

THE ROUNDUP

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

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'Tis the Season to Give Back

THE FOLD



Credit: Rachel Shuster

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Purell Ban?

OSHA Places Ban on Purell Products

Asad Marghoob

Purell has come to be a commonly used household brand in homes, schools, and public facilities alike. It's probably safe to say that this brand name is the first thing that comes to mind the instant one hears the phrase "hand sanitizer." However, most of these same people are oblivious to the contents of Purell. The Occupational Health and Safety Administration, more commonly known as OSHA, is a federal agency whose responsibility is to enforce safety and health regulations for institutions across America. Due to the high alcohol content found in particular brands of hand sanitizer, OSHA has banned these particular products for not meeting the necessary safety and health standards.

You may be wondering at this point whether or not our school will now be forced to dispose of the numer-

ous Purell dispensers scattered all throughout various hallways and rooms. West's administration is actually not responsible for the providing of the specific Purell OSHA means to prohibit, and every push dispenser you see throughout your school or work day contains a foam-like liquid with far less alcohol than OSHA's threshold of roughly 60 percent alcohol. Alcohol content, as previously stated, is the primary underlying concern of OSHA regarding its decision. Does OSHA believe students will abuse this substance through consumption, as a way to get intoxicated? Not likely, but conventional non-foam Purell sanitizers have an approximate ethanol composition of 70%, which poses as a potential danger nonetheless. Fortunately, the concentration of alcohol found in most hand sanitizer products is much higher than in those that are school-funded.

Therefore, the problem presents itself to individuals who routinely bring with them to school a form of the Purell beyond the acceptable measure of alcohol found in other hand sanitizers.

Dr. Catapano, in regards to this recent ban, states, "While it is important to have a sense of consistency and uniformity throughout our school, ridding the school of this Purell can be a minor inconvenience. However, people who did previously use the form of Purell now banned can certainly find replacements. Overall, it is what it is."

Our school nurse Stephanie expresses her opinion, "As a school nurse, I have always been an advocate for 'universal precautions,' which is a hospital protocol for disease prevention, also known as hand-washing. Best form of prevention. I don't believe that Purell is equal to the universal precau-



Credit: Purell.com

tion of hand-washing, although the manufacturers would like you to believe it's the same."

This recent ban has raised questions among the student and faculty alike as it has become normal for students to bring Purell products to school. If you are uncertain as to whether or not a particular product of hand sanitizer is

appropriate to bring to school, look for a product below the alcohol threshold of approximately 60 percent. However, it is important to recognize that despite this ban, proper hygiene and sanitation is still an essential factor in containing the spread of germs and illnesses.

What is Common Core?

Andrew Baker and Josalie Quiwa

From the time when the Common Core State Standards debuted in 2010, they have caused great controversy and concern among students, parents, teachers, and the federal government. The Core is coordinated by the National Governors Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), and was applied to develop a national curriculum and is currently implemented in 45 states. Texas, Alaska, Nebraska, Virginia, and Minnesota have not implemented the Common Core.

The Common Core State Standards allow for a reliable understanding of what students are expected to learn. It informs teachers and parents of what they can do to help students prosper. The standards intend to prepare students for the real world, familiarizing them with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in college and future careers. The goal of Common Core curriculum is to get students to master skills and work through problems, rather than memorize and recite information that may not have truly been absorbed. Assessments involve much more writing and explaining. For example, the Constructed Response Assessment given in grades three

through eight requires students to perform four math tasks using math skills, writing, and drawing, where each answer must be clearly explained step-by-step and skill-by-skill.

Hills West Junior Ian Tornquist expresses his opinion about the Common Core. "Personally, I believe that the new Common Core system of education will blindside children and force many to learn in one particular way, which will prove to be detrimental to our nation's educational system because it is government-controlled schooling." The work accompanied by Common Core is much more challenging than before. Students currently in kindergarten are learning skills and concepts that were previously taught in first grade. They are being overwhelmed with loads of difficult homework and challenging test. Students across the country will be learning important concepts in earlier grades, just like in the top schools around the world. Students, however, are not the only ones affected by the new standard. Teachers must take part in classes and workshops related to Common Core. These high expectations are preparing American students to be able to compete in today's global society.

