, without further ado, here are your Top 10 Ways to Survive the First Week of High School.

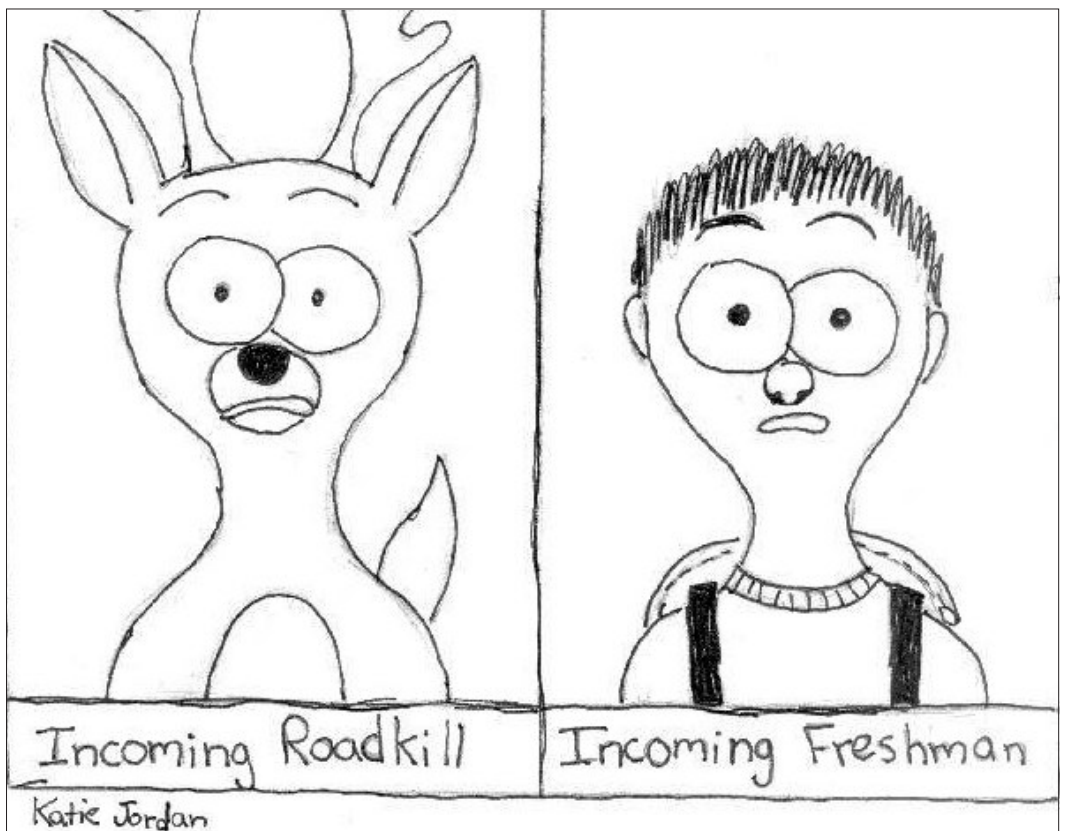
1. DON'T under any circumstances whip out your map of John Jay. If you've been lucky enough to fly under the radar before, this gesture will serve as a big light up arrow pointing you out as "new meat." Hopefully, you attended orientation and know your way around the school well enough to find your way around without the assistance of this faux pas.
2. DON'T be afraid of a senior giving you a wedgie or plunging you head first into a cafeteria garbage can. Unless you've suddenly become a cast member of *Lizzie McGuire* this is not a concern. It's those sophomores you have to watch out for. Since they were in your position last year, they remember best what it's like to be a freshman. But if any of them bother you, send 'em my way.
3. DO find a buddy. As cheesy as it sounds, the buddy system is nearly fool-proof. You can almost always find someone who

has a near-identical schedule to yours. Even if you both end up miserably lost, at least you're not alone.

4. DON'T be misled by the bells that dismiss class. This is another way to easily identify yourself as a new-comer. When you're sitting in class in the art wing or the gym, the first bell is always the five-minute bell. Don't be the fool who gets up to leave when this bell rings. You've got five minutes left.
5. KNOW that you DO have more than enough time to get to class. Unless you're rendezvousing in the hallways, you'll almost always be able to get to class on time.
6. DON'T cut in the lunch line.

