

THE ROUNDUP

HILLSWESTROUNDUP.COM

BY AND FOR THE STUDENTS OF HALF HOLLOW HILLS HIGH SCHOOL WEST

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District to Close Senior Parking Lot

Monica Chen

Credit: Lexi Weber

The senior parking lot has often been considered a right for students rather than a privilege. However, this “right” may soon be revoked as district budget cuts call for the closing of Signal Hill Elementary School. Students will temporarily be relocated to High School West during the 2013-2014 school year.

After months of deliberation and contemplation, the Half Hollow Hills Board of Education has decided that the closing of Signal Hill will not only reduce the current budget gap, but also it will make use of classrooms that are currently not be-

ing utilized at West.

Because of the influx of students and teachers to Hills West, the student parking lot will become an additional faculty parking lot next year. In addition to the loss of senior parking privileges, Signal Hill students will be utilizing the library, New Gym, auditorium, and specific wings in the school, which will all be deemed “off-limits” to Hills West students to prevent distractions to the K-5 grade students.

“It’s bad enough that the Signal Hill students are coming to our school, but now that they are preventing us from driving to school and cut-

ting off our rightful resources, I don’t understand why we would even have a senior year,” commented junior Paige Botie, “After all, I doubt that anyone would ever want to remember their senior year of high school as a financial burden on the district.” An emergency Board of Ed meeting was held last Friday in order to discuss the district-wide cancellation of senior year, but no decision has yet been reached.

Teachers are also voicing their concerns about this dilemma. “It is unwise to eliminate imperative resources to high school students, who not only clearly benefit more from these

resources, but often require them as well,” commented Señora Banks. However, district officials refuse to reconsider their resolution to the district’s budget crisis, stating that most elementary school parents are considering home-schooling their children anyway.

The parking lot may be closing, but the Board of Education is still permitting seniors to park with the juniors on Suncrest. “I don’t think this is fair at all for next year’s seniors,” commented senior Chris Reilly. However, the current sophomores had a different viewpoint. “Parking on Suncrest is a right of passage for juniors.

Why should we have to give that up just because those seniors were played a bad hand? They’re just not thinking of the children,” said a sophomore who wishes to remain anonymous.

Expert analysis of the situation is speculating traffic on roads such as Suncrest and Wolf Hill to be ten times as backed up as they currently are in the morning.

When it comes to the parking conflict, Hills West principal Mr. Ebanks offered, “I will do my best to direct traffic every morning. Does anyone have a bright neon vest?”

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“HSW Compliments” Uncovered!

Sandhiya Kannan

The “Hsw Compliments” facebook page was set up at the end of December to spread anonymous compliments to the students of West. Within days, the page was filled with tons of genuine compliments and pleasantly surprised expressions of gratitude. For those of you dying to know the mysterious founder, there’s no need to wait any longer. The Roundup has conducted some serious investigations and discovered that West’s very own physics teacher, Mr. Caligiuri, is the man behind “HSW Compliments.”

We spoke with Mr. Caligiuri to find out about his motivation in creating the page: “With all these kids going around insulting each other in person, the obvious solution was to provide them with a way of complimenting one another through the Internet! What more could you want?!” When asked to comment on exactly when inspiration struck him, he said, “I had the idea for the page one

October morning when I was looking over static equilibrium problems and listening to Mrs. Benson’s ‘Thought of the Day.’”

Most students who have received compliments via the facebook page were quite surprised when they found out who has actually been running it. “I was actually the first one complimented on the page, and I’ve made it a personal mission to like every single post. My compliment was ‘Christopher Knieste, you are the man.’ Well I’d just like to say: Mr. Caligiuri, you are the man,” said senior Chris Knieste. “My first compliment said that I was good at physics. It all makes so much sense now,” added senior Kevin Jiempreecha.

Students who haven’t taken physics yet, don’t really know Mr. Caligiuri too well, but are still pleasantly surprised that he would be the one behind such an idea. “I’ve seen Mr. Caligiuri in the hallways sometimes, but I try not to

make eye contact - he’s pretty intimidating. Now that I know he created HSW Compliments, I can see that he is a really nice person! I hope I have him as a teacher in the future!” shared freshman Victoria Sacchetti.

