

The Roundup

magazine

By the students and for the students of Hills West

Volume: 37 Issue: 2

Europe Trip 2015!

The San Jerónimo el Real is a 16th Century Roman Catholic Church in central Madrid. The students passed by after leaving the El Prado museum.

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Tobias Harris Returns

By Ethan Barnowitz & Jeremy Shuster

It's hard to believe that Tobias Harris, a 6'9" NBA forward on the Orlando Magic, once walked the halls of Hills West. Harris grew up in Dix Hills and quickly became the face of Hills West Basketball once reaching high school. He led the Colts to three Suffolk County Championships, two Long Island Championships, and a trip to the State Championship.

While playing at West, Harris joined an elite group of players on Long Island. He scored 2,105 high school career points. This point total is 7th all-time for Long Island High School basketball players. Harris wasn't just a scorer, though; while he was scoring in the range of thirty points per game, he was also a phenomenal rebounder and team player. On January 22, Coach Mitaritonna, in a ceremony honoring the 2007-8 Suffolk County Championship team, surprised Harris by retiring his #12 jersey.

Later that weekend, Harris got back to business, playing against the Knicks at Madison Square Garden. While it was not his best game of the year, the 2014-2015 season has been very kind to Harris. After not having a full time starting role for the first four years of his career, he has played in 45 games this season, starting 40 of them. He is exceeding his career average in points per game, rebounds, assists, 3 point percentage, and steals. He is second on the Orlando Magic with 17.1 points per game and 6.5 rebounds, third with 2.1 assists, and leading the team in minutes played per game with 34.2.

This season Tobias has had two buzzer beating, game winning shots: one against the

struggling Philadelphia 76ers on November 5th, and another on December 13th against the best team in the NBA, the 41-9 Atlanta Hawks. He has scored in double digits in 41 of the 45 games that he has played. His best game of the year came against the San Antonio Spurs; he shot 9-13 from the field, including 3-4 from three-point range, with 10 rebounds and 6 assists. He has had 8 double-doubles this year, including two games with 17 points and 16 rebounds. His season high in points came on December 6th against the Sacramento Kings, when he scored 27 points.

In the beginning of the season, Harris declined a 4 year, 36 million dollar extension from the Magic. This means that this summer Harris will be a restricted free agent, giving him the freedom to talk to any team about signing with them for the future, though the Magic will have a chance to match any offer that he receives. He has said that he wants to stay with the



Photo Credit: Photojournalism

Magic, but there have also been reports that Tobias told a close friend that he wants to win a championship with the Knicks.

This summer will be very intriguing for Tobias, as many eyes will be on him, waiting to see what he does next.



Coach Mitaritonna surprises Harris during his return by retiring Harris' #12 jersey.

Winter Chaos

By Alyssa Goodman

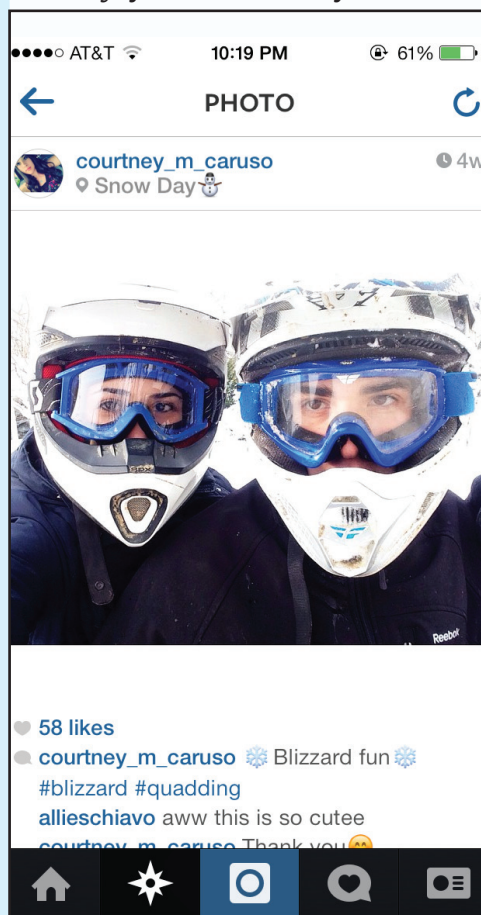
When you're young, the idea of a spontaneous day off of school is, for lack of a better word, thrilling. You wake up, late, presumably, finding that you should have been in school by now and quickly realize that the dance you had done the night before, the wishing, the praying for the accumulation of snow was successful. The day is yours.

