

Highlights

December 2008

Kingston High School, 403 Broadway, Kingston, NY 12401

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Parsons plans to redesign midtown

by Shaina Huleatt
Highlights Staff

Parsons School of Design recently began work with Kingston high school students and residents to develop a vision for Midtown. In a presentation at Muddy Cup, students and teachers from Parsons explained the goal of their project.

The presentation consisted of a short documentary that the class of nine students from Parsons in New York City put together with help from some KHS students.

It featured interviews of many different Kingston residents who explained what they hoped for Midtown.

"We want to give Midtown a heart," said Anezka Sebek Director of Graduate Studies at Parsons who helped initiate this project, "because it doesn't have a heart, it's like an empty cave."

She and Jennifer Schwartz of the Ulster County Planning Board believe that Midtown has potential and want to bring it out so they began this collaboration project named Kingston Together.

"Parsons uses design for social change," Sebek explained

as she demonstrated how her students use a program called Google SketchUp to construct a soft copy 3D model of Kingston and then add the changes they would like to see in Midtown.

Sebek and the others involved in the project hope to include the whole community in re-visualizing Midtown.

"We want to create an alliance of many different people who work here, play here, live here and are the fabric of the community," Sebek said.

"It's wonderful to use these tools [of design] to revision Kingston," commented Rohini Metharam, a Parsons student who has been working on the collaboration.

"Midtown needs some investment, a bit of beautification and it can become a great place," Metharam said.

The founders plan that high school students, local businesses and the community of Kingston at large will work together to take the potential Midtown offers and recreate the city.

Organizers expect the project that they began this semester in October to take three years. During this time Parsons plans to include Midtown resi-



English teacher Andy Sheber talks to Yoav Schlezinger and Heather Holiday of Parsons.
photo by Najlah Hicks

dents so that they form their own vision and take over from Parsons.

Jennifer Schwartz explained that she and Sebek through this project also want to "create a curriculum that could be used in other cities."

At the presentation, the Parsons students also revealed the new Kingston Together website where anyone can share ideas and information about improving Midtown.

KHS faces joined others in the documentary. Vianca Lugo

and Hannah Sterrs and Laura Bahr of KHS-TV who helped collect footage for the documentary told how they perceived Midtown and expressed enthusiasm for the project.

Sterrs came along with a few others from the high school.

Afterwards she said she enjoyed working with the new technology and believes that this collaboration can really make a difference to Midtown.

Sterrs expects that the high school will become more involved in this project in the future through interviews and other interaction.

Parsons goal is that many people of all ages and backgrounds will interact to share their ideas and improve their community.

Metharam explained, "It's about giving a voice to the community."



An illustration of Broadway at Henry Street. This illustration was created by Jessica Johnson of Parsons, The New School for Design, as part of its project with Kingston students. Provided by Parsons, The New School for Design

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Highlights is a free and open forum for student expression written and edited entirely by students. Letters from readers are welcome. All letters must be signed. The staff reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity. Letters may be sent to Highlights, Kingston High School, 403 Broadway, Kingston, NY, 12401, room 204.

Editorial: economic strife shouldn't damper holiday cheer

The air is getting cooler, the snowflakes that surround the street of Broadway are lit, and the traditional holiday tree is up in the main lobby at KHS. This could mean only one thing, the holiday season is approaching. With this long awaited holiday season comes traditional gift giving between friends, relatives, and loved ones. But, with the recent economic recession many families may not be able to make ends meet for the holidays.

In spite of economic instabilities, there are several ways that you can make your holiday season an enjoyable one no matter your economic status.

Remember, it's the thought that counts: When receiving a gift, remember that it should not matter what the price tag says, but that whoever gave it to you thought of you during the holiday season. Who cares if you get an itchy sweater from grandma? What matters is that she took the time to knit it with her grandchild in mind.

Homemade gifts never hurt anyone: If you don't have enough money to purchase a gift for a friend or family member, home made gifts are a great alternative. Anyone would love a homemade Christmas ornament or even a personalized card, and on the plus side, homemade gifts are more heartfelt and meaningful to the receiver.

Keep those in need in your thoughts: If this holiday season may not be a tough one for your family, consider helping those having a hard time. Donate to a food drive, Toys for Tots, or another organization that helps out families in need during the holiday season. It's a great feeling when you do something that helps make other's holiday season a meaningful one.

Surround yourself with friends, family and loved ones: No matter the holiday you are celebrating, surround yourself with the people significant in your life. It will make it that much better. Keep in your thoughts those who do not have anyone this holiday season and be grateful of the time you have to spend with family and friends throughout winter break.

It's beginning to look a lot like a "politically correct" Christmas!

by Courtney Rafter
Highlights Staff

Now that the holidays are coming up, many people like to express their own beliefs. Many express it in the simplest way, a greeting. "Merry Christmas" "Happy Hanukkah" and "Happy Kwanzaa" are the most familiar to me.

Some people get very offended now-a-days if you exclaim "Merry Christmas" to them when they don't celebrate the holiday. Whatever your religion, or if you don't have one at all, many get offended by them. Although the sayings mean well, many take it as discrimination due to religion, and some even take it as an insult.

Back in the 1960's, according to Wikipedia; the term 'politically correct' was adopted. To what I understand, being politically correct, is only saying things that wouldn't offend or discriminate other people, such as not saying 'God bless you' in a crowd of Atheists.

Some students don't really understand fully what being politically correct means, and really don't care, when I asked Veronica Simmons "What does politically correct mean to you?" she replied "Does that include the word gay?" Now, that we are in high school, our speech is limited to a degree.

Us students, aren't really supposed to say "Happy Kwanzaa", we are supposed to say "Happy Holidays" "Seasons Greetings" or "Warmest Holiday wishes". Regardless if it is school policy, many

people use the greetings, Lara Bruce, a senior here at KHS, says "I'm not offended [by the greetings]" and "Yes I use them". I asked Senior Amber Smith if she was offended when people say the greetings, she said "No... You Shouldn't say it if you don't like it and if somebody is offended, they should tell you"

When I came to this school, I was amazed when I heard that we weren't allowed to say "Merry Christmas" and that it was 'politically incorrect'. I did not follow that so-called rule, I shouted out "Merry Christmas" 8th period the day before 'Winter Break', and a teacher actually came out and told me I was not allowed to say that, that I was politically incorrect. I was speechless again, when

I heard of students getting detention just for saying "Happy Hanukkah". I respect that people may be offended by the greetings. So, I've used my own greeting, which tends to make people ask me to repeat it again. Now, that the holidays are coming around again, I'm going to reuse my old saying that is politically correct in its own way, "Happy Chirstmahanukkahkwanzaa!"

by Francesca Madden
Highlights Staff

The popular question at my Thanksgiving dinner is no longer, "what's on your Christmas list?" but "Happy Holidays or Merry Christmas?" When the subject is brought up at the table my family always expects an argument out of me. My family, an Irish-Italian, Catholic family, believe strictly in wishing people a Merry Christmas. I however growing up in the generation I have believe in seeing things from all sides of the spectrum.