The next question everyone wants an answer to is will Mr. Caligiuri continue running the page, now that he has been revealed? “Well, it was a good experiment while it lasted, and I got to see that while some kids say next to nothing in physics class, they end up having a lot to share! I don’t think it’ll run as well now that everyone knows it’s me, though,” he said.

Whichever decision he ends up making, we’re all glad that he chose to spread such a positive message. Next time you see Mr. Caligiuri in the hallway, or in class, why not send a few compliments his way? We all know that someone who started such a great project truly deserves them.



Credit: Photo Journalism

Hills West to Change Violent Mascot

Steven Reilly



Credit: Jesse Morgan

Nowadays, it is not uncommon to see changes in school policy in order to insure school safety. After numerous changes to school policies, administration is now exploring changing the Hills West mascot due to its violent nature.

“The colt has always been a risqué mascot. Many times colts are involved in wars and historic gun fights. It is also common for horses to throw their riders to the ground or kick an unsuspecting victim. We feel as if the colt should be replaced with something that promotes student unity and safety,” stated Hills West administrator Mr. Bongino.

Students will be able to vote on their preferred mascots based on a list of approved names. Some names currently on the list include the *Hills West Clouds*, the *Hills West Hugs*, and the *Hills West Wonders*.

The name “Hills West Manatees” was recently removed due to the semi-violent nature of the sea cow.

Mr. Bongino was unsure as to when a new mascot would be decided upon, but promises that he will take student ideas into consideration. Please visit the poll on our website! hillswestroundup.com.

Dennis Rodman to meet with Kelly Fallon

Jesse Scheinman

Following his highly controversial visit to North Korea to meet their young leader Kim-Jong Un, NBA Hall of Famer Dennis Rodman has announced that he will be meeting Half Hollow Hills Superintendent Kelly Fallon to discuss the current budget crisis.

Rodman, who is known for his eccentric behavior, dyed hair, facial tattoos and piercings announced that he is “looking forward to opening up dialogue with the superintendent of Half Hollow Hills and open up new conversations in the budget

crisis which is plaguing the district.” Kelly Fallon, who recently took the helm as superintendent, commented, “I am obviously a huge fan of [Rodman], and his years with the great Michael Jordan made me really love basketball. I am really looking forward to meeting him not only to solve the budget crisis, but also to make a lifelong friend.”

The meeting is scheduled to take place the week of April 8th, and will hopefully provide guidance for our struggling district.



Credit: USAToday.com

West library open three consecutive days, new school record - Page 13

Shark Tank event canceled due to mix-up involving accidental purchase of live sharks - Page 18

Note: We apologize to anyone who may be offended, upset, distraught, or a victim of an incident involving aquatic predators.

School salads may actually contain real lettuce! FDA to rule on Monday. - Page 32

Budget cuts force HSW to be turned into district-wide bathroom. Hallway tiles were no mix-up! - Page 12

Senior Prom to be Moved to Gym

Monica Chen

The Prom is one of the most long-awaited events of high school, right behind graduation and departing from high school forever. However, this long-anticipated event may soon become the greatest disappointment to the seniors of the 2012-2013 school year. To no one's surprise, the Half Hollow Hills School District has been effectively cutting budgets for school supplies, staff members, academic programs, cheese things, and extracurricular activities for the last few months; however, is cutting the budget for senior prom truly necessary?

Contrary to previous years, when the prom was held at the Crest Hollow Country Club, administrators have decided to cut back on wasteful spending by hosting senior prom in Hills West's very own gymnasium in order to allocate sufficient funding for essential programs next year.

"[Senior prom] is about remembering the people who you have spent the last four years of your life with, not

about where it is," commented Mrs. Lippert. Although few would disagree that the greatest significance of prom is to celebrate the end of an arduous yet gratifying journey with those who they have shared the experience with, very few would agree that a school gymnasium would be ideal for hosting such an unforgettable night. As expected, students, as well as teachers, are outraged by this decision. "It's absolutely pathetic for us to have to celebrate the most notorious night of senior year in a room that has reminded us of sweat for four years," exclaimed a senior, who wished to remain anonymous.