Every angle of the outdoors is covered in powder-sugar beauty. Your trees are nestled in scarves of snow, and you are lucky enough to experience this day from the outside rather than behind the windows of a chilly classroom. There is no downside to time off, the present is a gift and the future seems better and brighter. This is how it was before you entered high school.

Of course, the initial joy is still there. The heightened flutter of your heart beat is familiar when you track the potential storm online and hear the ring of your phone just as you had given up hope. But when the euphoria settles, you have questions. What about the test I was supposed to have tomorrow? Does this mean the quarter is being pushed back? Should I still do all my work? As second quarter came to a close, students felt confident with their schedule that they had engraved into their minds and their agendas. Their final grade would be a culmination of what they had finished so far in addition to the upcoming cumulative exams that have taken the place of traditional midterms.

However, the two consecutive snow days in January,

Tuesday the 27th and Wednesday the 28th complicated the district's plans. The quarter, which was supposed to end on Friday the 1st, was extended to the next Tuesday. Students frantically checked eboards for updates on exams and projects and homeworks, hoping that they would have enough time to enjoy the snow day and ad-



equately prepare for the end of the quarter. All exams were cancelled for Thursday, the day of return, and postponed.

Then, following the Super Bowl, on Monday February 2, we had another snow day, and on Tuesday the 3rd we had a two hour delay, which complicated things even further. Now the quarter could not have

ended the planned Tuesday, and was moved to Thursday along with even more already-postponed tests and quizzes. Although the snow days are fun at the time, the accumulation of them has stressed some students.

Elan Sharony, a senior and student of multiple AP classes said, "It's nice to have days off from school but at the same time it sort of made second quarter ridiculously busy because I ended up having four midterms in one day, which was a lot to handle."

Kendall Dubin, a freshman, stated that, "Even though days are going to come off of Spring break and the quarter kept being moved, I am still glad we had the days off."

Although students felt a bit of anxiety regarding the unstable end of the quarter, teachers felt similar. Mr. Kilkelly, an AP Gov and Global history teacher said, "The first snow day is not a big deal, but by the time you get to the third one it gets a bit annoying. Everyone gets to feel like you're falling behind where you want to be. It's out of our control though, so its best to make the necessary adjustments and move on." Which is exactly what teachers did.

Perhaps the snow days were not the problem alone but the timing. Since the format of midterms was changed from a week of only tests to individual cumulative exams taken during class periods, missing days of school became crucial because the schedule of tests went up in the air, leaving students and teachers the responsibility to sort through

EUROPE TRIP TIMELINE

BY ANDREW BAKER

Over the recent February break, 42 Half Hollow Hills seniors embarked on a remarkable journey with seven teacher chaperones to Europe. As a part of the foreign language department field trip abroad, which has occurred sporadically over the years as a result of student interest and budgetary reasons, the trip contained a combined group of HSW and HSE seniors who explored the cities of Paris, Versailles, Madrid, and Toledo, all over the course of one week.

Thursday, Feb 12:

Students left HSW at 2:30 p.m. for JFK airport to check in and board their flight leaving at 7:30 that night. They loaded their luggage onto one bus and boarded another and immediately felt the excitement of the upcoming trip.

Friday, Feb 13:

After arriving in Paris at about 8:00 a.m. (jet-lagged of course), students dropped off their bags at the hotel and immediately began their touring of Paris. This day included a short walking tour of the city, free-time to indulge in the French "cafe-style" culture, and a visit to the renowned Louvre museum to explore famous art, including the Mona Lisa. The endless walking continued to see the beautiful Arc de Triomphe.



