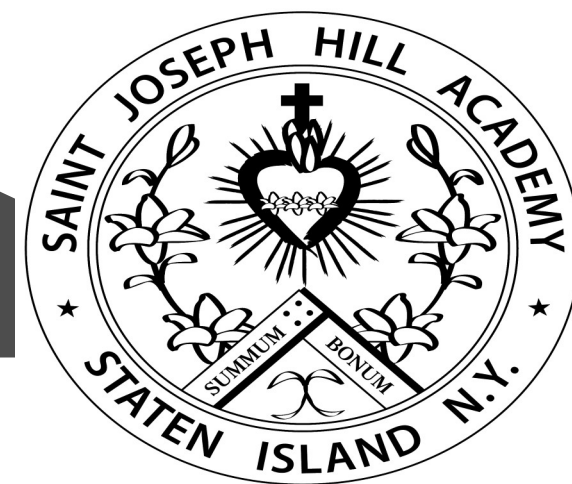


The Summit

VOL. XIX No. 1 St. Joseph Hill Academy High School March 2011



Our Principal, Mrs. Ferrando, Recipient of the "Leadership in Education Award"

By Nicolette Vasile

NV: Tell me about the award you will be receiving.

ATF: St John's University School of Education is the sponsor of the award. It is presented to outstanding educational leaders within the community and is called "Leadership in Education Award".

NV: What does this award mean to you as an educator?

ATF: Education has been my life. Starting out as a teacher was the first step in the roll of a leader. From there the leadership role grew as Chair of the Science department, Academic Dean, Assistant Principal and Principal. Receiving this award allows me to believe that I have accomplished and will continue to accomplish what I set out to do so long ago.

NV: When will you be attending the ceremony to receive the award? Can students and their parents attend this ceremony? If so, where can they get tickets?

ATF: The LEAD Award dinner will take place on April 5th, 2011 at St. John's University. Students and parents will have an opportunity to attend. If anyone wishes to join me, my family, and friends, they can give their names to Mrs. Clifford.

NV: How do your family members and fellow educators feel about you receiving such a prestigious award?

ATF: My family of course is delighted for me. They were the people who supported and encouraged me on this journey. My mother was my biggest supporter. She insisted that her only daughter among three sons was going to get a college education. When I went on to advanced degrees, she was thrilled at my ambition. She may not be physically here today, but I know that she will be with me in spirit as I received this award. My friends and colleagues always were my support team. Many of them called not only to congratulate me, but to tell me that they will be at the award dinner. If it were not for many of them, my mentors, I do not think I would have come this far in my vocation as an educator.

NV: When you were in high school, what were your dreams and ambitions?

ATF: While in high school I was inspired by many of my teachers. I was lucky. I had the Sisters of St. Joseph for my entire educational experience, through college. They always seemed to care for all of us. Their daily encouragement gave us the ability to persevere and be successful. I guess that is when the seed was planted. There are two things that I am proud of in my lifetime: one is being a mother; the other is being a teacher.

NV: What are your dreams for the future of St. Joseph Hill

Academy?

ATF: The Daughters of Divine Charity started the path that girls are on today. St. Joseph Hill is a unique place. The students are focused and want to achieve. They are well-rounded and juggle a number of things during their days. They are community-minded and use opportunities presented to them to give to those who need them. I want Hill to continue to grow so that the girls that pass through here will influence the world that they are in and make it a better place.

NV: What advice can you give to students who are aspiring to become educators?

ATF: Be an educator!! What better influence can you be than working with a child? It gives back to you over and over. It make you a better person -- and the thrill of watching a student understand something she/he wouldn't have if it were not for you, that makes you feel that you have made a change in that student's life. I love working with teenagers. They help you understand the world in which they live.

I have a box of notes from my students over the years. When I have a bad day I take them out and re-read them. You have no idea how a simple "thank you" reminds you that you are here for a reason and that you have made a mark on someone.

Drive Home the Message of Texting while Driving with Teens

By Meghan Harnett



Getting into a car accident is the last thing on a teenage driver's mind when she goes to answer a text message, but the fact is that a 2008 poll taken by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration showed 16% of all fatal crashes in that year were a result of driver distraction. That means 16% of the accidents that happened in 2008 could have been prevented if the drivers just kept their eyes on the road.

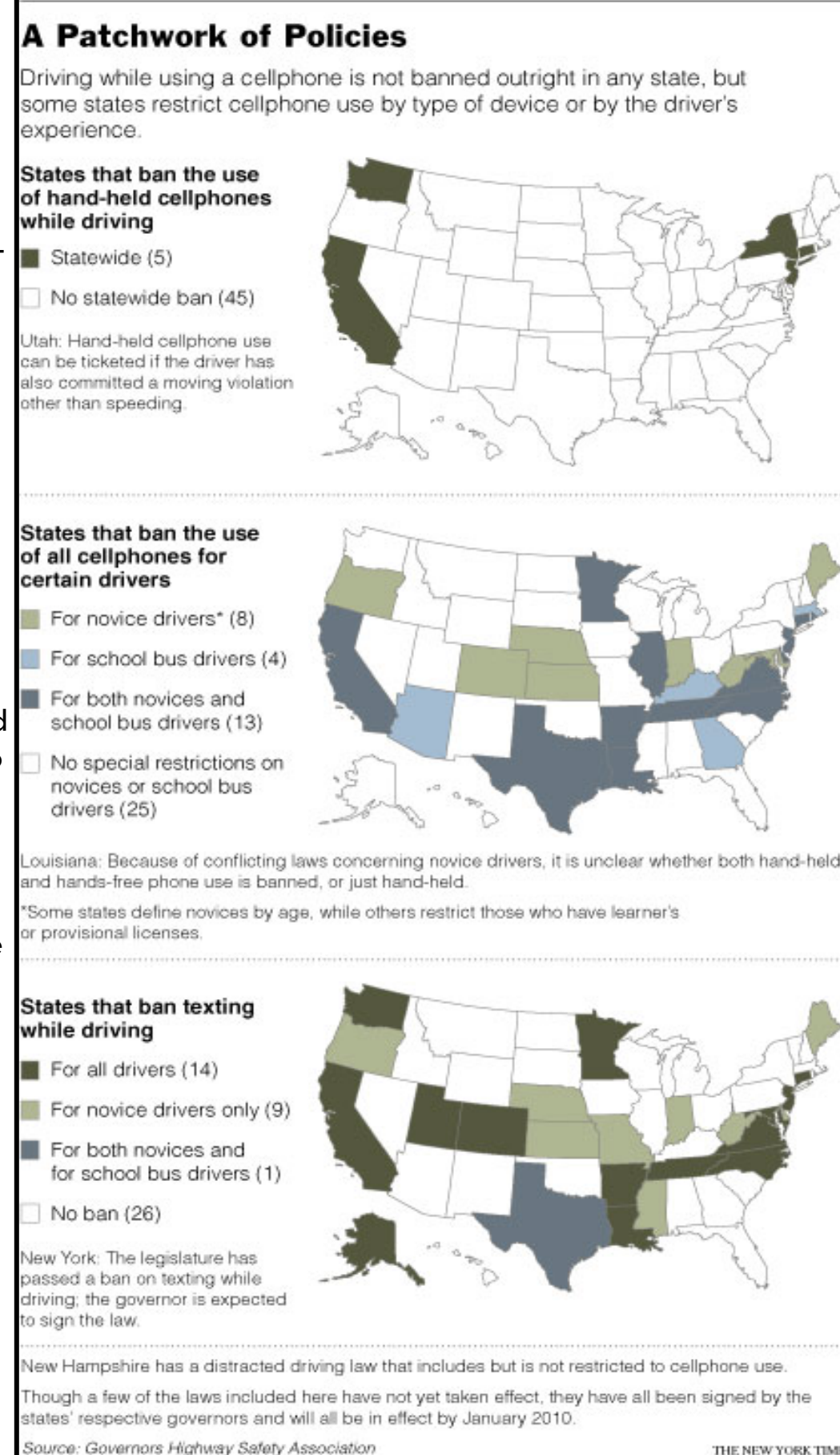
Mr. Al Teutonico, a Driver's Ed teacher, has said that with the teens just learning how to drive in general, adding a cell phone and texting while they drive just brings more danger to them and he says, "It's an obvious danger... Using your eyes and your hands to text - it's just an accident waiting to happen." High school junior, Diana Magnani, is taking her road test for the first time in a few weeks. She's excited to drive and she is aware of the dangers of driving while texting. When asked about her views on texting and driving she said that she thinks it's terrible, "Even when I'm in the Drivers Ed car and I hear my phone vibrate, I get really nervous and then all of a sudden my focus is distracted... wondering who the text is from, but then, I say 'Wait I'm driving I have to focus.'" It's no question that texting and driving is not safe.