However, the decision to relocate prom has already been affirmed by administration. "Fortunately, this decision will not be a trend for years to come and the seniors should be grateful that administration rejected the initial proposal to cancel senior Prom this year due to overwhelming expenses. This was something which seemed like a definite possibility for a time. Hosting prom at High School West will save expenses that would otherwise be wasted at Crest Hollow; however, the experience will nevertheless be the same except for the location, and possibly the



Credit: Photo Journalism

Senior Banquet is similar to what seniors should expect at prom.

smell. There is absolutely no excuse for this outcry and disappointment. We simply want to ensure that the 2013-2014 school year will not suffer from the same lack of funds as this year," continued Mrs. Lippert.

Unfortunately for the seniors of 2013, prom will just be another upscale replay of Senior Banquet.

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Hills West Expand

Steven



Last week, administration at West received an e-mail from an irate parent of an anonymous senior. Upset with her daughter's exclusion from the recently released Hills West Top 20, the parent demanded that the school include her daughter in the school's group

of academic prestige. Since there was a lack of other options available, Hills West expanded their Top 20 to a Top 50, in order to accommodate the upset parent. But it did not end there. West parents felt that the exclusion of almost 350 students was just too much. Students also

demanding an even further expansion of the Top 50. Senior Rebecca Portz claimed, "I didn't feel it was right that there were people who were excluded from academic success and recognition."

On March 13th, the district website released a statement claiming they were once again expand-

ing the Top 50 (formerly the Top 20), in order to assure that "everyone can be a winner, in order to keep with the Half Hollow Hills spirit."

On March 15th, every Hills West senior was inducted into the newly made "Top 400" (Pictured above). Members of the Top 400 will now be receiv-

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s Top 20 to Top 400

Reilly



Credit: Island Photography

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ing a trophy to commemorate their distinguished achievement.

"I'm so happy I earned such a fantastic prestige. This is going on the top of every resume I make for the rest of my life," said senior Jeremy Lintz, when asked about his admittance to the Hills West Top 400. Senior John Dant claimed, "I

feel that the school is making a great decision. Sometimes it's sad when only some people get a trophy, but now that won't be a problem, because everyone will be getting a trophy."

The underclassman have been vocal with their response. "With so many stressful elements involved

in senior year, I'm happy to know that I will have a secured position of academic prestige," commented an anonymous junior. "I'm so amazed at how smart the 2013 seniors are. I can only hope that our grade will be that academically talented in the future," stated freshman Ben Reilly.

Some critics have attacked the West administration for creating more academic positions than there are students in the senior class.

Mr. Kindelmann claimed, "We figured that we'd allow in some of the kids that just missed the Top 20 at Hills East."

Hills West to Open Starbucks

Lea Silverman



Credit: Lexi Weber

Say goodbye to the school store, and hello to Starbucks. Mr. Ebanks has approved a change that he believes will gather additional funds to benefit our school. He believes that the addition of Starbucks to West will gain revenue that can keep some of the clubs and programs in our school funded, even after the budget cuts go into effect.

This change will occur during the summer of 2013 and will be open in time for the first day of the 2013-2014 school year. The famous coffee shop will

only be open before and after school, and during normal lunch periods. Students will only be able to buy coffee and pastries during the day if they have their schedules in hand, proving that they have an off/lunch period.

"I am so excited for this change for our school," Mr. Ebanks stated, "I believe that it will only bring positive effects and it makes it even better that students can purchase their drinks using their student accounts." When asked to comment about the effect that

more caffeine will have on the students once it is more readily available, Mr. Ebanks commented, "This will only make students more alert and ready to learn."