Happy Holidays can relate to anyone celebrating a holiday during this season as to Merry Christmas only a select few can relate to.

It seems when it comes to this subject many people are very close minded. It's just Merry Christmas and that's the way it's going to stay. What some people forget is that there are two other popular holidays during this season, Kwanza and Hanukkah. How would Christians feel if everyone said 'Happy Hanukkah' or, "Happy Kwanza"? This is the feeling celebrants of the two "other" holidays feel.

This argument relates strongly to the KHS student body. In such a diverse place

Happy Holidays or Merry Christmas is a definite issue. In school when students or staff members who celebrate Christmas wish students with a "Merry Christmas" it most definitely gives those of other religious backgrounds an uncomfortable feeling. Many of these students also probably don't know how to go about correcting the mistake. Some think it may seem rude and don't say anything and just answer with a thank you. Others who do however correct the mistake if not done properly most definitely do come off as rude. Reasoning that I believe a happy holidays or even wishing a merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah and Kwanza is appropriate.

I really can't understand why Christmas has become the dominate holiday over Kwanza and Hanukkah. If you were to do research on Christmas and Hanukkah you would see they are equally rich in history and age. Christmas and Hanukkah are similar holidays as to Kwanza which is a non-religious holiday based on culture, family, and community. Some may see Kwanza as not being a holiday because its non religious relation, but looking from the side of a celebrant of Kwanza I'm sure people would see it differently.

The subject of "Happy Holidays" or "Merry Christmas" is an endless discussion no matter what type of person you're around. There's a political side as well as a social side to it. It really all comes down to what side of the spectrum you're looking at it from and simply, what your opinion is.



artwork by: Courtney Rafter

Cell phones cause commotion

by Anita Young
Highlights Staff

With new phones being made everyday they have become the latest thing in the 21st century and also have become the latest distraction around the high school.

Cell phones have become attached to us, and if you are to ask somebody what they always have with them it would be their cell phone. Many people keep their cell phones with them for security; just in case something happens and there is a need to call home. While asking students around the high school every one of them said that a pro to having a cell phone is just in case of an emergency, but a con is that they are a huge distraction in class.

Another thing that we all like about our cell phones is

the convenience of talking to one another. We are able to text, call, intent message, and even email from the technology that fits into our pockets. Also many phones come with other fun things such as a camera, and games to make them even more enjoyable.

Joe Spizzo, a senior at the high school said "I can reach whoever I need to when I need to. It makes things convenient and a lot less confusing" and he added that in class "They are a distraction, assuming the person in possession of one is irresponsible. I can see why the teachers and staff are against cell phones, but I think they're necessary enough to not be 'outlawed'"

Students said that they are a distraction in class and for the learning environment, then why can you always find them texting their friend whom they saw an hour ago? Is the gossip about the latest trend so impor-

tant it cannot wait until after school, or even just after class?

Jessica Goldstein a junior said "I don't think the rule is that ridiculous, but I think as long as you are not in class you should be allowed to use them."

Should we be permitted to use our phones in the hallways or in the cafeteria when they supposedly are not a distraction? Are we really capable of walking and texting at the same time, and not run into people?

As nice as cell phones are, and as nice as it is to have all of our friends at our fingertips, it is not necessary to be texting during class. We are in class to learn, and even if our teacher is mono-toned and boring what they are saying is important and necessary—so keep your ears open and phones closed, the latest trend will still be there after class.



We can still win the war on terror if we change our tactics

by Shaina Huleatt
Highlights Staff

1.2 million civilians have died in the War on Terror, estimated Opinion Business Research, and a prestigious British polling firm. In addition to these deaths is the loss of over 4100 of our soldiers killed fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the situation is not improving. No one wants their son or daughter sent home in a coffin whether they are Afghani or American, Muslim or Christian, invader, defender or civilian.

Killing more people will not help the situation, "In fact," wrote Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in his book *Chaos or Community*, "violence merely increases hate. So it goes. Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."

Greg Mortenson founder of the Central Asia Institute and author of the book *Three Cups of Tea* reminds us, "Mahatma Gandhi said you can not shake hands with a closed fist. To fight terrorism with only war and not compassion is futile."

You wonder if Mortenson is "practicing what he preaches"? He sure is! Mortenson has found one remedy to the desperate situation in Central Asia.

Schools.

Mortenson does not call himself a fighter against terrorism, but a promoter of peace. In 1993, after a failed attempt to climb K2, the world's second highest mountain, Mortenson recuperated in the little village of

and Afghanistan. These educate more than 28,000 children, 18,000 of which are girls.

Mortenson considers girls education vital if anything is ever going to change. "We can

ism in general, and Afghanistan specifically, is education," Lt. Col.

Christopher Kolenda, who works on the Afghan front lines, once said in an e-mail to Mortenson, "The conflict here will not be won with bombs but with books...." He, among others, supports Mortenson's work, yet Mortenson does not dare to accept military or government funding because the people that he works with would see this as a betrayal. This is unfortunate because the cost of one Tomahawk missile fired in Afghanistan (at least \$500,000 of our families' taxes) is more than enough for local aid groups to build twenty schools and, in the long run, schools will insure our safety far better than a few more casualties of war.

In general, Mortenson discovered that one problem Americans have is their speed of life. His book *Three Cups of Tea*, is aptly named. An American-style power lunch does not work in Central Asia, it takes three cups of tea and plenty of time to do business. Mortenson learned the value of slowing down and taking time to understand another culture and its people. Perhaps it's time all of us to have three cups of tea and think about what is really going to make our world



Photo by: Marya Mommsen

He said, "I want my own kids and their counterparts to live in peace, but that will not happen unless we teach them alternatives to the cycle of terrorism and war," something it is clear our soldiers are not accomplishing. Many who have studied the situation said that the Taliban and al Qaida are at least as strong today as on 9/11.

Korphe, Pakistan, where he watched the children writing in the dirt. He promised them a school and within the next few years he worked with the villagers to build a beautiful new school.

As of this year, Mortenson has established over 78 schools in rural and often volatile regions of both Pakistan

drop bombs, hand out condoms, put in electricity," he told Trudy Rubin of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, "but you won't see change without girls' education. I have seen profound change in the villages when girls learn to read and write."