- Yes, we all know how obnoxiously lengthy it tends to be. However, cutting, as elementary as it sounds, will only earn you death glares, and possibly a new spot... at the end of the line.
7. DON'T let an upperclassman convince you that there's a 3rd floor that has a pool. Although I've never known anyone who has actually fallen for this, I've known people who have tried this cruel prank before.
 8. ALWAYS lock up your cell phone, iPod, keys, etc. Sadly, there are some students here at Jay who don't have a nagging conscience like Jiminy Cricket sitting on their shoulder. When people see an opportunity to swipe the new 3G iPhone, there

- are some who won't think twice.
9. DON'T fear the cameras. They're only there for when fights break out and things like that. However, do remember that if you decide to do something like streaking through the school... it WILL be caught on tape.
 10. REMEMBER that you can redeem yourself from bad first impressions. You have four years here, which means you WILL embarrass yourself horribly at some point. However, it also means you have the same amount of time to do some serious damage control. And people always forget. So don't go worrying your pretty little head about it.



Katie Jordan

Newspaper Club Offers Outlet for Student Expression

By Amanda-Eve Beiner

The new school year rolls around—just as you dreaded it would—and reminds you once again of what it truly means to be a teenager. You have too much homework, too little time to yourself, and too many ideas on issues that you may not be able to change.

You find that talking to adults may not always clear discrepancies, change troublesome standards, or finish that stack of Math homework that has been sitting on your desk since you left your eighth period class. The statement of your concerns is labeled as “excess complaining” and you are constantly urged to “stop talking and do something about it al-

ready.”

It sounds like a good idea, but what, exactly, can you do? Well, that’s where we come in.

The Newspaper Club at John Jay offers students the opportunity to voice their opinions on various matters involving the school, the community, and beyond, in a vocal and student-run atmosphere.

The newspaper is distributed monthly, spreading ideas, opinions, and articles to the John Jay student body in an effective and respectable way.

The club meets every other week and offers a wide array of topic suggestions as well as discussions of any new idea that may interest any particular member. The editing staff, which proof-reads articles, puts the

issue together, and creates the layout, offers a rare opportunity for any writer to have their piece peer-edited in order to express their ideas as clearly as possible.

Overall, being a member of the Newspaper Club indicates dedication, leadership, and skill of the individual while allowing for free expression and diversity. Whether words seem to flow from your mind to the paper, or you have many ideas and need help organizing them, The Patriot newspaper has a position for you in order to grow and spread opinions and the latest school news to the student body.

Be sure to listen to the announcements for the date of our first meeting. Everyone is welcome to join and contribute!

Grad Rates in New York State

By Royce Zhou

Although it goes against Mr. DiGrandi’s motto of “four and no more,” statistics show that spending five or six years to complete high school has become more common and is extremely helpful to poor, urban school districts. The few extra years in high school have significantly improved graduation rates throughout New York. 73% percent of all students who entered high school in 2002 finished in 2007, up from 67% in 2006*.

Extra months spent in summer school have also slightly raised the New York graduation rate. This has been the first year that students have graduated in August. Approximately 69% of students entering high school in 2003 graduated in June 2007,

and 2% more graduated in August of 2007 after completing summer school.

The graduation rates in Ulster and Dutchess Counties fell from last year but stayed ahead of the state average of 69%. About 72.5% of public school students in Dutchess County received a Regents or local diploma in 2007, down 2.5% from last year. In response to this, Regents Chancellor Robert Bennett said, “Graduation rates have improved slightly overall, but they need to improve faster. Students must graduate and continue their education to ensure their lifetime earnings will support themselves and their families.”

The reason for this drop? Regents Chancellor Robert Bennett says the current 180-day school year “is not ad-

equate,” but the Regents are not looking to lengthen the school year anytime soon. Thank God.