Unique Vacation Destinations of Hills West Students

Devin Dubin



Credit: HolidayForce.com

Iguazu Falls, One of the New Seven Wonders of the world, in Argentina.

Winter Recess has always been an exciting time for students and teachers alike. Having twelve days off gives people the time they need away from the hustle and bustle of the school day. Some spend their time relaxing, some get together with family, and some travel the world. But where do High School West students go on their time off? We asked around to find out the most interesting vacation spots of this Winter Break.

"I am going to Argentina where I will visit the house that my grandma grew up in", says Maxine Fenner, a High School West Junior, "I'm so excited to learn more about her childhood

and be able to see the country she grew up in." Maxine says that although she has travelled all over the world, including Rome, Hawaii, and even Hong Kong, she's most excited for this year's trip to Argentina to immerse herself in her family's culture. Senior Travis Schwartz is also excited for his upcoming trip to Saskatchewan, a province in Canada. "I'm really excited for this trip because each day consists of different activities. I'll be playing ice hockey on the local pond, ice fishing, and even catching a junior hockey team game. I've been looking forward to it for months." Travis says that it's his first time visit-

ing Saskatchewan and that he's going with his father to meet up with an old friend.

On the other hand, Junior Tori Korine is also looking forward the exact opposite of snow and ice on her Winter Break. "Every year my family and I go down to Puerto Rico to visit different islands, explore the rainforest, and spend a lot of time on the beach. I love going with my family each year and I'm looking forward to this one too." Although her family visits the islands every year, the endless activities and opportunities to explore the islands never cease to impress. It appears that several High School West students will be traveling for this Winter Break. Although the destinations may not be so far away, a large portion of students are traveling within the country or even locally to spend time with family and friends. But whether you're going to Argentina, to Saskatchewan, to Puerto Rico, or even down the block, the fun activities and adventures are practically endless and the staff of the Hills West Roundup wishes you a safe and happy vacation!

7 Signs that Winter Has Arrived at Hills West

Lea Silverman

1. The trustworthy UGGs boots pulled out of storage.



2. Girls in their winter uniform of a sweater, leggings, and boots.



3. The temperature inside the school is lower than the temperature outside.



4. The Winter Cold: red noses and boxes of tissues.



5. Kids begging their friends to buy them a candy cane.



6. Various versions of the same two North Faces.



7. Early Signs of a deadly disease: Senioritis.



Credit: Lilly Milman

New Flavors At Walt Whitman Mall

Emily Feigenbaum



Credit: BriolItalian.com

Credit: Zinburgereast.com

As the renovations of the Walt Whitman Mall come to a close, many new stores and restaurants are now open for business. Residents of Dix Hills are flocking to Brio and Zin Burger in search of a tasty meal after arduous days of shopping.

Brio is an Italian eatery that promises to bring "the flavors of Tuscany" to the taste buds of customers with each freshly served and delicately

decorated dish. Their new spin on old-fashioned Italian cuisine has been acclaimed by the Half Hollow Hill High School West community. Kaitlin Ignacio, a frequent shopper at the Walt Whitman Mall, describes her experience at Brio as "magical". "My pasta dish was absolutely delicious," she exclaimed. "I can't wait to go back to Brio." Julia Kontos, another Italian food lover, eagerly agreed with

Kaitlin about the quality of their meal together. "The panini that I ordered was cooked to perfection. I will definitely be returning to Brio soon." Zin Burger has also proven to be a hit amongst the students here at Hills West. This contemporary burger chain offers a mouthwatering selection of handcrafted burgers and shakes, along with an upbeat ambiance. "My burger was amazing," Senior Terry

Harris gushed. "The chefs at Zin Burger mixed different flavors together to create a taste that is totally different than that of a regular hamburger. Stephen Imburgia, was in complete agreement. "I tried the Buffalo Chicken Sandwich with sweet potato fries. It was one of the best meals that I have had in a long time," he marveled. Brio and Zin Burger are open and ready for business. These two

new restaurants offer different flavors that cannot be found at already established nearby including The Cheesecake Factory, Panera Bread, and California Pizza Kitchen. "I am so happy that I have a new place to grab a bite at the mall," noted Stephen Imburgia. "These modern restaurants complete my shopping experience."