"I am convinced that the long-term solution to terror-

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Photo provided by Jeffrey Karliner

Sophomore, 15, dies after battle with illness

by Kiersten Tibbetts
Senior Editor

Dominique Dyson, a sophomore at Kingston High School, died on November 20th, 2008, after complications due to sickle-cell disease.

Dyson was a member of the KHS community and the yearbook staff.

"Her job was doing photography for the sophomore class and she was our best smoothie maker for our smoothie sale," said Jeff Karliner, yearbook adviser.

Dyson was described by her yearbook editor Julie Fogden as "bubbly, talkative, very friendly, and a really sweet person."

Dyson was "outgoing, positive, happy, and funny. We would crack up during class. We would think it was a comedy

skit," said Karliner.

Dyson has already been buried in Brooklyn, where most of her family is located. A memorial has been planned by Dyson's mother and friends at KHS for Monday December 15th, 2008 in the auditorium.

Collectively, the Class of 2009, Class of 2011, Physical Education classes, Student Government, Faculty, Staff, Administration, the Maroon and Maroon staff, and several individual students raised roughly \$2600 for the funeral home.

Also, half the proceeds from the yearbook club's smoothie sale this month will benefit Dyson's family. It will be on December 18th in the Tobin Kitchen.

Cheap Holiday Gifts

1. Does someone in your family or friends love savoring memories?

Make them a scrapbook this holiday season. It would be cheap, creative and personal.

2. Do you know someone who loves music?

Make them a mixed CD of their favorite songs, your favorite songs and even add in some new tunes to change it up.

3. Do you know someone who enjoys holiday treats?

Make them a few batches of different cookies and package them up nicely. It's affordable and good to eat.

4. Do you know someone who loves to read?

Inexpensive books can be found in various places. Looking at clearance racks almost guarantees a few interesting books

5. Do you know someone who loves to cook?

Buying an inexpensive cook book and even trying to make a meal from it to give to the person would make a great gift.

by Chelsea Whitaker

✦ Kingston City Schools ✦

✦ giving back during the holiday season ✦

by Chelsea Whitaker
Highlights Staff

Kingston High School gives back in many ways to assure that every family has a wonderful holiday season.

For the past seventeen years, the school has held a poinsettia drive. Every December, Mr. Aidela, a guidance counselor at KHS and Mr. Erena, the principal of Sophie Finn get together to run the drive. The poinsettia drive ran from right before Thanksgiving break until December fourth. Even with the fall of the economy this year, many people still purchased a poinsettia for their homes. Why do people buy something when they don't have the extra money? It's because the faculty and staff in the Kingston City School District care about giving back to the people in our community that are less fortunate than us.

"All proceeds go to support programs at the Boys and Girls club," said Aidela.

The Boys and Girls club is a youth club in midtown where children can go to stay out of trouble. There are different activities held that make the children want to participate. The Boys and Girls club offers sports, dance, trips, tutoring and many more activities. The club has a small five dollar fee. If the children have a problem with paying the fee, the club doesn't turn them away.

In the middle of November the Spanish Honor Society held a food drive. The drive was almost two weeks, run-

ning from Wednesday, November 12th to Monday, November 24th. Usually the Student Government

holds a food drive but the Spanish Honor Society took over the job this year.

"We wanted to do something for the community," said Senior Brittany Gubinski, the president of the Spanish Honor Society. The entire school was entitled to participate in the food drive. Boxes were placed in all Foreign Language classrooms, the Main Office, Mrs. Zales room, two band rooms, guidance and the library. "We were successful. Ten boxes were packed with food," said Gubinski. "The food was brought to the Saint James Methodist Church in Uptown Kingston," said Senior Becky Geraci.

The food drive was very successful. Before packing food up for the Church, the Honor

Society packaged up a box of food to give to a family with children in the Kingston High School who were in need of a little help this Thanksgiving. The district takes care of the community but when a student is in need, the district takes care of them first.

As the next community service project, the Spanish Honor Society is helping the adopt a family in Woodstock program. The members of the Honor Society will get together to adopt a family and give them toys and necessities for the holiday season.

Donations for different causes are constantly around the school. Many of the donations do well because Kingston is a caring community. Our community gives to different causes even when we don't have much for ourselves.



Holiday traditions vary throughout KHS

By Tierney Braden
Highlights Staff

The holiday season is a special time for all people regardless of their religious beliefs. There is no other time of the year where our country's diversity is more evident than now.

Three of the most popular holidays celebrated in our country are Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa.

Christmas marks and honors the birth of Jesus Christ and is celebrated on December twenty-fifth. It is celebrated throughout the world by the Christian population, but also by non-Christians as well. In the U.S., it is celebrated by 96% of the population. Christmas is characterized by gift giving, decorations, carols and songs, and stories. The concept of Santa is an integral part of the holiday for children. The joy and excitement of Christmas is especially true for young children who are waiting impatiently for Santa to come.

A well known and popular symbol of Christmas is the Christmas tree. The act of purchasing the tree and decorating it is steeped in rich tradition. Many take time to dress the tree with lights, strings of pearls, and ornaments. Food is also an important part of Christmas, as holiday baking fills homes with mouthwatering scents of ginger-

bread, cinnamon, and other delicious treats and desserts. In addition, Christmas carols have been passed down throughout time to spread holiday cheer and excitement, including Silent Night, Jingle Bells, and the unforgettable, Frosty the Snowman.

the family is always at my house."

Another celebrated holiday at this time is Chanukah, also known as the Festival of Lights. Chanukah is an eight day Jewish holiday that is observed by the kindling of lights of the Menorah, one light for each

In many families, songs are sung after lighting the Hanukkah lights and prayers and Psalms are recited before and after the lighting. Several songs that are associated with the festival of Hanukkah include Driedel, Driedel, Driedel, and Chanukah, Oh Chanukah, which have

involved the discovery of oil that was only supposed to last one day, but instead lasted eight. Another tradition within families is to play the Driedel game after lighting the Menorah. The Driedel is a four-sided spinning top that children play with.

"We exchange gifts, not like Christmas, but small things," said Maddy Bogner, a junior at KHS. "We eat jelly donuts and latkes, fried food, we play Driedel. . .and we light the Hanukiah for eight days and say three blessings the first night and two on the other nights."

Along with Hanukkah and Christmas, a third holiday is celebrated throughout the world, called Kwanzaa. Kwanzaa is a week-long holiday honoring African heritage marked by participants lighting a kinara. It is observed from December 26 to January 1 each year.

Kwanzaa was first celebrated in 1966. It was created by an African-American scholar and social activist, Maulana Karenga, to be observed by African Americans and people of African descent all around the world. Karenga said his goal was to ". . . give Blacks an alternative to the existing holiday and give Blacks an opportunity to celebrate themselves and history, rather than simply imitate the practice of the dominant society."