Students are just as excited to learn that one of their favorite nationwide coffee shops is going to be within walking distance from their classes. One student, junior Jennifer Park, is a self-proclaimed caffeine addict. She often drinks tea and coffee each morning, bringing an extra thermos to keep in her locker for when she

finishes her first cup. The junior said, "I am thrilled to learn that I can leave my thermos at home and get my coffee here! There has never been a more exciting change to the school."

Some are not as enthused about the existence of a Starbucks at HSW. A student, who wishes to remain anonymous, stated, "This school has students who are often too hyped up on caffeine of their own. We don't need to encourage students to become more sleep deprived

because they know that the safety blanket of a Starbucks at school will catch them."

"I am against the new Starbucks because I don't want to end up bankrupt and 500 pounds before the end of October," agreed junior Dan Chinitz.

All in all, most are on board for the exciting new addition to our Hills West dining options. So next time you pass the school store, say goodbye to the candy and goodies, and just picture the coffee and croissants that are soon to come.

Caffeine Banned at West!

Aanchal Gulati

Hills West has decided to prohibit the intake of caffeine on school grounds. After much argument, school administrators have decided that coffee and tea, despite helping students stay awake, also have diminishing effects on their health. This new rule bans students from drinking caffeinated beverages within the grounds of the school, and forbids students from purchasing them in the cafeteria. Any student who brings coffee or tea into school will immediately be sent to the office for a day of ISS.

"Caffeine is considered

a drug. We will not treat its intake any differently than the use of alcohol and marijuana on school grounds," said Mr. Kindelmann. Studies show that it is possible to overdose on caffeine, and too much coffee or tea can give a person the jitters, an increased heartbeat, anxiety, heart palpitations, and even cardiac arrest. Though these side effects are highly unlikely after only one cup of coffee or tea, the school administrators want to make sure no one is abusing the drug in school.

Students weren't hap-

py to hear about this new rule. "I think that this new rule will have many negative effects because so many students rely on these beverages to give them an extra boost to start the day," said senior Lexi Weber. "I get that caffeine can be dangerous, but then teachers shouldn't be allowed to drink caffeine at school either," pointed out sophomore Joshua Wende.

However, teachers agree with the rule, emphasizing that caffeine is much more detrimental than beneficial for students. "Caffeine also causes

kids to crash in the middle of the day. I see students walking in with huge thermoses full of coffee and tea, and just get nervous that students are actually becoming way too dependent on something that is practically a drug," said Mrs. Kann.

This ban on caffeine will take a lot of adjusting to, but most do agree that it will eventually end up being beneficial. Nurse Patty added, "I know that it will be a rough couple of months, but students will eventually learn to get enough sleep and choose more natural

sources of energy, like fruits and vegetables, rather than loading up on caffeine." Overall, the ban will force students to acquire healthier habits and behaviors that will help them in the future.



Hills West Auditorium to Undergo Summer Renovations

Harry Kolk

The Hills West Thespian Society is thrilled to announce that the Hills West auditorium will be undergoing some serious renovations this summer to accommodate the visual effects for next fall's production of Spider-Man, Turn off the Dark. Hills West will be the first school and overall first location outside of Broadway attempting to produce both the critically and commercially successful musical epic.

"We're thrilled to be able to put on this wonderful show," commented Principal Ebanks, "Our cast and crew here at West have always made me so proud, and I feel they're just capable of anything. During this week, I walked into the auditorium during a Damn Yankees rehearsal and asked the underclassmen to choose any musical they would like to do for the fall production. To my great delight and surprise, a slow chant of 'Spider-Man' grew into a booming and powerful battle cry. I wrote them a check right away."

Of course, the money had to come from somewhere. When asked where the massive funding came from, Mr. Ebanks just continued to go on about how Spider-Man has always been his "most favorite" superhero and that he "cannot wait to see the show."

The only people more excited than Mr. Ebanks, would have to be the cast and crew of the Hills West Theater company. "It's a dream come true," commented junior Jason Zelamansky. "Since day one of being here, I've always been suggesting that we do

Spider-Man. It's just a story of heart and courage, and relates to all of us as high schoolers," said senior Lauren Toscano.