Credit:
Rachel
Shuster



Holidays Cards Lexie Forte's family and friends made for soldiers overseas.



Credit:
Michelle Zhang

'Tis the Season

Well ladies and gentlemen, the season we have all been anticipating has finally arrived! This time of the year is not only a countdown to winter break, but it is also a time to gather with friends and family, exchange gifts, and celebrate the blessings the previous year has brought. However, as we welcome December and prepare for the holiday season, it is important to remember those who may not be as fortunate.

During this holiday season, Hills West students have been dedicating much of their time to giving back to the community.

To start off the season, the Interact Club held their Annual Turkey Drive. The objective of the Interact Club is to gather donations for various charity. Every year during the holiday season, the club raises money to purchase and donate turkeys to families who are unable to afford one on Thanksgiving. During this year's Interact Club Annual Turkey Drive, they were able to purchase and donate over 125 turkeys. Each turkey was accompanied by a \$25 gift card for the families for any supplies the families needed for the holidays. The turkeys were donated to specific families in our community, churches who

know of people in need, and other organizations. "We were also featured on News 12!" club supervisor, Ms. Lislevatn cheerfully mentioned.

Kids Care HHH is a community service organization started and run by students in the Half Hollow Hills district. They have been planning projects both large and small, since 2007. Throughout the years they have organized various projects to help people in need. "On December 3rd, we [went] to Madonna Heights, a homeless shelter, and tried to make the childrens' holiday a little brighter," says senior board member Lexie Forte. Danielle Carley, another member of Kids Care HHH, says, "The holiday party was a hit! We helped the children make snowmen ornaments, which they then used to decorate a Christmas tree. After face painting, tattoos, a holiday snack, and an intense dance party, we distributed presents to every child. Hasbro toys granted us \$100 to spend on the event, as well as 100 brand new toys. The childrens' moms, who also received gifts, were so happy to see the smiles on their childrens' faces. I was thrilled to have caused the expressions on each child's face as they opened their presents." As the

members of Kids Care HHH were leaving, the children of Madonna Heights watched and waved goodbye through the window. "We promised that we would come back soon," added Carley.

Another project that senior Lexie Forte is working on this season is sending care packages to our soldiers overseas. "My aunt decided it was a great idea to send care packages to our soldiers, so she began sending a box of her cookiemomster cookies and cards every week. I felt it was a great way for me to get involved, so along with my family, we began to make cards and collect various types of treats such as socks, board games, puzzles and more. To add to our pile of cards we even set up a table at Thanksgiving for all my family to create a few [cards]! Since then, my aunt has been sending more and more boxes every week! We're hoping we can put a smile on their faces! It is very important for me to express how much I appreciate them fighting for our protection everyday. This is one of my favorite seasons because there is so much you can do to benefit the people in need!" said Forte.

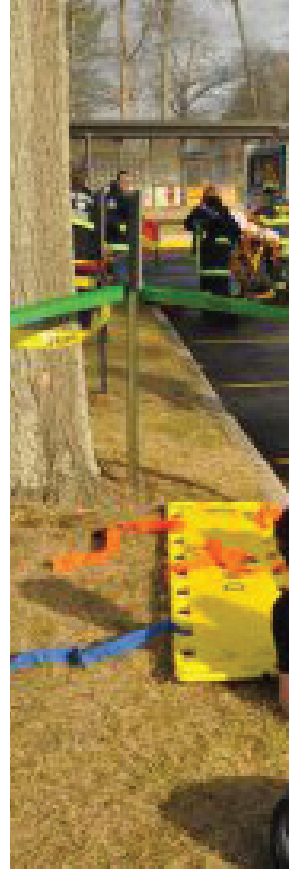
Hills West senior, Isabella Dana, a member of Kids for Caring at St. Matthews Catho-