Percentage of all Racial and Ethnic Groups Who Graduated in Four Years*

American Indians/Alaska natives – 54%
African Americans – 50.8%
Hispanics – 47.4%
Asians – 76.1%
Caucasians – 80.7%
Overall – 68.6%

Percentage of Graduation in Different Districts*

Low-income Districts – 93.4%
Average Wealth Districts – 81.8%
Rural Districts – 73.9%
Large-city Districts – 49.6%

*Data from: <http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=200880812031>



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JOHN JAY
PATRIOT
NEWSPAPER
CLUB!**



Phil’s Osophy: The Legacy Continues

By Joe Bernstein

As some certain subscribers to our somewhat semi-monthly cyclical recall, Phil Blechman would write a wicked, wordy, and witty column combining the precocious criteria of alliteration and assonance, analyzing the agony of classes and amplifying the architecture of an argument so arbitrary as to amble about amphibious anteaters. Well, we all weep at the worrisome wonder of a Blechman so scholarly cramming for courses in college, and our artist of assonance no longer assists in the establish-

ment of this article. We humbly hope to hone his tradition by trying to truly treasure the beauty of putting words of similar sounds so subtly adjacent, strongly assisted by the usage of synonyms, (seemingly simple, yet strongly strenuous) and by continuing the countenance of this newspaper, popularly presumed as the Patriot, by creating a column quickly correlating to the current circumstances, but not so lacking of creativity as to sound cacophonous. We wish Phil well and will await the wording of the wacky instance that we insist will wind up in the immediate issue.

The Patriot Editorial and Production Staff

The mission of this newspaper is to serve as a timely and accurate source of information and as an effective forum for student expression. We encourage our readers to send letters to the editor, and we will make every attempt to publish them.
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Why So Serious?



By Suvadip Choudhury

If you haven't heard about *The Dark Knight*, the next installment in the series of Batman films and the biggest-hyped film of 2008, then there's a good chance that you live under a rock.

In only five weeks of its release, *The Dark Knight* saw a cumulative total of \$471,082,150 in the box office. It was received extremely well by critics, too. *Rolling Stone* gave it a rating of 3.5 out of 4; Ebert and Roeper have called it "the best superhero movie ever made."

The only reasons one wouldn't see this movie are if he or she can't handle the movie's violent sequences or dark tone and themes, or hates watching action films.

The late Heath Ledger's acting was downright amazing, and there is already talk of an Oscar nomination for his role. In addition, the other actors Christian Bale, Aaron Eckhart, and Morgan Freeman did exceptional jobs.

The marketing for this film has been extreme, as well. Fake websites of the fictional Gotham City and its numerous depart-

ments have been created, most of which were later vandalized by Batman's nemesis, the Joker. A select few who even took instructions from one such website were sent on a journey; by the end they would receive items including a cake, a cell phone, and a number to call from the Joker, which recruits them into his group of minions.

Six Flags Great Adventure in New Jersey even saw the opening of a roller coaster based on *The Dark Knight*. Having ridden it myself, I can personally say that it is a pretty good ride that will give the riders a few scares.

With such clever viral marketing, the film was sure to gather a remarkable following.

The Dark Knight would break the records for the biggest opening weekend gross, the biggest midnight showing gross, the biggest gross for a whole day, and the biggest opening in any July, among others.

However, analysts are saying it won't beat the record for total gross, which is set by *Titanic*. Even so, *The Dark Knight* will most likely stay in the number two spot for a long time to come.

Your Favorite Shows are Returning This Fall

By Suvadip Choudhury

Many of us John Jay Patriots have been anticipating the return of some of the most popular T.V. shows, after they left us on edge with cliffhangers, unanswered questions, and more. Here's a quick summary of when some shows are starting their new seasons (note that some shows may change their schedule after the first episode of the season, and that this list could be partially inaccurate by the time of publication). For more information, or to look up a time for a show that isn't listed, searching the internet would probably be the best answer.