In an article from KING 5 News in Olympia, Washington, a 24 year old driver lost control of her car driving down a state route which resulted in her crashing into another car injuring the other driver and killing herself. The Troopers investigating found an open cell phone in the wreckage determining this was the cause of the accident. *Good Morning America* did a story in July 2007 where five western New York cheerleaders died in a car accident when they were on their way to celebrate their recent graduation. The authorities are now saying texting may have been the cause of the horrific accident. Another horrible example was reported in *The Gothamist* that a 53-year-old Brooklyn deliveryman was announced brain dead in September 2010 after a teen driver, who had been texting, struck him while he was making a turn on his scooter. Many states have laws against texting and driving. In 2010, a number of states have signed new cell

phone and texting while driving laws. In Connecticut, former Governor Jodi Rell has signed Senate Bill 427 into law that says a driver will receive a ticket if he/she sends, types or reads a text message or uses any electronic device while the vehicle is moving. In April 2010, Kentucky Governor, Steve Beshear, signed the new law prohibiting drivers under 18 years old years from texting or using a cell phone while driving a car. Text messaging is banned in thirty states and the District of Columbia for all drivers, in eight states for novice drivers and is banned in two states for school bus operators, according to Highway Safety Research and Communications. In our own state of New York, the use of handheld phones and texting is banned for all drivers.

(See Diagram)

Awareness of this growing problem is being spread. Among many videos and articles, AT&T has a new ten-minute documentary called "The Last Text", showing stories of real people whose lives have been greatly affected by texting while driving. On Oprah.com, Oprah Winfrey has dedicated a section of her website to the cause of awareness called *No Phone Zone*. The section has many articles about texting and driving awareness, tributes to many of the victims injured or killed in accidents. In April of 2009 an online pledge was created declaring one will not text while driving. As of February 23, 2011, there have been 420,402 people who have made the pledge. The Allstate Foundation has a website, www.keepthedrive.com, whose mission is to educate young drivers and their parents about the dangers of unsafe driving. Parents and teens can visit the website and learn of Distracting Driving Facts, Driving Laws and Teen Driving Facts, among other things.



From the Editors' Desk

Well it's hard to believe that a whole half a year is already gone! By this point the freshmen are getting used to life at Hill and have already made friendships that will last them through their high school experience and the rest of their lives. For the seniors, the insane college search is almost over and graduation is only a few short months away. To the sophomores and juniors, the only advice we can give is to make the most of the rest of your time at Hill!

So much has happened during the past few months! We welcomed the photography club to the Hill community and have been awed by their skill. The seniors' Harvest Happening event included a talented skit that is sure to be remembered for years to come. The Drama Club performed a wonderful rendition of High School Musical, with leads by seniors Kimberly Onah, Amanda Delalla, Marisa Tornello, and Gabrielle Ardilino, and junior Victoria Volpe. This was also the first year that Ms. D'Ermilio invited elementary school students to try out for male roles. In December the Hill Singers put on their annual, and greatly successful, Christmas Coffee House.

There is still so much to look forward to, however, which is sure to make the rest of the year memorable! Under the leadership of our co-presidents Melissa Bartone and Elyse Crescitelli, SJHA will be taking part in our third annual "Color Wars" in April. The seniors are bursting with excitement over their planned trip to Disney this May and, over the Easter Break, some students will be touring the beautiful country of Spain with Mr. DeLisa and Ms. Levy as part of their academic enrichment.

We hope that everyone has a fantastic year!

Nicolette Vasile
Editor-in-Chief

Sarah Kneeshaw
Editor



Nicolette Vasile



Sarah Kneeshaw

A Day in the Life of a Hill Senior

By Sarah Kneeshaw

A day in the life of a senior at Saint Joseph Hill Academy is a lot like a day in the life of a junior, sophomore, or freshman at Saint Joseph Hill. Unlike most other high schools, we still end school at 2:45. If you're lucky, you'll finish classes at 1:17, but that still puts you about an hour later than some other schools; for example, many seniors at Saint John Villa Academy end classes at 12:45. While many high school seniors suffer from "senioritis," seniors at Hill can't afford to slack off in senior year. We are still the same stressed-out girls we always were, only with different sweaters.

Being a senior isn't all bad. There are the senior privileges, such as a study period in the Social Hall and dress-down days on the first Friday of the month. And of course, we are all looking forward to the senior class trip to Disney World. But even with these privileges, there is always the

stress of college applications. Luckily, we have Mrs. Sullivan. While most seniors at other schools are currently waiting to hear responses from school, many seniors at Hill already have. In fact, some have even been received their scholarship packages. This makes senior year a lot less stressful.