Student Government members set up the Christmas Tree in the front lobby.
Photo by Fatima Kahn

"I take a whole weekend and bake cookies with my mom, grandma, and sister, and go out for a drive to see other people's Christmas lights," said junior Saira Aziz. "Christmas Eve with

night of the holiday. It is celebrated by a series of rituals that are performed every day throughout the eight-day holiday, some being family-based and others are communal.

become popular and well-known in our country. There is also a custom traditionally associated with Hanukkah that involves eating foods fried or baked in oil. This originated from the miracle of the Hanukkah menorah which



Original Artwork by Robin Weisel

Dreidel

Rules for playing

Give each player an equal number of Chanukah gelt or sometimes pennies are used. Each player puts one in the middle. The first player spins the dreidel. If it lands on:

Nun - Do nothing

Gimmel - Get all the gelt in the kitty

Hey - take half

Shin (Pey) - share (put) in the kitty

Before the next player spins, everyone must put one in.

"Mamba" party game

This game is lots of fun, and requires players to work together as a team. It is especially good if lots of children are playing. All that's required is a fairly big area that has been marked off. The children gather in the marked-off area, and one is selected to be the Mamba. The Mamba must try and catch the other players, who must stay within the marked-off area. Any player who runs outside this area must leave the game. When a player is caught by the Mamba, they join onto the snake by placing their hands around the Mamba's waist. Only the snake's head (the original Mamba) can catch people, but as more players get caught the children making up the body of the Mamba can entrap other players. The game ends when all children have been eaten by the Mamba. The last player to get captured wins a small prize.

provided by: Kaboose.com

Christmas who am I?

A guessing game where you guess who each Christmas character is by asking questions.

Make tags with names of Christmas characters: Kris Kringle, Mrs. Claus, Scrooge, Tiny Tim, Rudolf, Frosty, etc. Then put one on each persons' back. They have to go around the room and ask other attendees questions that could be answered with a yes or no to find out who they are. When they guessed their own "identity" they get a prize.

1. Ask "yes" or "no" questions only.

2. Answer yes or no to questions only.

3. No removing your own name tag to find out. If you ask, anyone will help you find out your identity.

provided by:
Partygamescentral.com

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The Christmas Ball: A Kingston Tradition

by Courtney Weber
Highlights Staff

Would you ever think that you and your Grandparents ever had anything in common? Well believe it or not, back in their day they were attending the same Christmas Ball that we attend now. Ever since the 1940s, the Christmas Ball has been planned by a group of parents as a way of providing a social event for their children.

From the start, students from Onteora, Rondout, Kingston and Coleman were invited to attend the event but ultimately it got too crowded and they had to limit the dance to only sophomores, juniors and seniors. With the students growing interest in attending, the event got even more crowded which resulted in the decision to only invite Coleman and Kingston to the Christmas Ball in 2006.

What most people don't know is that it is a non-fundraising event. The \$20 admission fee is used to pay for the DJ, venue, waiters, food and other essential things needed to run the event. In the past, if there was any excess money, it was all donated to The Family House in Rosendale and the United Way.

This year's coordinators, Miss Christine Kyriacou and Miss Helaine Silverberg are excited to be able to plan an event that they both looked forward to while in high school. "Miss K and I both loved it and looked forward to it when in high school so taking over was a good opportunity to get involved again," said Silverberg. She also stated that a big difference between when she went to the dance and the present is that now students make it more of a "date event" as oppose to the past when

smoothly since it is their first year coordinating the event. They plan on running the event exactly as it has been in the past but in the future they may make changes by making sure all interested students are invited.

Another thing that some students may not know is that the school has no part in planning the Christmas Ball. "I really don't give it too much attention because the school doesn't run it," said Principal Marie Anderson. The invitations are given out based on who the coordinators think will be interested in attending. If a student is not invited, they simply just have to request an invitation and they will be able to attend - there is no criteria for admission that would limit any person from attending.



Class of 2009 students get ready for last years ball

While sophomores await going for the first time, seniors look forward to it to make more memories out of their senior year. "I'm looking forward to being able to spend more time with my friends before I graduate in June. Plus, who doesn't love shopping for a new dress to wear!" said senior Olivia Vetere. Many students enjoy it even more than their own proms because of the fact that students from all grades are invited, not to mention the fact that it's more affordable. Sophomore Danielle Delisio looks forward to her first time being able to attend by saying, "I'm really excited to finally be able to go and it's going to be legit".

KHS Administration is hoping that this years Christmas Ball is going to be a success and that everyone in attendance has a fun and safe night to remember.

Don't Worry About it!



Want to have fun this year at Christmas Ball without getting stressed out or breaking your budget during the Holiday Season? Here are a few simple ways to save money and still have a great time!

Don't Stress Over What to Wear!

Of course every girl wants to look cute and every guy wants to look fresh but that doesn't mean you have to spend hundreds of dollars on a dress or a suit.

If you don't feel like splurging to buy a new dress or wearing the same one as last year... borrow a dress from a friend!

Also - don't stress over what you're wearing on your feet. Nobody's going to know if you're wearing your shoes from prom last year. Besides - who knows if you're even going to have them on by the end of the night anyways!

Be worry free!

Most people don't go with dates anyways so just go with a group of friends and you're sure to have a great time!

Be Safe!

Don't get yourself into any dangerous situations that could harm your life or the lives of others. and most importantly...

Just have fun!

Styles From the Past

Glad you didn't live in these decades? Here are some examples of what girls from the past wore to their dances and proms:



40s



50s



60s



70s



80s

There's more to Globe Club than just going green

by Shaina Huleatt
Highlights Staff

Not with envy this time, with seasickness, because whale watching on an eighty foot science research boat has its ups and downs. Kingston's environmental club does more than pick up trash.

"I think going on the whale watch and seeing how fabulous and gorgeous the world is will make the students want to recycle," says Jane Franklin, a science teacher and the advisor of Globe Club.

Franklin has been working for recycling for twenty-five

years. She even broke the back axle of her Ford Ranger once, hauling the recyclables collected by students in the Students With Ideas For Tomorrow club in Wappingers Falls.

Globe Club's focus, however, is not on recycling per se. Through field trips and projects the members gain an appreciation for nature and realize the importance of preserving and protecting it.

This year's highlight so far was the trip to Gloucester, Massachusetts where club members and Franklin's AP Environmental class headed sixty

miles out into the Atlantic to see humpbacked whales. Some students did turn green, but even so they saw the impressive whales.

"Seeing the whales was an once-in-a-lifetime experience. It made me want to keep the ocean clean so they thrive and other people can see them," said one club member.