September 1: (8:00) *Gossip Girl*, *Prison Break*

September 2: (8:00) *90210* (series premiere)

September 3: (8:00) *Bones*
September 8: (8:00) *Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles*

September 11: (9:00) *Kitchen Nightmares*

September 16: (9:00) *House*
September 18: (8:00) *Smallville*

September 19: (8:00) *Everybody Hates Chris*

September 22: (8:00) *Heroes*
September 25: (8:00) *Ugly Betty*, *My Name is Earl* (9:00) *The Office*, *Grey's Anatomy* (10:00) *ER*

September 28: (8:00) *The Simpsons* (9:00) *Family Guy*, *Desperate Housewives*

September 29: (8:00) *Chuck*
October 14: (10:00) *Eli Stone*
October 30: (9:30) *30 Rock*

Viva la Vida Gives Coldplay a Welcome New Feel

By Suvadip Choudhury

In mid-June, Coldplay released their newest album, *Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends*. They were intentionally trying to go for a new style, and nailed it, pleasing current fans and drawing in new ones.

Coldplay used to go for a mellow, dramatic taste. In their new album, they tone this down and make it noticeably edgier. Mostly all of the songs mention religion or death, taking jabs at

current politics and world affairs, while trying to send a message that promotes a more peaceful earth.

Pleasing guitar riffs, such as those in *Violet Hill*, are brought together with captivating orchestras throughout the album. Some tracks still keep a light acoustic-feel, though.

I can truly say that there is not one song on *Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends* that I do not enjoy.

I would recommend anyone

who has listened to and liked Coldplay or any type of melodic rock to give this album a try.



www.amazon.com

The Secret Life of the American Teenager

By Kayla Del Biondo

Watching TV over the summer gets *really* boring. This is



Kenny Baumann (Ben Boykewich), Shailene Woodley (Amy Juergens), and Daren Kagasoff (Ricky Underwood).

true for some people, but not true for the many teens that have been tuning in every week to watch "The Secret Life." "The

Secret Life of the American Teenager" is a new ABC Family original series, voted #12 out of 100 in popularity on TV.COM.

This addictive drama focuses on a 15-year-old girl named Amy Juergens, a freshman at Grant High School. Amy has great friends and loves playing the french horn in the school band — but there is one problem: she's pregnant. What will Amy do?

Catch "The Secret Life" every Tuesday at 8:00 PM on ABC Family, or watch the episodes on www.youtube.com or www.abcfamily.com to find out what happens!

Apple is Likely to Reveal New iPods and Macs in September

By Suvadip Choudhury

Whenever you walk into a Best Buy or Circuit City, you probably see the plethora of products and accessories for Apple's renowned iPod line.

iPods have been the most popular mp3 playing device for a long while now. Consumers have eagerly bought them due to their sleek design and simplicity of use. The Apple Macintosh computers and laptops boast the same qualities.

To give a mere glimpse of their popularity, consider this fact: In Apple's second fiscal quarter of 2008, the company reported to ship 2,289,000 Macs, and sell 10,644,000 iPods.

It's a big thing, then, when the next generation of these technologies is revealed.

Another unveiling can be expected this month because Apple has usually done so in September over the past years. For the past few months, they were also giving out free iPod

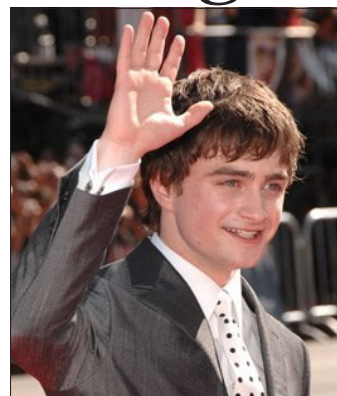
Touches and iPod Nanos for every Mac purchased by a college student. Most experts are interpreting this as a way to get rid of excess iPod stock of the current generation, while selling more Macs.

Last year Apple did a similar thing with giving out free iPods.

Steve Jobs's company has been setting many new standards for mp3 players and computers, so be sure to keep your ears open wide for any announcements from Apple.

Harry Potter Fans Must Wait Longer for the Next Movie

By Suvadip Choudhury



www.wireimage.com

Warner Brothers has delayed the release of the film adaptation of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. Originally the movie was set to release on November 21, but it is now slated for a July 17, 2009 debut.