Of course, there are going to be those who aren't as happy about the show. "I am absolutely livid, irate you could even say," exclaimed senior Christopher Knieste, the lead of the production of Damn Yankees, "Peter Parker is the role I was born to play. It's the

only thing any of my other directors would ever talk about. Why would they choose to do Spider-Man the very next year after I leave? It just isn't fair." Knieste could not go on to make further comments, as he was far too pouty to continue.

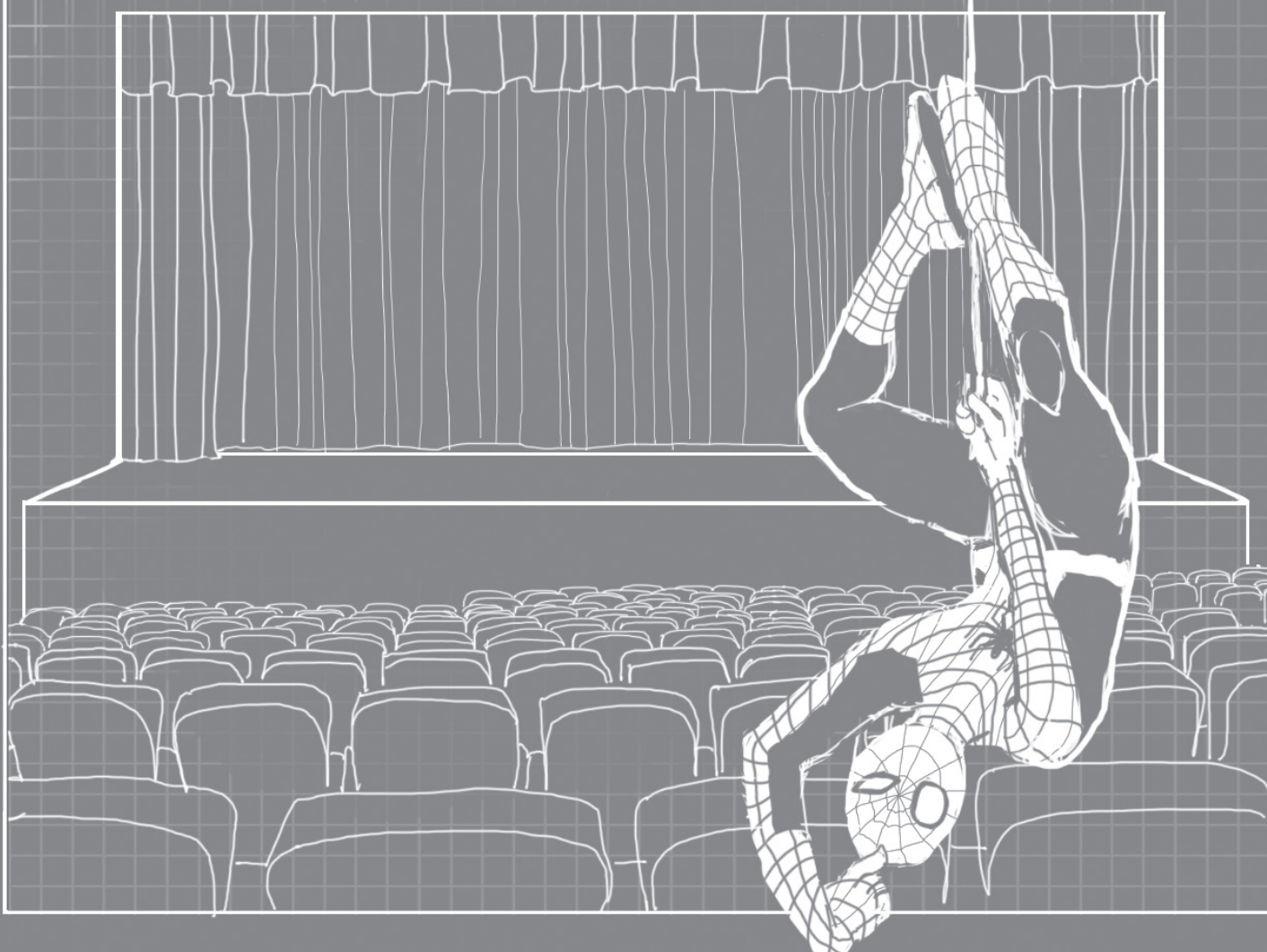
What exactly is the new show going to involve? Senior Danielle Sacco told the Roundup that it's going to have all the same tricks and stunts that the