So that others can enjoy nature, the club helps to plant roughly thirty trees in Kingston each year, and on Saturday the eighteenth of October some members joined in a project to plant hundreds of tulips to beautify the town.

Club members also volunteer at the Forsythe Nature Center and the Catskill Animal Sanctuary, feeding the animals and helping out in general.

The big days for Globe Club are Earth Day and Arbor Day, days to raise environmental awareness and celebrate how special trees are.

Despite other activities, the club does find time to recycle. Their newest project is involvement in a program called Terracycle where they will collect empty juice pouches, twenty ounce soda bottles and yogurt containers, items not normally

recycled in Ulster County. They will send these recyclables in free shipping containers and receive a substantial refund.

Globe Club meets in room 909 on Wednesdays. Franklin and the president Ariel Johnson welcome new members who want to keep the planet green.

"They [the club members] become walking advocates for recycling," said Franklin, "It's like throwing a rock in a pond and the ripples spread."



artwork by Addie Farr

Recycling initiative targets Ulster County schools Clubs encourage students K-12

By Shaina Huleatt
Highlights Staff

Do you ever notice those green bins in your classrooms, the ones you are meant to put your paper in? Soon there may be another bin for co-mingled recyclables because Ulster County is starting a new initiative to recycle which will involve widespread changes.

This is not a new idea for the region; in 1992 the Ulster County Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Law was adopted, but it has not been effectively enforced up to this point.

The law mandates the removal of recyclable materials from garbage, gives instructions for their disposal and allows the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA) to punish violators of the law with a fine and short imprisonment.

Environmental educator Steven Noble said Kingston's current focus is on getting the municipalities such as the fire and police department to recycle. Recently the town bought bins and placed them in parks to encourage recycling there.

Noble is one of Kingston's two environmental educators who concentrate on enforcing the law by teaching children, adults and departments to recycle.

There are other countywide educators, but no other town or village works on such a local level.

"Because we're just Kingston based, we can really work with the Kingston area," said Noble whose office is in the complex three buildings down from the high school.

Kingston is using various methods to encourage recycling. This year, 7000 brochures were sent out to all homeowners in Kingston reminding them to comply with the local law.

For some years the environmental educators have run a summer camp for K-8 children who participate in projects such as testing the water of the Hudson and learning how and what to recycle.

"It's a good way to immerse them in environmental projects," said Noble.

Kingston's efforts have paid off; the recycling rate is currently twenty-three percent, five percent up from last year.

The town is aiming for forty percent recycling.

In July of next year, Kingston wants to take perhaps its biggest step so far and begin a recycling bank. Noble explained, homeowners will get bins for their recyclables and on recycling day the bins will be weighed and emptied and the owners paid in coupons for local stores, especially grocery and garden supply stores.

"We would probably have the first recycling bank in New York," remarked Noble, adding that the program has been successful elsewhere.

This year, the Ulster County Schools Recycling Club was created by UCRRA to encourage recycling in elementary through high schools.

The club is directed primarily at providing ideas, resources and encouragement for faculty so that they will initiate new programs with their students. School staff members are encouraged to join.

"We're trying to get everyone so excited that the schools begin clubs and programs for recycling," explained Michelle Legget, the recycling coordinator of UCRRA.

Individuals can also recycle she said. There are nineteen transfer stations for recyclables in Ulster County, two of them in Kingston, where homeowners can dispose of their recyclables.

At the station Legget uses in Hurley, she pays ten dollars for a year's permit, then pays eight cents per pound for garbage and gets rid of her recyclables without further cost.

Principal Marie Anderson also expressed interest in renewed recycling and commented that recycling in the cafeteria is her biggest concern at the moment.

"We have always recycled paper, but now we are really going to be held responsible for bottles, cans and plastic," said Anderson who has a green paper recycling bin in her office and plans to add bins all over the school.

Anderson hopes to see the formation of student groups who will advocate recycling and educate others about the importance of recycling.

"I think we all have a responsibility to go green," she said.

Highlights December 2008

Ski club shreds down slopes for laughs

by Mollie Cahil
Highlights Staff

The Kingston High School Ski Club is a club for member of the KHS community to get together to- yes, you guessed it- go skiing. But there is a lot more to the KHS Ski Club than just rushing down the slopes.

The KHS Ski Club, with James Mooney as its advisor, is a group of about fifty students who go to Windham Mountain every winter to do their thing. The Ski Club is not a school sport, meaning that people of all skill levels are allowed to attend the ski trips.

"Anyone in the Kingston High School community can join," says Mooney.

The club only has formal meetings in its early phases to

discuss their five trips to Windham Mountain that they take after school five times during the winter (roughly every other week). During these trips, the club members shred down the slopes on their skis and snowboards. In order to maintain order, the club stays in groups or uses the 'buddy system'.

This system, according to Co-President Anthony Fabiano, "is never a problem to begin with because no one is anti-social."

An additional aspect to this club is indeed the social one, according to Fabiano. Besides the actual slopes, the students often lounge around in the Windham Mountain Ski Lodge after a few runs down the freezing slopes in order to escape the bitter cold.

"We usually bring random games like Uno, or just other card games and hang around inside in the warm and play," said senior and Ski Club member, Anita Young.

"We also play the air hockey thing in the game room when we have coins."

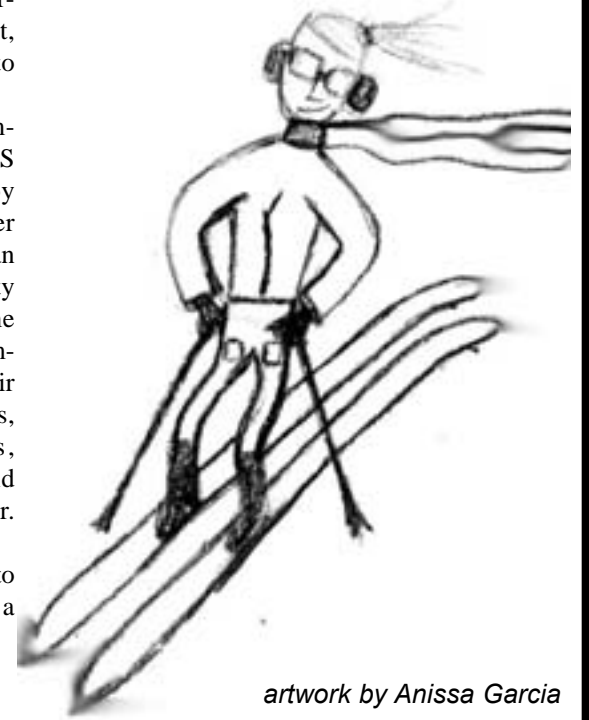
When asked about the slopes themselves, Young replied, "The best part I always think is going up the lift with my friends and seeing how loud and obnoxiously we can sing random songs! And then continuing them down the slopes is fun, too."