Senior year at Hill goes faster than any other year. It seems like just yesterday my senior sweater arrived, and now it's almost graduation! Even though senior year may not be as relaxed as it is at other schools, working hard will definitely pay off in the future. Senior year at Hill isn't all about work though; it's also about making great memories with the friends I have made over the last four years. I will always remember my last Harvest Happening, my last Pep Rally, as well as senior events such as the Senior Tree Planting. My last three years at Hill have been great, and so far my senior year has been even better.



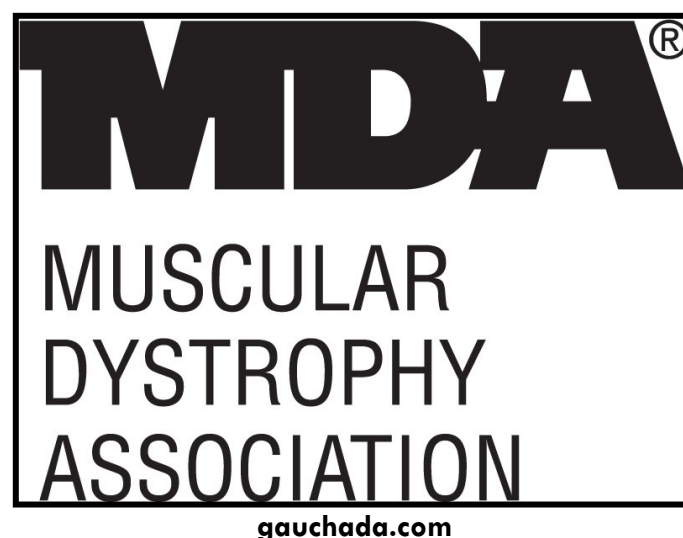
MDA ~ Its All For the Kids!

By Erika Larsen

Imagine hearing a child say, "If I had one wish, it would be that I could walk again. But I know that isn't going to happen." Now imagine having the opportunity to bring that child hope. Each year, the MDA SuperDance Committee strives to bring hope to those affected by muscular dystrophy. The highly-awaited event is this Saturday. This year's 28th annual SuperDance, held at Msgr. Farrell High School, will last from 3 PM – 1 AM. Although it is never too late to join, non-committee members can attend by donating \$75 at the door, which goes towards funding research or getting children much-needed medical help.

A year of planning goes into the SuperDance, making for incredible event each year. This year's carnival theme will create a spectacular night with games, over-the-top decorations, plenty of food, and – of course – boys. The dancers, DJ, and music set the stage for an incredible night of dancing. Don't like to dance? The carnival games, food, and desserts are enough to make even a non-dancer have an amazing time at the SuperDance.

Although each year is another race to beat last year's record, the true goal is helping children living with muscular dystrophy and their families. **All the funds raised** go to aid over 250 families on Staten Island by funding research, clinics, equipment, and a summer camp for children. So, ladies, make sure you plan on coming to the much-anticipated SuperDance on March 5th. You'll have a fantastic night, and it only takes one muscle to make a difference – your heart.



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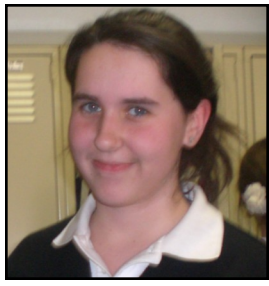
Campus Ministry

Melissa Bartone

Senior

Kelly Suprenant

Senior



Hill Blues— The Uniform from a Former Public Student's Perspective

By Gabrielle Courtien

Throughout middle school, I would have to write essays about the pros and cons of wearing a uniform. One hundred percent of the time, I was anti-uniform. I believed that when a school administrator told the students what clothes to wear, the students' right to free expression was taken away from them. As eighth grade approached, I secretly swore to myself I would never wear a school uniform.

Everything changed, however, when I was accepted to Saint Joseph Hill. I was going to have to wear a uniform whether I liked it or not. I was dreading getting my postman blue skirt and heavy sweater in the mail. I was jealous of my friends who were going to public school and wouldn't have to wear uniforms. My family tried to convince me that wearing the same clothes as every other Hill girl wouldn't be so bad. I didn't agree. I always liked picking out my clothes in the morning and differentiating myself from my classmates. Wearing a uniform would put an end to one of my favorite morning activities—picking out what outfit to wear for the upcoming school day.

My sister, a student at Hill, was so excited when I got my uniform. I, unfortunately, did not share her enthusiasm. I didn't want to wear what I believed to be a dull and uncomfortable uniform. It was the summer before my Freshman year of high school and already I couldn't wait until I graduated so that I could dress how I wanted to again.

The uniform, with all of Hill's regulations about how the uniform has to be worn on a daily basis, was a big adjustment for me. I now realize, though, why everyone told me that wearing uniforms is easier than choosing your own clothes every day. I don't have to be stressed about what I am wearing to school and I don't have to worry about being judged

by what I'm wearing. While I still think that uniforms limit self-expression a little bit, I have definitely learned to live with them. Every graduate from Hill has survived the uniform, so I think I can handle it. I know I would like to be able to wear my own clothes every day, but I am not going to let that ruin my time here at Hill. I have realized that the uniform isn't that bad. In fact, I actually enjoy wearing it.

I am extremely excited for the rest of my first year at Hill. I think every freshman had to make a big adjustment, whether it's about the uniform or not. Even my sister, who is now a senior, had to adjust to life at Hill, despite her desire to go to Hill from a young age and that she loved the uniform from her first day. This experience has taught me a lot about myself and how I should approach new opportunities. If you don't like or are unsure of something, you should go in with an open mind. The thing you hated at first could end up being something you really like. Good luck everyone, and have a great rest of the year!



Kathleen and Gabrielle Courtien

Photo By Nicolette Vasile

Parents, Pressure, and You

By Rossana Cruciana, "Dr. Hill"

Let's face it, SJHA is a tough school. We strive for good grades, acceptance into college, and a social life, but sometimes we fall short. We begin to worry about what our parents will say to us about our marks. When we do poorly, our parents scold us. Bye-bye Friday night! What about when we do well? Do we ever get a pat on the back? It still doesn't stop them from comparing us to our older siblings. By now, you must be asking: "Well, Doctor Hill, what am I to do?" Don't fret; I've got the remedy to solve all your problems.

In a recent study, 44% of teens said they are under pressure to do well at school, but just 34% of parents think their kids feel that way. That means that a vast majority of your parents think that you don't feel any pressure from them to do well. When you are under stress, you are most likely to do worse, despite all the studying you've done to prepare. If you can tell your parents face-to-face how you feel, they'll realize you are mature enough to receive good grades without giving you pressure to obtain high scores. Once they see

you can do this on your own, you will receive the congratulations you worked hard to deserve! Talk to your parents. Tell them that you really are trying your hardest to excel, and the added pressure they are placing on you is causing you stress.