Credit: Half Hollow Hills Patch



Kiara Pizzurro and Scott Weinzimer volunteer with the Interact Club at their Annual Turkey Drive

Credit: Half Hollow Hills



The Dix Hills Fire Department HSW Volunteers participating

n to Give Back

lic Church, along with many other students, will also be giving back to the community during this holiday season. “We are going to be singing Christmas carols for the elderly at a nursing home called Our Lady of Consolation. My dad plays the piano for all of us” Dana commented.

Senior Steven Fischer is another honorable student here at Hills West, who is giving back to our community. Fischer has been volunteering at the Dix Hills Fire Department for three years. He began as a junior member two years ago, and has now been a full firefighter for six months. He is responsible for responding to alarms for events such as car accidents, fires, forcible entry calls, and many more. “I do it because I love it,” says Fischer. “It is very satisfying knowing that I have the ability to help someone, even if I am heading into the place that everybody else is leaving.” When asked about holiday events, Fischer responded, “My favorite part of the holiday season is when we drive around the district with Santa.” As for future plans, “I definitely plan to keep volunteering. I will be an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) in six months, where I will be able to handle rescue (medical) calls,” he added.

Hills West Key Club, known for their outstanding volunteer work around the community, will also be giving back in many ways during this holiday season. One event Key Club participated in is Toys for Tots. Throughout December, they collected toys for children whose parents were unable to afford toys for the holidays. “Every Key Club member was expected to bring in one toy, and we also encouraged more people throughout the school to donate as well!” says Key Club President, Monica Hanna. In addition to Toys for Tots, Key Club also partook in the Pillow Foundation. “We collected money during parent teacher conferences, and raised \$800,” Hanna joyfully expressed. For every \$5 raised, a child in the hospital received a “pillow with arms” to hug. “It is really just something to make them smile,” she added. Another charitable event Key Club was involved with this season was Helping Hands. They sponsored children in families within Huntington that were in need of a few things for the holidays. “We received a list of items that they requested, for example gloves or scarves, and each member was responsible for purchasing that item for them,” explains Hanna. The last event

Key Club participated in was Sears Shopping. On Saturday, December 14, a few members were assigned to one child and they were able to walk around the store with the kids, picking out and trying on necessities such as jackets and other winter essentials. Sears generously donated \$150 per child, which allowed them to pick out “something extra,” including toys. After each child chose what they desired, Key Club brought the items to Candlewood Middle School and wrapped them up, which made the gift receiving experience even more special for the kids. “Students found it difficult to part with the children after such a heartwarming experience,” revealed Key Club supervisor, Mrs. Madden. It was a very eventful, and unbelievably successful holiday season for the Hills West Key Club.

To those who have chosen to give back during this holiday season, Hills West as well as the community admires your kindness and generosity. The Hills West Roundup wishes everyone a joyful and safe holiday season! Remember, it is never too late to help others. Happy Holidays!

- Josalie Quiwa



A little boy, King, from a Madonna Heights home plays with his brand new Mr. Potato Head.



Carly Berger shares a special moment with her new friend.



Department practicing it's "active shooter drill at Five Towns College.



Danielle Carley and Carly Berger help the children open their holiday gifts.

New Year's Resolutions: Just Words?