Young also mentioned how despite the ice-coldness of the slopes, the feeling of rushing down the mountain's slopes is truly a blast- almost literally. The only lighting on the slopes are often just those placed on the

trails, causing a black-surfounding effect, according to Young.

The members of the KHS Ski Club enjoy getting together to engage in an athletic activity for past-time rather than competition with their fellow skiers, snowboarders, chaperones, and advisor Mr. Mooney.

According to Mooney, "It's a good time."



artwork by Anissa Garcia

Sports Briefs

by Drew van der Poel
Highlights Staff

Girl's Basketball

The girl's basketball team lost a large chunk of scoring and leadership in the graduation of Amanda Horvers. They also lost a defensive presence in Stephanie McCoy. The Tigers return a core group that should lead them back to the section finals. Leading the group are the captains Rachel Coffey, Courtney Greenway, and Keyana Williams. The six-foot Williams, who recently signed her letter of intent to the University of Albany, should provide a presence inside. Coffey will have a majority of the assists and pick up a lot of the scoring. Greenway looks to contribute to the scoring as well. Junior Mackenzie Carey thinks the Tigers are going to have a season to remember.

Carey said, "I think that our team is going to go to the (New York state) final four again and hopefully make it even further than the past couple (of) years."

She added that the balance of the team should prove vital.

"We have some really strong ball handlers in Rachel and Kelly Kell, and we also have the height with Keyana and Sarah (Longto, a six-foot sophomore). Everyone on the team is very athletic and that is going to help us beat a lot of teams because they don't have the combination of skill, speed, and size that we have."

Kingston's biggest opponent should be Minisink Valley, who has six-footer Stephanie Dolson. The Tigers have defeated the Warriors in the sectional title game the past two seasons.

Alpine Skiing

Senior Brad Merrill, captain of the boy's downhill ski team, has an opportunity to win the section and advance on to the state meet.

Merrill stated, "My goal is to win sectionals and to podium at states."

Merrill is happy with the team's work ethic. He thinks the team's practices will prepare them for the season.

He said, "A wise man once said, if you're not first you're last. So far this year, the ski team has done nothing but prepare itself in hopes of reaching this high set goal."

Brendan Denvir and Will Davenport have emerged as key leaders for the squad.

Denvir states, "We've really come together as a team. Chemistry is strong, and we hope this strength can turn into wins."

Boy's Swimming

The boy's swimming and diving team should compete with the top tier of the section. Ian Delisio and Jason Ruddy both went to states last year. Mickey Ruddy, Nick Economos and Brandon Paton round out the top quintet of swimmers on the team. Kyle Kaznowski will be the top diver on the team. The Tigers' only key loss was Tim Braunfeld, who graduated. Paton has high expectations for the team.

"I think we should have a better record than last year because only one guy graduated. We should battle with Monroe-Woodbury and Pine Bush for second place."

Paton expects to see more KHS swimmers make states this year. After missing states by two and a half seconds last year, Paton's goal is to make the state championships.

Indoor Track

Indoor track has been one of the lesser-appreciated sports in the KHS community. A lot of the track team's meets are at West Point against large amounts of teams. The Tigers also travel to New York City for several meets. Sophomore Kristen Gottstine thinks the Tigers should fair well this season.

Gottstine said, "We have some really talented athletes on the team, and if they all put the effort in we should have a good season. I think everyone's goal is just to drop times. If we do that, we'll have a good year."

Nordic Skiing

Senior Zach Koopman leads the cross-country ski team. Koopman has stuck with the team through its hard times, and he doesn't expect the to end this season.

Koopman said, "Our boy's team has struggled the past couple of seasons because we just don't have enough people."

However, Koopman thinks the girl's team will do better.

"I think Lauren Loughlin and Katie Ehmann are going to make states, said Koopman.

This year's Kingston athletes have set their goals high, and their winner's attitude has provided a swagger throughout the KHS sport's community.

Boy's Basketball

The boy's basketball team suffered their worst season in recent memory last year. Even with the departure of Josh Gamboa and Ryan LaConture to graduation, and Jake Palmer, who transferred, the Tigers have compiled a team that should be sectional bound. Point guard Ayaaz Yousaf returns to the starting line-up along with Davonne Dunlap. Sharp shooter Dylan Galm, who missed all of last season with a knee injury, is back. Salih Washington and Zach Ciurczak look to round out the starting line-up. However, Ciurczak will be sidelined early in the season with an injury. Ryan Naccarrato will likely fill the vacated spot in the line-up.

Junior wingman Andrew Wangstad said, "I think we're going to have a good season. We should get to sectionals and make a deep run into the tournament."

Wangstad thinks the Tigers' three-pronged attack will prove worthy.

"Dylan is going to step up big; he is hungry coming off the injury. I think Davonne could be one of the top players in the league, and Ayaaz will be our leader. I'm going to do whatever I can to help the team."

This year's boy's basketball team possesses a lot of high scoring options, and their athleticism should keep the Kate Walton Field House crowd on its feet. The Tigers' toughest competition should come from rival, and section favorite, Newburgh Free Academy.

Wrestling

Wrestling lost one of Kingston's best athletes to graduation. Corey James, the state runner-up in the 285-pound weight class, provided a lot of buzz in the hallways last year. His 100th win made for one of the top KHS sports' moments of the year. This year, the Tigers have a solid line-up from top to bottom. Junior Arsalan Arabani has high expectations for the team.

"I think our team is going to be good this year because we have someone good in every weight class. Kaare Stokdal, Mike McGrath and Kerry Boughton should be our best wrestlers."

Arabani added that the Tigers' could win in any weight class. Alton Mitchell, Mark Rich and Josiah Parker are also expected to have good seasons for the Tigers.

"My personal goals are to stay at 152 pounds and to win sectionals," said Arabani.

KHS Nordic Ski Team breaking records on their rollers



Racers line up on the starting line at Milller middle school for the roller ski race on November 23rd.

by Zack Koopman
Highlights Staff

A roller ski race held by the Varsity Nordic Ski team broke the record as the largest annually held roller ski race.

On Sunday, November 23rd, 104 racers lined up at M. Clifford Miller Middle School, eager to test their pre-season training in a grueling race.

Over the past few years, Nordic Ski team has struggled to hold races due to lack of snow. Roller skiing has been on the rise; two wheeled elongated rollerblades. Roller skis simulate skiing on snow, and improve technique.

Students, coaches, and independent racers from seven different schools up to two hours away drove up for the 12:00 p.m. first

race time. Racers had the option of three different races: a novice 2km, 5 km, and expert 10 km.