If you have a sibling going through high school or college who receives better grades than you, you've probably heard it a million times: "Amy got a 100%, why can't you do that?" or "Why can't you do as well as John?" Well, the answer is simple: You just can't. You're not them, and you will never be. You and your sibling are two completely different people. You have your own strengths and weaknesses. Who cares if you're not as good as your brother or sister? What you want to do is be the best you can be for yourself. Your parents need to realize your strength and independence in order for you to achieve your goals.



Service Day: A Hill Tradition

By Nicolette Vasile

In late January, St. Joseph Hill Academy participated in its second annual Hill Day of Service. The event was a huge success and served as a testament to the remarkable nature of the Hilltoppers. Girls spent the day volunteering at various nonprofit organizations in Staten Island, Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens. Not only did the girls' work benefit those whom they served, but the students also gained valuable knowledge and experience while performing their duties.

Sarah Kneeshaw, a senior who volunteered at St. Clare's Elementary School, said that her time spent in a seventh grade classroom gave her a new appreciation for all of the hard work that teachers and school administrators do on a daily basis.

Gabrielle Courtien, a freshman who worked with a local elementary school's yearbook club, said that she enjoyed teaching the students how to work with the computer. She was thrilled that her hard work would "help to make the students' final year at their elementary school memorable."

Rossana Cruciana, a senior who volunteered at St. Edward's Food Pantry, said that the experience changed her perception of the Island's poor. Because of Service Day, she is now able to "appreciate the fact that there are so many people that are willing to dedicate their time to those in need of basic necessities like food and clothing."

Many Hilltoppers enjoyed their Service Day assignments so much that they have agreed to volunteer regularly at the nonprofits which they served. With so many people in need during these tough economic times, their service will certainly be appreciated.

If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity, Please see Ms. Paladino in the Service Office on the 3rd Floor.

Registration for Summer Service Trips will take place this month:

Aug. 13th to Ohio (Franciscans for the Poor) Aug. 20th to Tennessee (Habitat for Humanity)



elizabeth.rce

Spirituality Corner

By Sister Denise

Mother Franciska House of Prayer, is located on the St. Joseph Hill Academy Campus at 205 Major Ave., Staten Island, NY 10305. The mission of the Mother Franciska House of Prayer is to provide spiritual opportunities for adults and youth. Some of the events planned are:

KNOW THE GOD YOU SERVE – Spirituality and Morality – a 3 week series given by Mr. Ed Bradley on Thursdays, February 17th, 24th, and March 3rd from 7-9 PM. In the modern day, we hear many people question whether anyone can know the answer to moral questions. The answer is linked to our ability to know God. Knowing God is the first step to knowing how God wants us to act.

MEDITATION MONDAYS which are held on the second Monday of each month from 7:30 – 9:00 PM. Grace Daquila, who is well known for her work in retreats facilitates these evenings. All adults male and female are welcome to come and spend some time reflecting on how God is working in their lives.

Our next series will be given by **Melissa Lanza on Tuesdays, March 8th, 22nd, and 29th from 7-8 PM. We will be reflecting on her book, *IN HIS PRESENCE* which can be purchased at www.inmypresence.net or www.amazon.com or www.barnesandnoble.com.**

There will be a **Lenten Retreat on Monday, March 21st, from 7-9 PM. The theme of the retreat is: "Desolation/Transformation"** and it will be given by Colleen Kelly Rayner and Grace Daquila. The fee is \$20/person.

Sister Josita DiVita, FDC will be giving a three week Lenten Series on Tuesdays, April 5, 12, and 19th from 7-8 PM.

On Wednesday, May 4th, Colleen Kelly Rayner and Grace Daquila will give a retreat on Mary, our Mother from 9 AM – 2 PM. Lunch will be served. The fee is \$25/person.

The suggested donation for evenings is \$10/person unless otherwise noted.

Overnight donations are \$20/person

Refreshments will be served. RSVP to Sr. Denise at srdenise1@hotmail.com or 718-727-5700 in advance of each event.



Melissa Bartone:



Contributed By Nicolette Vasile

Interviews with Hill Students

By Gurnistar Singh

Kelly Suprenant



GS: What inspired you to become the head of Student Council?

MB: After being a part of Student Council for two years, I realized that I love to be able to work directly with administration and to organize events that can make this school very enjoyable for everyone.

GS: What difficulties did you have to face before and after becoming the head of Student Council?

MB: The only difficulty that I had to deal with was time management. Being head of Student Council is extremely time consuming. At the same time that I was beginning my year as President, the college process was also beginning. At the same time I also had to maintain my GPA!

GS: What are your plans for the school year?

MB: Aside from many of the traditional activities done by Student Council here at Hill such as the Christmas Coffee House, I intend to bring some new events to the school, such as a "Hill's Got Talent" event for all of those who deserve their chance to shine. I also intend to make each and every one of my peers enjoy her year here at Hill as much as she can.

GS: Do you plan on doing something new that we haven't done in the past?

MB: Yes. For example, one event that was never done before was the "Amazing Race" night in October. Other things include elections for Student of the Month and "Hill's Got Talent" later in February.

GS: What have you learned/experienced as the head of Student Council?

MB: Before I was elected into office, I knew that there was a certain level of maturity as well as dedication required for this position. Yet I did not realize how intense it was until the year actually started. I have learned that hard work does repay you in the end and to never give up. No matter how much work is in store, you have to just stay focused, organized, and keep an optimistic attitude because, ultimately, you will feel accomplished with your success.

GS: What is your best moment at Hill?

MB: This might be the hardest question you could have asked me. I could go ahead and say that being elected into office was the best day, but that would be just one piece to the amazing puzzle of my life that has been created because of Hill. The fact that I was given the opportunity to be the president of this school is something I thank God for every day. I love this school along with each and every person in it and genuinely enjoy making every Hilltopper happy. Each moment I spend here with my friends as well as my teachers is a moment that I cherish because I know I am going to miss it very much.

GS: How do you feel now that your book is being considered for publication?

KS: Alternately terrified, excited, and nonchalant. At first I was so incredibly scared of rejection, but now I try not to think about the book too much. I want to be an author, so this is going to become my life. You can't have that career and fear rejection. As for publication, I'm trying not to get my hopes up. The rejections will come, but they're necessary. They show people that you're trying.

GS: What inspired you to write a book?

KS: I don't know if I could say I was inspired. I've been writing since I was about nine, and I've just kept trying to hit an idea that I would be able to carry through and form a plot around. In eight years I've gotten lucky twice, and *Smashed* is the product of my second stroke of luck.

GS: Was Saint Joseph Hill Academy an inspiration for you? Did it help you write your book?