Tanner Asadorian

It's that time of year: decorations are being put up in homes, trees are being strung with lights, menorahs are being lit, and the entire community seems a little more jolly. With the end of year celebrations comes the tradition of setting New Year's resolutions. Whether it be an academic, physical, or simply a personal goal, many people devise resolutions to improve themselves in the new year. However, are these resolutions worth all the built up hype but destined to fail? Although the purpose of these resolu-

tions is to provide a fresh start for the new year and set goals to accomplish throughout the year, most people forget about their resolutions by February. The first New Year's resolutions could be traced back to the Babylonians, who every year would promise their gods that they would be good and pay off all their debts. In the 21st century, these resolutions are often overlooked but hold a significant importance according to mental health experts. Psychiatrists and doctors alike suggest that people set some sort of goal for

themselves. They believe that setting a goal during the beginning the year will help one keep track of their intentions. However, on the high school level there are mixed feelings on the idea of new year's resolutions. Sophomore Andrew Faber believes that New Year's resolutions are only as important as the person's ambition and dedication to accomplish desired goal. "I think it's meant for a certain type of person. There are people who say that they will follow through with it, and then there are those who use it to feel

better about themselves," says Faber. Although many are in favor of this end-of-year goal, others are wary. Some believe if one is unable to complete his or her goals, it lessens his or her self confidence. Others believe that today the new year's resolutions are too superficial. Sophomore Joey Montelione believes that resolutions, especially those for the new year, are too cliché. "If someone wants to set a goal, it does not have to be during the New Year specifically." Freshman Giovanni Gilberti offered a more optimis-

tic opinion, saying "I sometimes make new years resolutions. It is certainly good for people to make a goal and try to accomplish something."

Whatever your take is on this "ancient" tradition, New Year's resolutions remain popular among all ages. So this year, be sure to sit down, think about your goals, and follow through with them because almost everyone agrees setting goals is a good way to better yourself as a person and achieve your endeavors. Good luck!

My New Year's Resolution is to get better at breaststroke.

This year I want to be a better person by giving back more to the community.
-David Kaplan
Grade 10

My New Year's Resolution is to not get Senioritis

Stop cracking my knuckles :)
Avani Jurakhan

Run around my neighborhood more often for exercise :)
-Isabella Dana

To be less Sarcastic.
Jesse Barone (J)

My new year's resolution is to go more in depth with my writing



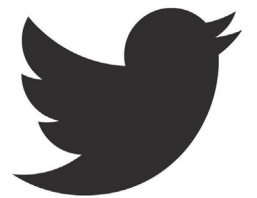
Credit: Lexi Weber

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Movies to Watch For This Winter Miles Essner

After Thanksgiving Break, we students come back to school more drained than ever, attempting to psych ourselves up for the next lengthy break. As we anxiously await for Winter Break, another exciting occasion awaits us: the holiday premiere of new movies.

Every year during the holiday season, the release of highly anticipated movies sparks the interest of movie enthusiasts from far and wide. Currently, there are several films debuting this holiday season capable of being nominated for Best picture, such as Spike Jonze's Drama, Her. Comedically, Anchorman 2 will be one of the

highlights of the holiday movies, mainly because of the success of the first film, Anchorman (2004). Finally, the The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug is a continuation of the series of prequels to the Lord of the Rings movies. This year's holiday movies feature a wide range of films from multiple genres, all with the potential to be unforgettable. Her will be one of the more under-the-radar films this holiday season. With its release in January will come multiple Oscar considerations, including a likely nomination for lead actor Joaquin Phoenix for his role as Theodore in the film. Living in a futuristic Los Ange-

les, Theodore begins to feel affection for an operating system that has a voice of a woman, played by Scarlett Johansson, that is generated to meet Theodore's needs in the film. With potential stellar performances from Joaquin Phoenix and Scarlett Johansson, Her could be stirring the most Oscar buzz this winter. Anchorman 2 is a highly anticipated movie of the holiday season. The sequel is said to hit theaters December 18, so expect theaters to be packed during Winter Break. The new movie follows the Channel 4 News Team as they travel to New York to be participate in their 24-hour broadcast.

Everyone from the original cast has signed up to do the new movie; alongside Will Ferrell are Steve Carell, Paul Rudd, Christina Applegate, and Dave Koechner, who plays the hysterical Champ Kind. Anchorman 2 will have theaters buzzing during the holidays, as people are curious if the sequel can go toe-to-toe wit the original.