Major ski companies Salomon and Atomic, as well as ski supplies companies Exel and Toko, sponsored the race. Altogether, over \$6,000 dollars worth of items were donated for prizes, ranging from ski poles and bags, to ski wax and water bottles. Top winners got their first pick, and then all remaining items were distributed to other racers. Nobody left empty-handed though. Polar donated string bags filled with all kinds of goodies.

Hudson Valley School of Massage Therapy came with masseuses and massage chairs, providing weary racers with free massages.

Coach Greg Malia was ecstatic about the success of the race.

"Four years ago, only eleven skiers took part in the race, and this year we had 104. Next year, I hope to see about 125 racers, more prizes, and perhaps a ski swap and sell."

Greg Sautner, owner of the bike and ski specialists Catskill Mountain Multisport, came with his products for sale. He left with an almost empty trunk, a big smile, and many thanks for Malia.

Girls basketball's Williams signs with UAlbany

by Zack Koopman
Highlights Staff

Varsity girls basketball player Keyana Williams received a unique offer: a full scholarship to the University at Albany to play basketball.

On her birthday last July, Williams was contacted with an offer to play as a power forward on the basketball team. Usually playing center, Williams will now make the transition with the help of the Varsity team.

Williams joined the cross country running team to build her leg strength and endurance. Quickly rising through the ranks, Williams raced as one of the top 7- the racers whose score is counted.

Williams is regarded as a big figure of the team. According to senior captain Lauren Loughlin, "It was great having Keyana on the team. She's a great inspiration. She always worked hard, and made it to sectionals, as a first year runner."

Williams's determination doesn't end at the yellow tape.

"She always takes good, open shots in her range and gives good passes when she doesn't have a good shot," says co-captain Courtney Greenway.

Williams is very optimistic about the upcoming season.

"I have no doubt in my mind that we'll make it to sectionals," she says.

Williams started playing basketball in the 7th grade, going straight to the JV team. Her favorite part of basketball is being part of the team and talking with the other girls.

Williams doesn't plan on a career in the WNBA. If approached, of course, but for now, she has a different idea in mind. She wants to be a math teacher.

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Highlights December 2008

Senior students showing off their skills

by Anita Young
Highlights Staff

Sunday evening, No_Space gallery on Main Street in Rosendale lived up to its name when it became packed full of students, families, and community members for the Senior Studio Seminar art gallery. The gallery con-

Women's Studio Workshop, the seniors had three sessions on how to do mono printing, paper-making, and silk screen. The gallery was made up of all the works they made while at Women's Studio Workshop, and gave the students the chance not only to show off their skills, but also what they learned at the workshops.



Senior Josh Goodrich showing off his work at the gallery to family and friends.

tained work that the students made from the Women's Studio Workshop.

Once a week for four weeks, the seniors worked with the Women's Studio Workshop, which is the largest art book publication in the United States. While at

Julianna Lafazia, a senior who is in the class said "It's exciting to see everyone's work hung so professionally for the public to enjoy. We all had a lot of fun at Women's Studio Workshop, and we worked hard. I think that shows in our pieces."

The gallery was a reflection of all the hard work, dedication, and time the seniors put into their art work. The Senior Seminar is a stepping stone for many young artists. The class prepares them for art programs and college, if that is what their major is going to be. It also gets them a portfolio, which is

the most important aspect of applying to college. Even if a senior isn't going to major in art in college, the class is demanding and beneficial to their artistic minds.

Amy Goldstein, another senior, said "Senior Seminar gives you the change to figure out who you are as an artist; to find your strengths and weaknesses."

The class isn't for just any student though. The seniors in the class are self motivated, independent minded, and extremely passionate about art.

Lara Giordano, the seminar teacher, says "All of these students are in here because it is their passion. For many of these students art will be their life. These students will always be artists though; even if it isn't what they choose to continue their career with. There is no way these young adults won't always be artists."

Their work doesn't stop with the gallery though. The students will continue working to create portfolios for college, and get all of their projects in for grades. Giordano reassured me that there will be more galleries in the future, so if you missed your chance to see these artists in action, make sure to keep your ears open for the next gallery!

Arts Briefs

by Anita Young
Highlights Staff

Become a part of the annual tradition!

Auditions for the musical *Fiddler on the Roof* will be December sixteenth through the eighteenth. Auditions will take place from 3:30 pm to roughly 9 pm.

Auditions consist of three parts: singing, dancing, and reading. Students are required to audition for all three. Students can sign up for auditions outside room 118, and make sure to do so as soon as possible to get a slot.

Strike the harp and join the chorus!

The music department is in full swing to make this holiday season as enjoyable as possible.

December thirteenth the KHS Choir will be having a concert with the Mendelssohn Club at the Old Dutch Church at 8pm.

On December fifteenth there will be a music department concert at 7pm in the auditorium consisting of the KHS Choir, Choir Ensemble, Mixed Chorus, Concert Band, Brass Band, Symphonic Band, and Orchestra.

On December nineteenth the KHS choir will have the concert on the stairs at 2:40pm for everybody to come and enjoy before the holiday break.

Reason and Rhyme submissions

Reason and Rhyme editors and staff are asking for submissions for this year's issue.

The magazine will be in any genre, whether prose, poetry, or photography. Original art is also welcome.

According to advisor Linda Still, the editors have not yet set a deadline. However, they are beginning to select submissions for the magazine.

Reason and Rhyme won a gold medal from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association for its 2008 magazine.

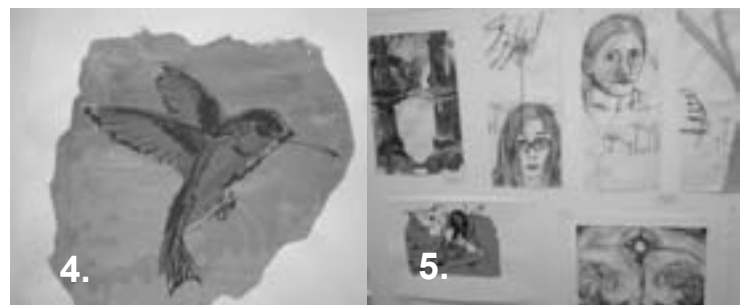


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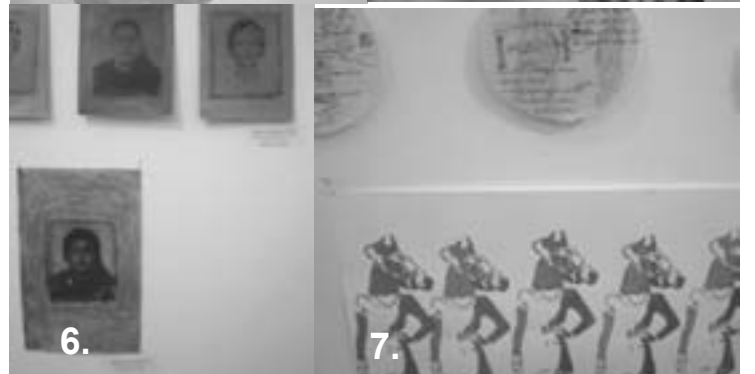
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1)No_Space gallery filled with the seniors work before the show started.