Wednesday, Feb 18:

Wednesday included a full-day excursion to the culturally diverse, ancient-Roman city of Toledo, known for its unique and admirable blend of Christian, Jewish, and Muslim influences. The students saw landmarks such as the famous Gothic Cathedral, the Medieval Synagogue; and marveled at famous paintings done by El Greco in the Church of Santo Tomé, especially The Burial of Count Orgaz.

Thursday, Feb 19:

This morning, the group split up, with 21 students taking a walking tour through some of the beautiful parks of Madrid, while the other 21 students embarked on a journey by Metro to Santiago Bernabéu Stadium, also known as the stadium of the Real Madrid soccer team. These students took a self-guided tour of the stadium going through the stands, to the museum, the locker room, the benches on the field, and the field itself. Upon returning to Madrid, the groups met back up at the Reina Sofia museum to see Picasso's famous mural Guernica as well as many other famous works. The day ended with an authentic Tapas evening, which involved hopping from place to place, dining like the Spanish do, finishing with an endless supply of churros with chocolate.



Saturday, Feb 14:

Saturday began with a bus tour around the city of Paris, highlighting sights such as the original royal palace of France, famous cathedrals such as the Notre Dame. The day continued with the exploration of the beautiful, narrow streets and alleys of the magnificent city, topping it off with a "Sketch Paris" drawing lesson with four local artists who brought the students around the city teaching them to draw different streets, landscapes, and cathedrals, including the famous Sacre-Coeur cathedral.



Sunday, Feb 15:

This day began early when the students boarded a bus to drive about 45 minutes to Louis XIV's Palace of Versailles. The seniors first explored the palace like a museum, seeing rooms such as Louis XIV's bedroom, political-decisions room, and the world-famous Hall of Mirrors. After traversing through this magnificent Palace, the students met back up and began a bike tour of the estate's beautiful gardens, featuring over 200,000 trees, 50 fountains, and 620 jets of water. After this, the students returned to Paris once again to ascend to the top floor of the Eiffel Tower to take in the breathtaking panoramic views of the beautiful city of love. The evening followed with a delicious dinner and a scenic boat ride down the Seine.



Tuesday, Feb 17:

Tuesday began with a guided sightseeing bus tour led by a local guide where the students stopped off at Las Ventas, Madrid's famous bullring to take pictures and take the scenery in. Later, the students entered the Prado museum, where guides took the students through the museum to marvel at the most beautiful, famous works of art. Following this museum, the students then went to a Flamenco workshop where they truly immersed themselves in Spanish culture, learning the different steps and nuances of Flamenco. This lesson was followed by dinner coupled with a dramatic and fiery professional Flamenco show with several performers.



Monday, Feb 16:

This day started with some friendly competition in the Jardin du Luxembourg, Paris's second-largest public park, as the students learned the classic French game of pétanque from a local expert. Later that day, the students boarded a flight to Madrid.



Friday, Feb 20:

The students left for New York early Friday morning to return back to reality. Upon arrival, the students were greeted harshly with the unwelcoming freezing temperatures as they reminisced about their memories over the past week.

This life-changing experiences for the students was made possible by the Half Hollow Hills administration, the World Languages director Maria Trigosso, as well as the chaperones: Ms. Espinal, Mrs. Gross, Mr. Toles, Mrs. Ferrandez, Mrs. Sirulnick, Mrs. Muñoz, and Mrs. Boccasini. Thanks to them, the students were able to explore Europe the way it is meant to be done: through the local museums, streets, and metro systems.

PROMPOSING: A GUIDE TO DOING IT RIGHT

By Alex Eichenstein

It's That Time of Year Again Folks!