The reason provided to the public for the delay was to move it to a summer date, but recent reports beg to differ.

Supposedly, the delay was caused by lead actor Daniel Radcliffe's appearance nude (magic wand showing and everything) in the play *Equus*. *Equus* opened across the pond in England, but will come to New York in September and shall stay until February.

Radcliffe will not play *Equus* nude in New York, in order to keep the parents of young Harry Potter fans happy.

Having a Chat with Coach Walsh



The 2007-2008 League Champions

By Michael Lynch

With the football season fast approaching, I caught up with John Jay's varsity head football coach, Brian Walsh, for a talk about his past sports career, league championship wins, and his plans for this season.

Q: How long have you been coaching varsity football?

A: I have been coaching for 38 years. I coached at Brewster for twenty-six years, two years at Henry County High School in Georgia, I was the assistant coach at Yorktown High School for four years, and the offensive coordinator at the University of Western Connecticut State University for two years. For John Jay this is my fourth year as varsity head coach.

Q: Have you coached any other sports other than football?

A: I coached the Yorktown High School junior varsity lacrosse team for four years and the junior varsity lacrosse team for Brewster for fifteen years.

Q: Have you ever played football?

A: I played four years at Yorktown High School, one year on the freshmen team at Ithaca College, then I was in a car accident and that ruined my throwing arm. I also played a year of lacrosse at the University of Connecticut for a year.

Q: Have you won any more league championships with your other teams (besides John Jay)?

A: I have won thirteen league championships, three sectional 1 championships, three regional championships, and we made it to the state championships three times.

Q: What do you think made the last football season different from any other season with the Patriots?

A: Last year we had good team chemistry. You see, my first year here, the team was just getting used to my offensive and defensive systems, my

second year we did make the playoffs, but this recent year is when we won the league championship. By then, the team knew my offensive and defensive systems and having good team chemistry helped a lot.

Q: Do you think that there are anymore league championships in the future for you and the Patriots?

A: Absolutely, this team is a good team. They're determined, they're focused, and they have potential. It also depends on what other teams do and on how we do, but I have confidence in my team.

Q: What's the best team you have ever coached?

A: I would have to pick the Brewster varsity football team of 1996. That year we went undefeated until the state final. We had come off two losing seasons the two years before. The reasons we went undefeated was because we won the close games, we had good team chemistry, the team believed in themselves, and their attitude was don't quit until it's over. The reason we did not win the state was because our star running back could not play.

Q: What is the feeling of winning a championship like?

A: It's a really good feeling. My teams and I strive for them every year, and every year we win one. It keeps getting better and better.

Q: What do you look for in a football team?

A: I look for team chemistry, player performance, and a good attitude by the players, such as 100% effort, showing up on time to practices and games, and unselfishness.

Q: What do you hope for this upcoming season?

A: The team and myself, as I said before, strive for championships every year. We have high expectations. Our goals are to win the section championship and then win the state. Our motto is "Plan, Prepare, Expect To Win." That is what we do for every season.

Keep the Olympics Free of National Xenophobia

By Royce Hwang

The Olympics are supposed to be a time of peace and harmony, where people from all around the world come together and forget their differences. Yet this year, during the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics, the United States media has displayed a pervasive and troubling anti-China xenophobia.

This year's Olympics are supposed to showcase China's return to world preeminence throughout the culmination of five decades of hard work. The United States media, however, seems determined to ignore this, instead preferring to emphasize the negatives of China, from government censorship to popu-

lation growth to pollution above all else. It is not the fact that the media is spotlighting China's problems that is troubling, but rather the insinuation that China is riddled with major problems. A *Time* magazine article prior to the Olympics likened the current government in China to the Nazi regime in Germany during the 1930s and 1940s. When they are not discussing how to bring democracy to China to "liberate" the people from their oppressive government, the media is busy conjuring up stories on how China is cheating in Olympic events such as gymnastics (which the U.S. team lost by its own failings) without any evidence to substantiate the claims.

In doing so, these writers have succeeded in irresponsibly slandering China's public image in the eyes of the American public, as well as America's own public image in the world stage.