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug, similar to Anchorman 2, will be a highly awaited sequel this winter. The film will be released on December 13 and with it will bring the same cast of characters as the previous movie. Martin Freeman, Ian McKellan, and others are back for part 2 of the 3-part prequel. The new Hobbit is a continua-

tion of the previous film where the Dwarves with protagonist Bilbo Baggins venture out on a quest to reclaim their homeland. The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug, will certainly be one the movies with great popularity this winter.

This year's group of holiday films include a wide range of films in high demand, from a drama like the movie Her, to the comedic powerhouse of Anchorman 2. It also includes one of the more anticipated action sequels in The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug. The 2013 holiday season is upon us, so while your thinking about what you want for Christmas, stop off at the theater, it may be the greatest gift of all.

How To Dress Warm And Trendy This Winter

Erika Muller (9)

Alfred Shim (12)

Emily Orlando

Cecile Edleman (12)

Mikayla Schlossman (11)

Connor Duenas (12)

Alexandria Edleman (10)



Credit: Rachel Shuster

'Tis the season of cold weather. It's time to say goodbye to your T-shirts and light jackets and hello to sweaters and puffy winter coats. With winter approaching, it is important to protect yourself from the brutally low temperatures. Not only do you need to drink some hot chocolate on these cold days, but you also need to dress weather appropriate. Here are some suggestions on what you should wear to stay warm and still look trendy this winter.

Besides the shivering and teeth chattering, winter is a great season because there are a great variety of clothing options available. Knit sweaters and cardigans keep you warm yet looking trendy. Sophomore Lauren Carubia says, "I love wearing sweaters in the winter because they are comfy and can be worn in many different ways." A popular trend this winter are sweater dresses over tights; not only is this outfit quick and easy to put on, but if you need the extra warmth, you can throw on a

pair of high knee socks to complete the look. Another way to stay warm is by wearing layers. You can layer by wearing a basic tee or graphic tee underneath; throwing on a cardigan or flannel; then to finish it off, put on either a puffy, fur, or leather vest. Some layering tips are to try to layer different textures and to try to keep the pieces you are layering monochromatic. Puffy jackets with fur hoods are also ideal to wear since they have a thick, quilted design. Another way to look fashionable is by accessorizing. The cold winter months allow you to take advantage of the wide selection of accessories to keep you warm. Scarves are essential for warmth and for fashion during winter. Sophomore Danah Han says, "I love scarves because they go well with basically any outfit." Infinity scarves, which are essentially one big circle that you can loop around your neck several times, are my preferred type of scarf this season. Not only do they add a great

touch to any outfit, but the extra layers add extra warmth that other scarves may not provide. Another thing you should wear this winter are knee high socks underneath your boots. They are great since they will keep your legs and feet warm as well as make an outfit look even cuter. You can wear knee high socks by either hiding them in your boot or scrunching them above the top of your boot. "I love leg warmers and high socks because they are easy to throw on and add cute accents and layers to simple outfits" says Junior Stefanie Drinkwater. When you go outside this winter, be sure you cover your hands and ears. Texting gloves are convenient in that the material on the fingertips are touchscreen compatible so you can avoid the hassle of taking off your gloves to send a simple text message or a tweet. Knit head wraps, ear muffs, and beanies are also fashionable trends that can protect you from the harsh, bitter wind this winter.

Knit head wraps are similar to a headband but instead it is made out of sweater material that covers your ears. Ear Muffs are another convenient option. They even make ear muff headphones that allow you to plug in your phone or iPod to listen to music. Lastly, beanies are great for covering your whole head, including your ears, and can be found in almost every color to fit your style. For guys, a popular style trend this winter is the "preppy" look. This simple look can be achieved by layering a V-neck sweater over a plaid collared shirt underneath. By layering different articles of clothing, you can create different styles while staying warm. Flannels are another great choice for the upcoming season, with the ability to dress the outfit up or down. Long sleeve polos and button-up shirts also contribute to the "pretty" style this season; to face the cold winter, you can simply layer a puffer vest over the shirt to keep you warm. While there are a va-