Dresses are being flung off of hangers, stretch limos are being rented and prom season is officially in high-swing. Last year, Jason Rahimzadeh kicked off the season with a promising promposal during the annual senior banquet, and although we had no such spectacle at this year's banquet, that doesn't mean we aren't in for an exciting season full of asking and accepting. This year, seniors are going all out in order to ensure that their promposal, and date, is Instagram and retweet-worthy. It's been said, although I don't know by whom, that a happy date means a happy night- so here's your go-to guide to promposing right.

1. Food For The Win: Woman or man, boy or girl- food is truly the great unifier. Who wouldn't love to be asked to prom with a plethora of pizza? A collection of cupcakes? Even, dare I say, a bed of burritos? Try arranging your food of choice into letters spelling out the word "prom?" Or plant a fake menu at a favorite restaurant and allow your potential date to read it before seeing your request spelled out at the bottom of the page in a fanciful font. This method of asking is basically guaranteed to score you a yes from that lucky lady (or man), unless of course your date isn't into food- in which case, maybe you should rethink who you're going to ask in the first place.

2. Very Punny: As the Fairly Oddparents once said, "Weather? I thought you said feather!" Well, nothing says prom better than clever wordplay! Build a Lego tower complete with a poster declaring "Lego to prom together!" Show up to school inexplicably dressed in wings, and "wing it." Go whale-watching and hang a sign around your neck asking "Whale you go to prom with me?" Ask your date to be your "Sugar Daddy" with candy bars galore. Girls will love the wit and charm of your promposal and will have to say "YAAAAAS!"

3. When In Rome...: This year's senior trip to Paris over the February break included promposals from the likes of Stephen Imburgia, Andrew Baker and Josh Wende- all of whom took advantage of the romantic Parisian excursions and culture when asking their ladies for the big date. Wende asked girlfriend Christa Kiedaisch in the hotel lobby on Valentine's day with a bouquet of Parisian roses. Imburgia and Baker went for even grander gestures, promposing to Brooke Camarda and Alyssa Goodman on top of the Eiffel tower and during a visit to the grounds of Versailles, respectively. Baker threw in a bouquet of baguettes just to make the asking all the more authentic and irresistible.

4. Go Big or Go Home: No matter what your boo claims, they want you to go all out. Pull out all of the stops. Do it for the Vine. Skydive into their first period class with ten dozen roses. Have your local gospel choir arrange a medley of their favorite gospel-themed prom songs. Take them on a scuba diving adventure, and have the coral reef shaved to spell out "prom." Ride their favorite jungle animal into school, and hang a banner on said animal with your humble request. Hire Kanye West to interrupt you, mid-sentence, and ask your potential date to prom for you. Your date will never see it coming! And the sheer extravagance of it all will force them to say yes, despite what they actually want- *which, at the end of the day, is really just to go to prom with you, no matter how you decide to ask.*

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Bake Sales Banned & Hills West Races to Meet New Federal Regulations

BY ANTHONY PASSELA

Hills West has seen the end of one of its most timely and beloved institutions, the after-school bake sale. The sale of pizza and baked goods has served as both a means for relaxation after a stressful school day and an essential fundraising tool for clubs and organizations. However, recently imposed federal guidelines have forced administration to enact new rules that have, for the time being, ended these food sales directly after school.

At the beginning of the school year, new regulations enacted by the U.S Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration specified which foods could be served and sold during the school day, considered as being from Midnight to 2:30 P.M. "These regulations have been imposed nationwide," said Hills West Principal Dr. Catapano. "They've actually been in place for a few months, but now the rules are starting to be enforced."

The regulations specifically state the ingredients that are allowed to be included in food sold and meant for "immediate consumption." For instance, cheese must be made from skim milk and all breads must be whole grain and use whole wheat flour. Since many pizzerias don't make pizzas that meet these standards, pizza sales after school have ceased. There is also difficulty in baking sweets that meet the criteria provided, making once commonplace bake sales a now tricky endeavor.

The new guidelines also af-

fect school lunches, which have been altered to meet the requirements. "The pretzels and pizza our cafeteria serves are now whole grain, and we are transitioning towards less processed foods and really stressing fruits and vegetables on our menus," said Dr. Catapano.