KS: Yes. Tremendously. The thing is I wasn't aware of that until the first draft was done and I had to start editing. Before I came here and started taking serious English classes I never knew how many layers there are to a novel. As I read through what I've written I'm always surprised at how much of what I've learned at Hill has left its mark on the manuscript.

GS: Are any characters or events based on your life at Hill?

KS: You know, that's something that I tried to do when I first started out. I think all writers go through that. But no. Not now. I've found that writing is the most fun when I'm creating my own characters. As for the events, so much of being a writer comes from being able to create a gap between yourself and your story. I don't think I could mix the two together.

GS: What are your hopes for the future?

KS: I want to get a BFA in Writing, Literature, and Publishing. I want to keep reading all that I can get my hands on and hopefully continue to learn and develop my craft.

GS: What is your best moment at hill?

KS: This interview. I'm serious. I've never felt quite so famous in my life.

Interview with Mrs. Tirone

By Meghan Harnett

Everybody remembers their first day of high school. You are nervous, excited, and scared. You wonder what it's going to be like. Well, new teachers coming to Hill often experience the same anxiety. Mrs. Tirone, the new Junior English teacher and College Advisor, is giving us a peek at a teacher's first day of school.

What made Mrs. Tirone choose to teach at Hill in the first place?

"I was always impressed with Hill from the work I did with the school when I was at St. John's University. The faculty and staff were always so professional and so cooperative with the College Advantage Program. When I visited Hill about two years ago, I was impressed with the beautiful campus and I had a great feeling about the students and faculty as I walked around. So, when I was offered the opportunity to teach at Hill, I was thrilled."

Now that Mrs. Tirone is here, she says that the school has surpassed her expectations! We all would be proud to know that at the Opening Mass she was very impressed that we all knew our mission statement. Later in the year, Mrs. Tirone was again moved by how we expressed our school spirit and the energy we put into making Harvest Happening such a great celebration. Just like every new student, Mrs. Tirone says she was nervous and did not know what to expect on her first day at Hill. Now that she's here and knows the students, she likes how nice, respectful, eager and interested to learn we all are. In addition, all the service and volunteer work we do has greatly impressed Mrs. Tirone.

What were Mrs. Tirone's own high school days like? She grew up on Staten Island and

attended St. Peter's Girls High School. She got involved in her school was by joining the cheerleading team and Student Council. Her favorite year in high school was junior year and her favorite subject was, no surprise, English! Her advice to new students: "Get involved!"



Photo By Nicolette Vasile



Contributed By silive.com



Politics

A Hill Student's Experience on a Political Campaign

By Allison Carbonaro

Staten Islanders woke up to the news of a new congressman November 3, 2010. Incumbent Congressman Michael E. McMahon lost the election for Congressional representative of New York's thirteenth congressional district to GOP Tea Party favorite Michael Grimm.

Although this seemed like a fatal blow for the Staten Island Democratic Party for interns who spent countless hours of their summer in McMahon's campaign headquarters, the experience gained was invaluable. Several Hill students took advantage of the opportunities these internships had to offer. Interns were able to attend events with the congressman and interact with constituents, allowing them to gain a greater sense of what issues are really pressing in their community. Although some citizens were not very receptive and some were just rude, Hill students gained a greater respect for Staten Islanders and the struggles that face them every day.

Interns were also given the chance to meet and speak to Former President Bill Clinton, not exactly a typical summertime activity for most high school students.

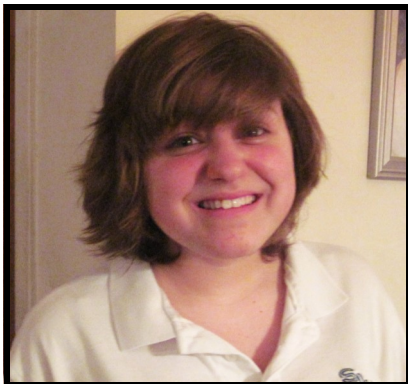
When they weren't brushing elbows with leaders of the free world, the interns on the McMahon team made thousands of phone calls, knocked on doors, and mailed out thousands of letters, all in an effort to fight voter apathy and growing discontent here on Staten Island. Some may not have realized it at the time, but Hill students were given a unique inside look at the political system of which many did not have extensive knowledge prior to their first days on the job. While trying to spread the word about McMahon's policies, they gained an

in-depth knowledge of the political system from a different perspective, most Americans will ever come to know.

Michael Grimm, Former Marine and FBI agent, was sworn into office in January, joining many of his fellow Republicans in the newly GOP-dominated House of Representatives.



Contributed By nylcv.org (left) and Allison Carbonaro (right)



Book Review

By Nicole Derosa

Tuesdays With Morrie ~ By Mitch Albom

"You close your eyes. Sometimes you cannot believe what you see, you have to believe what you feel. And if you're ever going to have other people trust you, you must feel that you can trust them too—even when you are in the dark. Even when you're falling." (61)

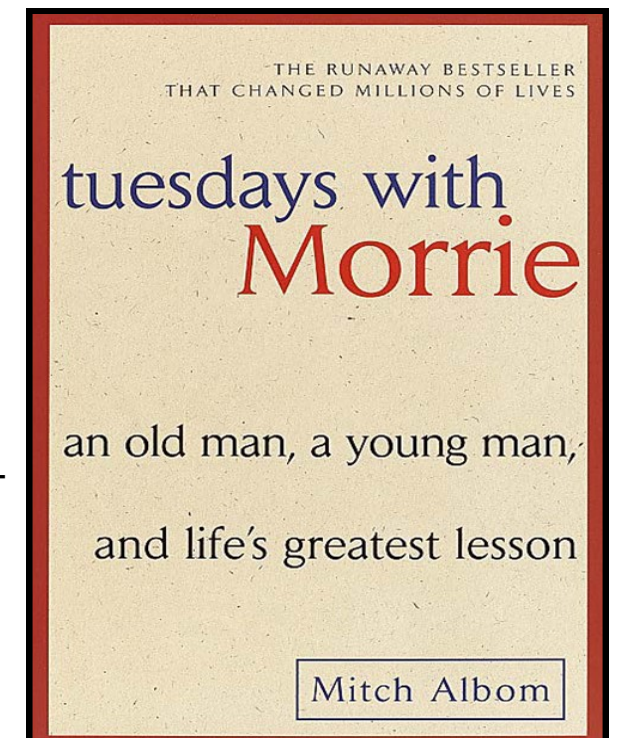
~Morrie

This novel tells a story of a man named Mitch and his former college professor Morrie. During college, Mitch became very close with his teacher. He thought of Morrie as a friend and mentor. Mitch took every class Morrie taught, and cites them as some of his favorites. They met up for lunch occasionally and, every Tuesday, Morrie helped Mitch write his final thesis essay. Eventually, Mitch graduated and established a prosperous career for himself. Years later he heard about Morrie falling horribly ill. He dropped everything to rush to see his former professor.