riety of shirt options to keep you warm and fashionable, beanies are also currently a popular trend for guys. With different designs and graphics, you can be sure to find a beanie that suits you best. Finally, the last piece of the outfit is the jacket; whether it is a varsity, utility, wool, peacoat, or leather jacket, the right jacket will complement the outfit well while providing the much needed warmth. Senior Cole Tobias says, "My favorite thing to wear in the winter is a black Guess jacket that I bought on clearance. It's a really nice, simple, yet stylish winter coat. Plus, I got it for really cheap." Many of the pieces mentioned above can be found in almost any store this winter. Whether any of these of pieces for both girls or guys are either worn separately or together, they will be sure to keep you warm and cozy this winter, with the added bonus of looking fashionable and trendy.

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Student Athletes Taking Their Talents to College

Josh Wende

Hills West has a long and proud history of excellence among its illustrious student athletes, from Orlando Magic's Tobias Harris to the legendary track star Kyle Merber. A number of current students have already made impressive strides towards reaching this pinnacle of achievement, and their efforts and talents have earned them the opportunity to pursue their abilities at elite collegiate programs.

Jon Faraci, a junior, has committed to St. John's University as a pitcher for their Division I baseball team. "It was a surreal moment," he said, speaking of when he committed to the Red Storm baseball program. "I'm so happy that all my hard work has paid off and I couldn't be more

thankful for my family, friends, and coaches." Faraci hopes to one day fulfill his dreams of playing professional baseball and St. John's University offers an excellent opportunity to prepare for such top-level competition.

Malcolm Flynn, another junior, has also committed to St. John's, but for lacrosse. Flynn has been one of the most highly sought after defensemen recruits in the nation, entertaining interest from schools such as Ohio State and Duke before settling on St. John's. His talents on the field have proved to be an extraordinarily valuable asset to the Colts throughout his high school career.

On the soccer field, senior Dylan Greenberg has displayed immense ability, and as such he has been selected to compete around the world on a remarkably competitive team representing the United States. He has committed to play soccer for the University of Connecticut. "What Dylan has been able to accomplish is truly remarkable," Mr. Gannon, the school's varsity soccer coach, said. "Don't be surprised if you see him playing professionally overseas somewhere in the future."

The girls in this school have seen similar success. Jenn Casadonte, a junior, is a star on the varsity girl's soccer team. Her best sport, however, is lacrosse. She has committed to the University of Notre Dame to play lacrosse at the college level, a school known for its elite aca-

demics and athletics. "Playing lacrosse is what I love to do, and I've always known that it could help me go to a great school," Casadonte explained. She continued, "I instantly fell in love with Notre Dame when I visited, and I just cannot wait to go!"

Senior Francesca Casalino has dominated the softball field for Hills West. As the star pitcher for the Colts, she has accepted an offer to play softball for Yale, a university she never thought she would have the opportunity to attend. "Committing to Yale has been a dream come true for me," she stated with excitement. "I never dreamed of attending such a prestigious school, but softball has given me the opportunity and I am determined to make the best of it". While she will not receive any

scholarship funds for her athletic skills, as Ivy League schools do not grant athletic scholarships, she is being given an opportunity to attend a renowned academic institution in Yale and receive a stellar education while playing the sport that she loves.

In the water, senior Kim Gillman has established herself as a force to be reckoned with. She recently committed to Cornell to join their excellent rowing program, as well as receive a top tier education. "Choosing to commit to Cornell was an amazing, yet somewhat difficult for me," she explained. "I had to choose between a ton of schools that I really liked, but in the end I am confident with my decision. I can really see myself thriving at Cornell, with their excellent academic

and athletic environment".

While some sports, such as baseball, football, and soccer, have tiers of competition above the collegiate level, most sports do not. For many exceptional student athletes at Hills West, the ultimate goal is to be granted the educational opportunities at elite universities. Showing overwhelming excellence in athletics, as many of Hills West's students have done, is one of the best ways to accomplish this. The school is proud to have fostered the abilities of these and other exceptional athletes who in turn will represent Hills West at the highest levels of their sports at the most prestigious of colleges.