2)A collection of work by Cayetano Navarrete

3)A Book made by Adriell Farr

4)Humming Bird With a Piece of Sky" By Julianna Lafazia

5)A collection of works by Amy Goldstein and Alison Paton

6)A few pieces by Cayetano Navarrete

7)A collection of pieces by Adriell Farr

8)Adriell Farr expresses her emotions in more ways than one

9)Alison Paton looking at other works that her classmates made at the gallery

10)Stupidity" by Joshua Goodrich

all photography by Anita Young

News Briefs

Former KHS student struck by train

On Thursday, December fourth, 19 year-old Samuel Madero, a former Kingston High School student, was struck from behind by a CSX freight train.

At 1 a.m. Madero was walking northbound on the tracks along after being dropped off by a friend.

According to the Daily Freeman, the conductor saw him and “applied his brakes and blew the horn” but to no avail. Madero’s reason for being on the tracks is still unknown.

He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Weapons and explosives at school rule revised

The Jefferson Committee has decided to revise the section of the code that deals with bringing weapons and explosives to school.

They have decided to add the words “possessing,” “unauthorized”, and “school events” to the rule in order to close several loopholes.

The new rule will read, “Bringing or possessing unauthorized weapons or explosives to school or school events.” The change to the Jefferson Code was passed unanimously. The facilitator of the Jefferson Committee is Andrea Dougherty and the Note Taker is Andrea Donaldson.

Coach Loughlin steps down

Tom Loughlin, the Kingston varsity football coach of fifteen years, decided to step down from his position.

He announced his decision at the football team's annual banquet. Assistant coach John Murphy also will leave with Loughlin.

Loughlin indicated that the Tigers’ 2-7 season had no impact on the decision.

According to athletic director Glen Maisch, a successor should be named in January.

Class of 2012 elections

Last week, class of 2012 held their elections and elected Alexandro Pacheco as President.

Pacheco said, “Wow! I can’t wait to get started!” after finding out his success.

The other freshmen that were elected unopposed were Lauren Kwasnowski for vice president, Victoria Hakim for Treasurer, Bridget Ryan for Recording Secretary, and Nicole Montera for Corresponding Secretary.

The election started on Wednesday, December third at 8 a.m. and ended Thursday, December fourth at midnight. Students in the freshman class voted online and the results were announced on Monday.

Class of 2010 events

The Class of 2010 has planned several various functions ranging from the junior prom theme to a charity collection for children. The club meets every Tuesday during ninth period.

The Class has discussed a possible scrimmage between the juniors and seniors during ninth period.

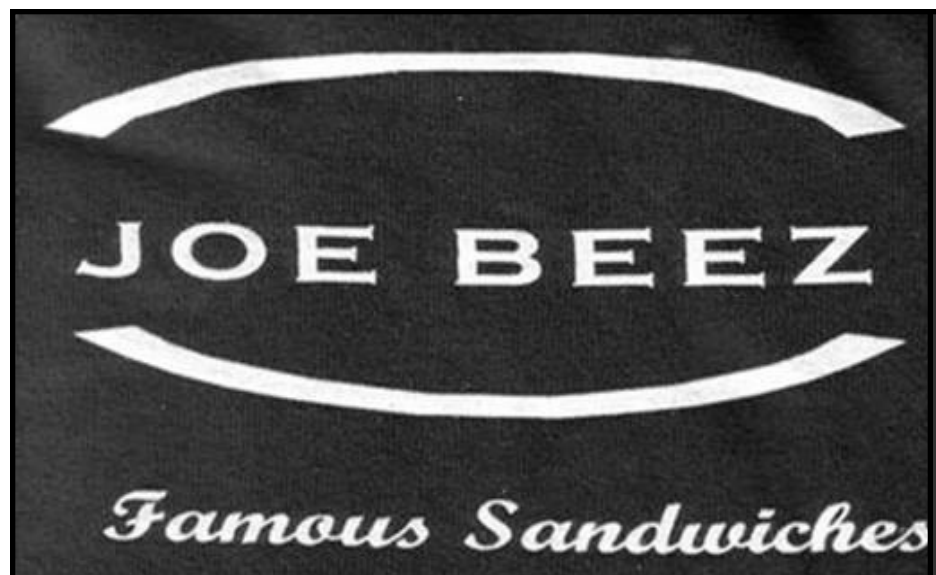
They have also reviewed the theme for the junior prom, which was previously decided on to be “Hollywood.”

The last topic in which the Class of 2010 is working on includes a charity for children during the holiday season. They have planned to receive a list containing various names of less fortunate children so that they can accumulate several gifts to distribute to them.

News Briefs compiled by Fatima Khan and Julia Marzano and written by Anita Young, Emily Mance, Drew van der Poel, Sarah Bittner and Marya Mommsen.



Sophomore Aaron Sickler performs the Jack Johnson song “Sleep Through the Static” with English teacher Scott Royer during the “Jamnesty Unplugged” concert on November 20. The concert, which was held during 7th and 8th periods, was organized by the Amnesty International club. *photo by Highlights staff*



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Highlights December 2008

12/15-12/19

12/15

- Mohawk Community College visit at 9:30 am
- Columbia Greene Community College visits 10:30am
- Memorial Service for Dominique Dyson 9th
- Winter Concert 7pm

12/16

- National Honor Society Meeting 9th

12/19

- Last Day before break!

01/05-01/09

01/05

- First day back!
- Spanish Honor Society Meeting 9th

01/06

- National Honor Society Meeting 9th

- Boy's Basketball game 7pm

01/07

- Girl's Basketball game 7pm

01/08

- Alpine Ski Meet 4pm at HolidayMoutain

01/12-01/16

01/13

- National Honor Society Meeting 9th

01/14

- Boy's Basketball game 7pm

01/15

- Boy's Swim Meet 4:30pm
- Alpine Ski Meet 4pm at Holiday Moutain.

01/19-01/23 01/19

- No school for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

01/20

- Spanish Honor Society Meeting 9th

01/22

- Boy's basketball game 7pm

01/23

- Girl's Basketball game 7pm

01/26-01/30

01/26

- Girl's Basketball game 7pm

01/30

- Girl's Basketball game 7pm
- Wrestling Match 7pm

01/27-30

- Regents week



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