Although the novel sounds depressing, it is anything but. Morrie's shared life experiences inspire Mitch to live his life to the fullest. Remarka-

bly, the book is based on a true story. The character Morrie is eccentric and unforgettable. He seems to think over every small matter in a new and original light. Throughout the entire story, Morrie is upbeat and grateful for everything in his life. Even when he is sick, Morrie considers himself lucky and continues to teach.

This novel is like a handbook for the trials of life. Through Morrie, it shows that it is never too late to change the course of your life. He implores everyone to appreciate what they have, before it's too late. I would recommend this novel to anybody. Although the novel is relatively short, it has an amazingly powerful message. The story takes an extremely important lesson and reworks it to relate to audiences through humor and drama. My only regret is that Morrie wasn't around for a few more pages, with more life lessons to share. Overall, I'd give the novel an A.



pualifestyle.com

Hill Pride: A Look at Hill's Sports Victories

Special Thanks To Mrs. Philipps

- ♦ The Varsity Soccer Team emerged victorious with a record of 10-0. They are the Staten Island Champions.
- ♦ The JV Soccer Team received 2nd Place in the league.
- ♦ Congratulations to Victoria Chirico, Samantha Wysockowski, and Meghan Siller who were named Advance All Stars for Soccer!



- ♦ The SJHA Swim Team finished 3rd Place in the league.
- ♦ Congratulations to Colleen McDonough (1st – 200 Individual Medley), Sophie deFreitas (1st in 100 Back and 500 Freestyle), and Angela Monfiletto (Freestyle) who were named A Champs by the Staten Island Advance!



To Be Announced

- ♦ The Basketball Team is just finishing up their season.
- ♦ Cheerleading is preparing for their CSI Competition on March 5th and their Fordham Competition on March 19th.
- ♦ A special thanks to Mrs. Phillips and Mrs. Mayrose for their outstanding work in the Hill Athletic Department.
- ♦ Spring Sports will begin in March, so make sure you try out and support our teams later in the season!



- ♦ The Varsity Volleyball Team became Staten Island Champions and State "A" Semifinalists. Their victory record was 11-1.
- ♦ The JV Volleyball Team finished 2nd place in the league.
- ♦ Congratulations to Nicole Gundacker and Victoria Procopio who were named Advance All Stars for Volleyball!

Quidditch: Not Just for Wizards Anymore

By Sarah Kneeshaw

Quidditch, a game well known to *Harry Potter* fans everywhere, has come to the non-wizarding world. Quidditch, or Muggle Quidditch as it is officially known, began in 2005 at Middlebury College in Vermont. The rules were adapted from the *Harry Potter* novels for the real world by the first Muggle Quidditch commissioner, Alexander Manshel. In 2007, the second Quidditch commissioner, Alex Benepe, founded the International Quidditch Association. Today, there are teams in 45 states, as well as in Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Peru, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, India, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand.



Muggle Quidditch is a mix of dodgeball, basketball, and rugby- and, of course, a little bit of *Harry Potter* magic. Seven players on each team run down the field trying to toss the quaffle, a kickball, through the goal post, which is basically a hula hoop attached to a PVC pipe. Seems easy, right? Now let's add in the *Harry Potter* element: players must always be on their brooms; if the broom touches the ground, the player is taken out of the game for 15 seconds. Still think Quidditch doesn't sound that difficult? Well, add the beaters, players whose job it is to throw more kickballs- called bludgers- at the other players. And there's always the chance another player will tackle you. To make the game even more difficult, there are over 700 rules a player must learn. Even with all this, Muggle Quidditch is surprisingly easy to follow.

November 13 and 14, 2010 marked the Fourth Annual Quidditch World Cup. Forty-six teams totaling 757 athletes gathered in DeWitt Clinton Park in Manhattan, for a two day tournament. The World Cup was attended by hundreds of fans, including actor Michael Emerson, best known for his role as Ben Linus on the hit show *Lost*. After two days of intense game play, the final championship game between Middlebury College, defending champions, and Tufts University began. Although both teams played their hardest, Middlebury

took the lead. Eventually, the Tufts team's Seeker caught the Snitch, ending the match even though they didn't have enough points to win. Middlebury College became the 2010 Quidditch World Cup champion. Muggle Quidditch is growing in popularity, and has proven to be a sport that can be enjoyed by everyone, not just *Harry Potter* fans.



Both Photos Contributed By Sarah Kneeshaw

Movie Review:

Life As We Know It

By Meghan Harnett

After the tragic death of one-year-old Sophie's parents, she is left in the care of their best friends, Holly and Messer. Too bad for them that after an awful blind date three years ago, they can't stand to be in the same room with one another. For little Sophie's sake, though, the two have to put their differences aside and raise Sophie under one roof. The movie catalogues the first year of Holly and Messer's surrogate parenthood. The unlikely pair must learn to deal with each other's shortcomings and do what is best for their newly adopted daughter, all while attempting to have personal lives. Along the way, the two discover something that they could never imagine would even be possible.

The *Life As We Know It* cast - Katherine Heigl as Holly Berenson and Josh Duhamel as Eric Messer - had fantastic chemistry. Heigl and Duhamel gave hysterical and surprisingly believable

performances. The supporting actors were as memorable and funny as the leads. From the crazy neighbors to the annoying social worker, they were always there with a cute little joke. The movie, however, is not a typical comedy. Although you do get a few good laughs, the script isn't the most creative thing to hit the silver screen. In addition, the plot is rather ridiculous - a control freak and a slob living in the same house. Haven't we heard this one before?

Don't be turned off though; *Life As We Know It* is definitely a cute movie if you're not looking to watch anything mind-blowing. I wouldn't buy the DVD, but it would be great to rent it from On Demand or Netflix for a movie night with friends. Over all, I rated this 3½ stars out of 5.



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Concert Review

Rihanna—*Last Girl On Earth* Tour

By: Nicole Rosati

Over the summer, the hit sensation Rihanna went on her first tour across North America. Ke\$ha and Travie McCoy, pop sensations themselves, opened for the star. I was fortunate enough to get tickets for Rihanna's sold-out concert at Madison Square Garden on August 12. It was an amazing experience! The night was filled with energy and fans couldn't stop singing along to every song!

The show began with Travie McCoy singing his hit song "Billionaire" and several other songs from his album "Lazarus," including "Superbad" and "We'll Be Alright." As soon as his set was finished, Ke\$ha came out singing her hit "Blah Blah Blah." She went on to sing several other hits from her album "Animal," including her #1 hit "Tik Tok."