Credit: Photo Journalism



(Left To Right) Dylan Greenberg, Francesca Casalino, Malcolm Flynn, Jonathan Faraci, Jennifer Casadonte



Credit: Photo Journalism
Kimberly Gillman

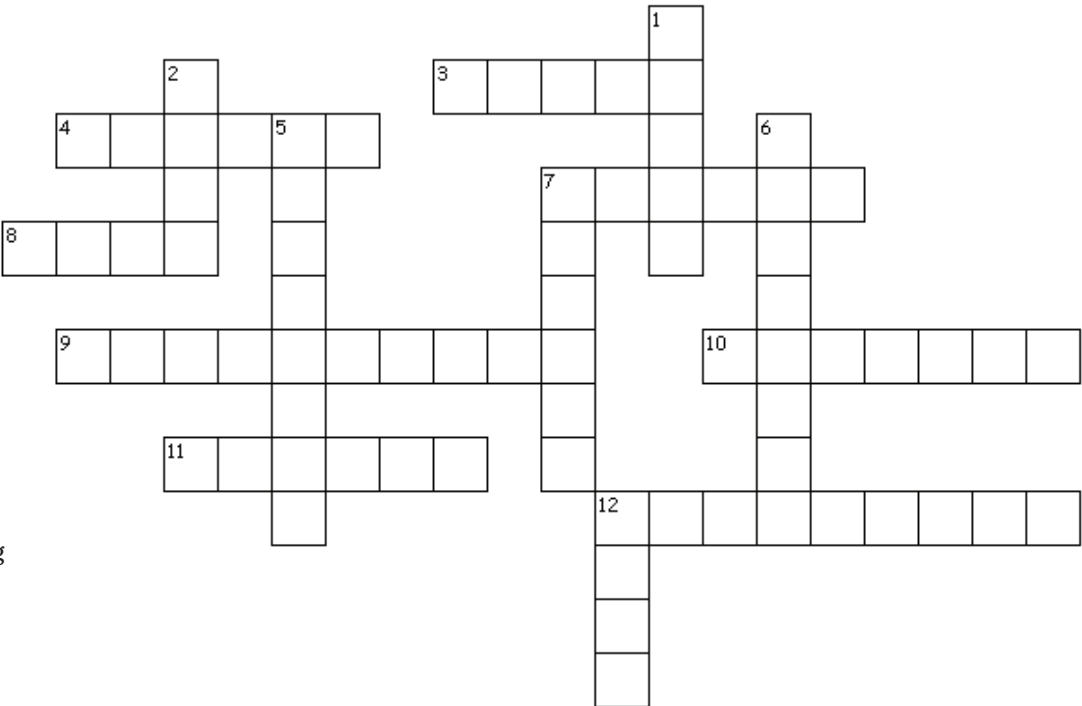
Crossword by: Carly Berger

Across

3. Oh Chanukah, Oh Chanukah, come light the Menorah let's have a party, we'll all dance the _____
4. Dancing and prancing in Jingle Bell Square, in the _____ air
7. Frosty the Snowman, was a jolly happy soul, with a corn cob pipe and a _____ nose, and two eyes made of coal
8. Oh the weather outside is frightful, but the _____ is so delightful
9. Sleigh bells ring, are you listening, in the lane, snow is _____
10. On the fourth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me four _____ birds
11. You know Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen, Comet and Cupid and _____ and Blitzen
12. _____ roasting on an open fire, Jack Frost nipping on your nose

Down

1. I'm dreaming of a _____ Christmas
2. Oh, there's no place like _____ for the holidays
5. There'll be parties for hosting, marshmallows for _____ and caroling out in the snow
6. Bells on _____ ring, making spirits bright
7. Deck the halls with _____ of holly
12. I have a little dreidel, I made it out of _____



Happy Holidays From the Hills West Round Up Staff!