Traditionally, many Hills West clubs and organizations have relied on the sale of baked goods and pizza after school as their primary fundraising method. Administration is working feverishly with local pizzerias to cater to these

"When you get out of 9th period, you're starving and really craving that after school snack, especially if you play sports."

new restrictions and allow clubs to start selling pizza again. Clubs that wish to sell baked goods that meet the requirements are welcome to do so, and a list of the requirements can be obtained from Ms. Reynolds in the guidance office.

If clubs do not wish to comply with the new standards, the requirements are only in effect until 2:30 p.m., and do not apply to food items not meant to be consumed immediately, such as cookie dough.

Students have reacted to this shakeup with discontentment. "When you get out of 9th

period, you're starving and really craving that after school snack, especially if you play sports," said Junior Sarah Aurrichio. "Now it's going to be hard to have to wait until 2:30, especially if you have to go to practice or catch your bus."

Sophomore John Palmeri also disapproved of the new regulations. "It's outrageous that the Federal Government is setting such strict standards. Sure, it is important for the school to serve healthy food, but a lot of clubs rely on after school food sales to raise money and now they can't do that."

Recent surges of obesity rates in America are startling. The FDA estimates that about 25 percent of children are obese, almost double the percentage that were in 2000. The Federal Government has stepped up its efforts to curb this growing trend by emphasizing healthy lunches that use less processed ingredients.

While the immediate effect of these new regulations has resulted in the end of bake sales, their absence appears to be only temporary. While bake sales and pizza sales are more difficult to conduct now, clubs in need of funds are likely to adapt to these changes and transition well into selling healthier foods after school that meet the necessary requirements.

Until then, Hills West students will have to endure the effects of the new standards, courtesy of the Federal Government and the dynamic times we live in.

New Phys Ed Curriculum Provides Student Choice

BY MIRIAM ZORNBERG

It has been confirmed. The new curriculum will definitely be put into action at the start of the upcoming school year! To anyone wondering just what the new curriculum is- it actually has to do with the survey that the physical education teachers recently had all students take during their gym periods.

Beginning next year, physical education at Hills West will be split into three different sections: individual, team, and outdoor recreation. Instead of classes being divided by grades, they will now be divided by student preference. The sections, and what they consist of, are exactly as they sound. Individual physical education will be composed of activities that only require one person to be completed, team physical education will consist entirely of group activities, and outdoor recreation will consist of activities not so typical for students to experience in an indoor high school gym class, which is why they'll be outdoors.

There is something for everyone, from the shy kids who prefer to exercise alone, to the extroverts who enjoy hanging out with friends at all times, to the kids who have been in gym class for so long that they are just aching to try something new. The only question many students have is whether or not the idea of the new program is better than the actual program it will turn out to be.

Physical Education teacher Mr. Migliozi, affectionately known among Hills West students as "Miggs," believes that the program may even turn out to be better than students expect it to be.

"The team sports and the individual sports will not change much. We do that all the time," said Miggs.

Besides, the mountain bikes have already all been ordered, and now the only thing left for students to do is gear up for the change. While there are no mountains nearby, which is of course no secret seeing as where High School West is located, students will have the opportunity to do as much as possible with them, which includes riding them around in the school's field, and possibly a field trip someday? It definitely beats what passes for football in PE class right now.

One thing that the new curriculum will also do for students, other than provide a change, is give more opportunity for friends to sign up to be together in class. Instead of two girls being signed up for second period gym only to find out that one has Mrs. DiPietro and the other has Mrs. Brigati and there's no room to change, now they can both sign up individually to give them a better chance to be together.

Sabrina Kim weighed in with her opinion that, "Individuals will most likely be the more popular option among the girls." And come on, guys love team sports! The only question is: who loves the outdoors? Seniors say that they don't really love any of them, but it won't be for them to decide anyway. The upcoming freshman, sophomores, and juniors should certainly be excited.