Before Rihanna's performance commenced, a video titled "Dreams and Nightmares" played on the screens. Then Rihanna appeared on stage in a black and red light-up dress and sang "Russian Roulette." She also performed a beautiful rendition of "Hard" on top of a pink army tank and "Don't Stop the Music" in a glow-in-the-dark cube. During her performance of "Rockstar," Rihanna played air guitar as small fireballs flew down onto the stage. During "Te Amo," Rihanna and two other dancers performed an ac-

robatic show as they twisted through the air. It was easily the most dramatic concert I've ever scene.

"Rude Boy" and "Rehab" were two of Rihanna's best performances. I also enjoyed her acoustic cover of B.O.B.'s "Airplanes" and the chorus from Eminem's #1 single "Love the Way You Lie." In addition, Rihanna sang a part of "The Glamorous Life" by Sheila E., complete with her own drum solo!

Rihanna ended her show with "Take a Bow" before taking a bow herself and leaving the stage. A few minutes later, Rihanna surprised us all with an encore performance of "Wait Your Turn," a song composed of various parts from her hits "Live Your Life" and "Run This Town," and "Umbrella." As it was storming outside, most of the audience had brought umbrellas to the concert. While Rihanna sang "Umbrella," the members of the audience took out their umbrellas and waved them in the air as confetti flew down. It was a fabulous night!

Rihanna's new album "Loud" and Ke\$ha's new album "Cannibal" came out in November. Each album already has several songs currently being played on the Radio. Both are available on iTunes for purchase.



celebrity-mania

Television Review

Psych—To Watch or Not To Watch

Rossana Cruciatà

TV viewers all have that one special show around which their lives revolve, like *Modern Family*, *The Office*, *Community*, *Cash Cab*, etc. Often these viewers are too apprehensive to explore beyond the channels of their must-see show. The question “To watch or not to watch?” arises. In the case of the TV show *Psych*, the answer is, most definitely, “To watch.”



farsi3001.blogspot.com

Solving crimes is a serious business—sort of. *Psych* stars James Roday as Shawn Spencer and Dulé Hill as Burton ‘Gus’ Guster. Shawn is an eccentric fake psychic detective who works for the Santa Barbara Police Department. Gus is his best friend. Shawn and Gus are always finding themselves in dangerous situations in an effort to solve crimes, at which they are very successful.

Psych is a comedy-packed show that will have you laughing out loud. It is filled with ridiculously comical conversations, like the following:

Receptionist: There is a Lt. Crunch here to see you.

Gus: Crunch?

Shawn: [enters, dressed in a Civil War uniform] Actually, I’ve been promoted. It’s Captain Crunch.

The show also contains a little romance, like that between Shawn and detective Juliet O’Hara. The viewer is always wondering if they will ever be together. In the first episode of the fifth season, which aired on November 10, Shawn and Juliet finally became a couple.

Tune in to watch *Psych* on USA every Wednesday at 10 PM. It will be your new must see show.

Music Review

Body Talk Parts 1, 2, and 3

By Anna Iovine



If you want to listen to an edgy pop album with electronic undertones, Robyn’s *Body Talk* Pts. 1 and 2 definitely fit the bill. Since her debut album in 1997, Robyn has been producing electro-pop albums praised by critics and admirers alike. *Body Talk* is no exception.

Parts 1 and 2 of *Body Talk* are pieces of a trilogy. Part 1 was released in June 2010 and was quickly followed by Part 2 in September of the same year. Both albums reached number one on the charts in her native country of Sweden, and gained immense popularity in the United States.

The final installment of the trilogy was released in late November. The three sections of *Body Talk* hold true to Robyn’s bold and eccentric style. Each album has a distinct sound. Some songs have heavy beats with powerful lyrics, such as her new single “Dancing On My Own.” Other songs simply showcase in Robyn’s incredible voice, such as “Hang With Me.”

Regardless of musical taste, Robyn’s album will have something for everyone to enjoy. Whether electro-pop is your genre of choice or not, *Body Talk* is worth checking out. If her impressive rhythms and remarkable voice don’t make you a fan, her fantastic lyrics will. I would definitely recommend this trilogy to everyone who’s looking to try something new and different from traditional pop.

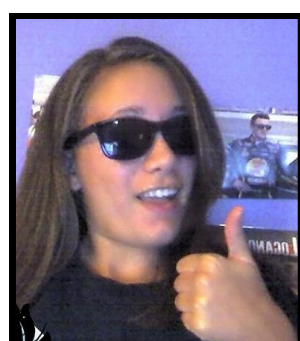


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Music Review

Speak Now

By: Ashley Schindler

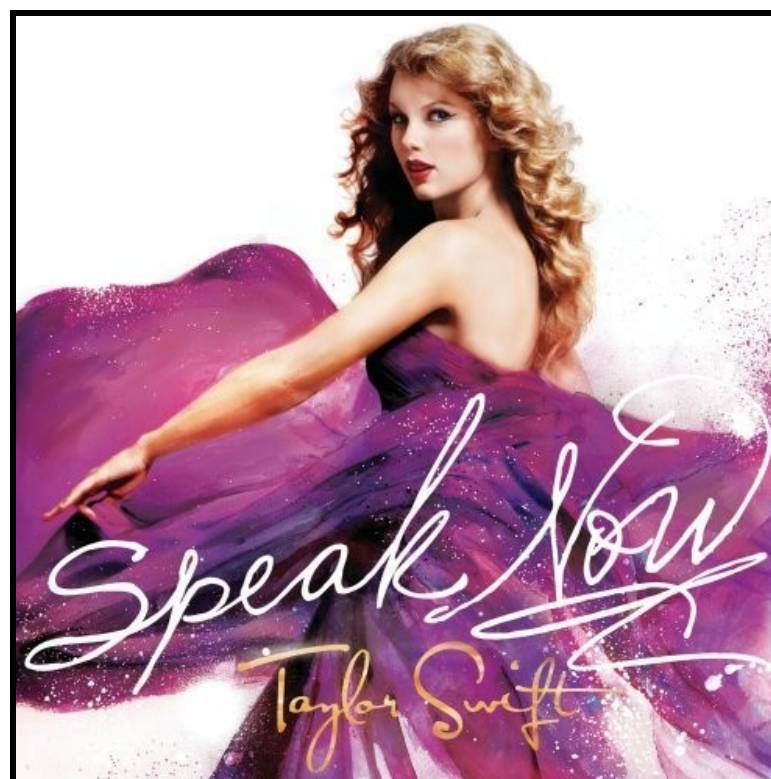


You can ask any teenage girl if she knows of Taylor Swift and she will most likely be able to rattle off a few bars of one of Swift’s many hit songs. She’ll probably tell you how Taylor’s lyrics explain almost anything she’s feeling, whether she’s in a good mood, bad mood, frustrated, angry over a breakup, or hates her ex-boyfriend’s new girlfriend. It seems as if for any teenager, Taylor Swift’s songs are the soundtracks to their turbulent lives.