All nations have their own unique problems and challenges; China is not an exception. Until the media gets their heads out of the sand and accepts that the United States might lose its central position in the world to China in a few decades, this country will continue to suffer from their intolerant, pro-American, ignorance. Let us just enjoy the Olympics for what it is, a gathering of the world's greatest athletes and a putting aside of our differences.

FALL GAMES SCHEDULE

Boys Varsity Soccer

Game Date	Game Time	Visitor	Home
Fri - 9/5	4:15 PM	Spackenkill HS	John Jay East Fishkill HS
Mon - 9/8	4:30 PM	John Jay East Fishkill HS	Scarsdale HS
Fri - 9/12	4:30 PM	Clarkstown North HS	John Jay East Fishkill HS

Girls Swimming

Game Date	Game Time	Visitor	Home
Thu - 9/11	4:00 PM	John Jay East Fishkill HS	Beacon HS
Fri - 9/12	5:15 PM	John Jay East Fishkill HS	Poughkeepsie HS
Mon - 9/15	4:30 PM	John Jay East Fishkill HS	Byram Hills HS

Girls Tennis

Game Date	Game Time	Visitor	Home
Fri - 9/5	4:15 PM	Poughkeepsie HS	John Jay East Fishkill HS
Mon - 9/8	4:15 PM	John Jay East Fishkill HS	Roy C Ketcham HS
Wed - 9/10	4:15 PM	Carmel HS	John Jay East Fishkill HS
Mon - 9/15	4:15 PM	Our Lady of Lourdes HS	John Jay East Fishkill HS

Varsity Field Hockey

Game Date	Game Time	Visitor	Home
Fri - 9/5	7:00 PM	John Jay East Fishkill HS	Lakeland HS
Mon - 9/8	4:15 PM	John Jay East Fishkill HS	Bronxville
Tue - 9/9	4:15 PM	John Jay East Fishkill HS	North Rockland HS
Thu - 9/11	4:15 PM	Suffern HS	John Jay East Fishkill HS
Sat - 9/13	1:00 PM	John Jay East Fishkill HS	Scarsdale HS

Varsity Football

Game Date	Game Time	Visitor	Home
Sat - 9/6	7:00 PM	Gorton HS	John Jay East Fishkill HS
Fri - 9/12	7:00 PM	John Jay East Fishkill HS	Ramapo HS

Varsity Volleyball

Game Date	Game Time	Visitor	Home
Mon - 9/8	6:00 PM	John Jay East Fishkill HS	North Salem HS
Wed - 9/10	4:30 PM	John Jay East Fishkill HS	Ursuline School
Fri - 9/12	4:30 PM	Ramapo HS	John Jay East Fishkill HS
Mon - 9/15	4:30 PM	John Jay East Fishkill HS	Suffern HS

Cross Country

Game Date: Tues - 9/9
Game Time: 4:15
Visitor: John Jay East Fishkill HS
Home: Roy C. Ketcham

Note: Dates for games only go up to September 15th.

Schedules obtained from Southern Westchester BOCES Center for Interscholastic Athletics

DINOSAUR! SUDOKU

Dinosaurs are awesome, so I had to include them in my Sudoku section. Yay, running almost two years straight now! Anyways, the rules are the same as any other Sudoku, except instead of using numbers 1 through 9, the letters (and symbol) D, I, N, O, S, A, U, R, and ! are used. Each appears only once in every column, row, and nine by nine square.

		n		s	a			!
	r		d	!				n
		s		u				i
	n	u	i				o	r
		d	r		o	!		
s	o				u	n	d	
	u			r		d		
	d			o	n		s	
o				i		r		



Sudoku Answers

u	i	r	p	!	n	e	s	o
n	s	!	u	o	e	i	p	r
o	e	p	i	r	s	!	n	u
!	p	u	n	e	i	r	o	s
s	n	i	o	u	r	p	e	!
r	o	e	s	p	!	n	u	i
p	!	o	r	n	u	s	i	e
e	u	s	!	i	p	o	r	n
i	r	n	e	s	o	u	!	p

Created by Ariel Alperstein

Answers upside-down on right