multi-million dollar budget show has. "We're going to have the actors flying on wire all across the ceiling. And it doesn't stop there. They'll also be running along the walls, doing back flips, and the famous Spider-Man vs. Green Goblin aerial fight scene we've all grown to admire and adore," explained Sacco. To put together what's needed, the Hills West Theater is actually going to have to become

narrower than it already is. "It's just how wiring and stunts work," Sacco said, "I wouldn't expect you to understand."

Of course, because of the massive budget of the show and stunts, it won't only be Spider-Man getting the special treatment. The Board of Education is hard at work right now planning future assemblies for the students to become involved in the various stunts.

Credit: Lexi Weber



Gym Teachers Strike: Claim Attendance Too Difficult

Mr. Ferretti fails Student over Star Wars/Star Trek mix-up!

Mr. Riccui concurs!

Mr. Mitaritonna: "I am the most relaxed when I coach basketball."

Giuseppes Pizza: "You are the reason we are in Business!"

Calculators Banned as West Tightens Electronics Policy

Jesse Scheinman

Following what the school believes has been a highly successful policy against curbing cell phone use in classrooms, the Hills West administration has announced that as of April 2nd, all calculators, four-function, graphing and scientific, will be banned from use.

"We really think that these calculators are distracting the students from the learning process and therefore causing student performances to drop. I understand that in the modern world students feel that they need to always be on their electronic devices, but quite

frankly they have more than enough time to use these calculators at home," said Ms. Trotter.

Ms. Trotter, who is often known as the administrator who deals with student cell phone use, is planning to announce the new ban during fifth period. "In previous years [the school administrators] were highly considering banning calculators, especially as we saw students grades drop in classes such as math and science. The general consensus among the administrators was that the very flashy calculators were distracting the students," added Ms. Trotter.

Students throughout

the school vehemently opposed the radical measure. "Yes, I probably do use my calculator a little too much, and maybe I'm a little too distracted by it in classes such as AP Physics, but I think it's a little too much to ban me [and other students from using them] just because we're a little distracted," said senior Dominic Notti who, like many other students, uses his calculator on a daily basis.

While most students agree with Notti's statement, others did agree that the calculators are a distraction. "It's certainly annoying when the kid next to me is typing on his cal-

culator in my [third period] trig class, so taking that away would certainly help me out a lot," commented junior Jordan Camina.

Teachers, on the other hand, were generally split down the middle on the ban of calculators. "As an English teacher, I think that a ban of calculators takes away an important tool from my students who often use it when deciphering Shakespeare," said English teacher Mrs. Brennan.

"I've been pushing for Mr. Ebanks to ban calculators for years now," said Pre-Calculus teacher Mrs. Powers, "It's about time that the school

takes some action and bans calculators, which are often used to help kids cheat by doing the math for them. Finally, I can say there is some justice in our school."

While the ban has been extremely divisive and has caused much controversy in our school, students should expect it to stay. "At West, the goal has always been learning first, and the [calculator] ban is just a small step towards improving student performance in all aspects of their school life," explained Ms. Trotter.

Current discussion over budget allocations for the new abacuses is underway.!

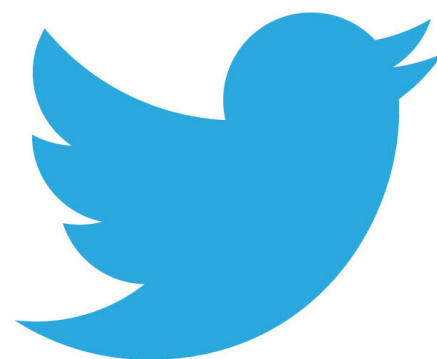
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