On October 25, 2010, Taylor Swift’s third and most recent album, *Speak Now*, came out. Taylor’s typical style of music includes slow beats and quiet lyrics, but this album is the complete opposite! Of course, there are a few more traditional songs such as Swift’s hit “Back to December,” “Dear John,” and “Innocent.” But the majority are quite unusual for Taylor.

Almost all of the songs on this album are extremely personal and somehow pertain to Taylor’s life. For example, “Mine” is about how she always runs away from love instead of sticking relationships out in times of trouble. “Sparks Fly” talks about forbidden love and lust. “Back to December,” however, is possibly the most personal song on the entire album. In fact, rumor has it that the song was written about actor Taylor Lautner.

As a whole, I deeply enjoyed *Speak Now*. Its songs, which possess both fantastic instrumentals and lyrics, are perfect to listen to whether you are doing your homework or driving with friends. In my opinion, it is definitely Taylor Swift’s best album thus far. I would recommend this album to anyone. Whether you are a Taylor Swift fan or not, you will be sure to enjoy *Speak Now*!



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City Scope

Mr. Brainwash Art Exhibit

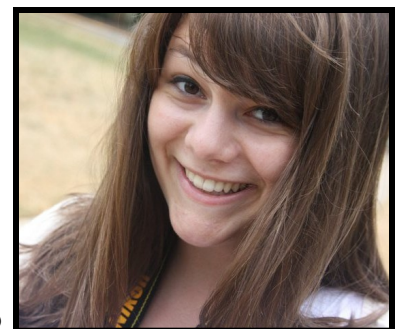
By Michelle Mangione

Throughout the year, everyone in the surrounding boroughs rushes to Manhattan to take advantage of all the city has to offer. Let’s face it, Staten Island can get a little dull and the city provides a fantastic distraction. Of course, if you’re only taking the ferry to go shopping or out to eat with friends and family, that can get a little boring as well. So, if you want to experience one of Manhattan’s lesser known and more quirky treasures, add this new spot to your must-see list—*The Mr. Brainwash Icons Art Gallery* in the Meat-Packing District!

Located on West 13th Street, between 9th Avenue and Washington Street, Mr. Brainwash is a gallery attracting viewers from all over the city and throughout the world. Its eclectic flair and unique artwork provide something for everyone.

In Andy Warhol-inspired pieces, Brainwash calls upon classic icons of the twentieth century for inspiration. From pop-art paintings of John Lennon to tires melted into the shape of Mickey Mouse, you’re sure to see something that catches your eye.

Remarkably, unlike most art galleries, you can actually walk out with a piece of replicated revolutionary art for free. If you’re not interested in any of the free posters the gallery is carrying that day, you can always go on line and buy one of the replicated pieces. For more information visit: www.mrbrainwash.com.



gothamist

The Summit Presents: Spirit Point Challenges

Participate in the Spirit Points Challenge For a chance to win Spirit Points!

Submit your individual game pieces in envelopes labeled "The Summit Spirit Point Challenges" to the main office.

One point will be awarded for the first correct Hill Word Scramble, Hill Word Search, and Recipe Photo.

Hill Word Scramble

By Sarah Kneeshaw

Test Your Mind and Unscramble the Words Below!

- 1) lhil _____
- 2) latopp _____
- 3) alkaol _____
- 4) enedtuilbaw _____
- 5) tneishopjsa _____
- 6) ldaesohssde _____
- 7) fmnuior _____
- 8) ttxokboe _____
- 9) ckorel _____
- 10) escdehul _____
- 11) adeang _____
- 12) coalihlasl _____

Recipe:

Monkey Bread

By Christina Stephens

A few years ago I began a new tradition, baking together with my family. We started with simple pre-packaged cookies, but I felt that homemade goods always tasted better. Eventually, we began to bake one of my favorite treats, monkey bread. Although my family and I still try out new recipes any time we can, monkey bread still seems to be one of the most comforting and satisfying desserts that we all enjoy.

Ingredients

- 3 (12 ounce) packages refrigerated biscuit dough
- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 stick butter
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts (optional)
- 1/2 cup raisins (optional)

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Spray the Bundt pan with cooking spray.
2. Mix the white sugar and cinnamon on a pie plate until they are completely mixed. Remove biscuits from tubes and cut each into quarters. Place each piece into sugar and cinnamon mixture until completely covered.
3. Place biscuit pieces evenly throughout Bundt pan.
4. In a small saucepan, melt the butter and brown sugar over low heat until fully mixed together. Stir with wooden spoon. Pour mixture over the biscuits.
5. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes. Let bread cool in pan for 10 minutes.

To serve, turn Bundt pan upside down onto a plate. Do not cut. The bread just pulls apart for a tasty treat!

Let us know what you thought of Christina's Monkey Bread. Submit your review and a Photo of this recipe to: TheSummit@stjhill.org.

Hill Word Search

Word Box:
SADDLE SHOES
HILLTOPPER
BLUE
KOALA
WHITE
LAPTOPS
SOCIAL HALL
AGENDA
EDLINE
LOCKER
UNIFORM
CHEERLEADING
BASKETBALL
SOCCER
SOFTBALL
VOLLEYBALL
SWIMMING
SINGERS
TRASHBUSTERS
TRACK

J U T D G G H B O E S H E N V Z J H X C K M L K P F Y F A K
L E S H O E S D E E Y I X H H X I K H P C C L U S B A K A S
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A B K R J X S Z H A C A R O H C E G M R D B V T X Q N D F P
B P G L C U D F X I Y P D B N C U Y W K W W Y X U G X U B E
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U H H Y G M D L Z G C F L T F M E I D K X F W Y I S M M B W
B C L W M O A D H S M B O X Q K Z H Y P L M S N X H P Z B M
D O G I H X E E V C W B L G F J R W Q P L I E C Y G V I F J
C J W W A P L K L S L J O Z Z R U S A P O F D N W Z L O R S
U S O P G C R U O A O G D R Z W L D V F A F U S F N C C R H
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S I Z V E P E N T L H C J S R H S E N D B P Q F I N K K A F
D G W K I K H C M U A J O Z O R T P L J U L O T R Q M H P H
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D W M R A V Z Z O H N H Z X U A O O Q J S W C L Q R W N S A
D K W K G E J I M Y S B P C I C K F C E Y B U A N M U O V C
A Z P F F X X H V Q H H I L L T O P P E R E Y Q I M Z H M N
S P O U K E H G M A I U Z M I I M J T R A S H B U S T E R S
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