

# The Roundup

magazine

By the students, for the students of Hills West

Volume: 37 Issue: 1

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# ROSE THE RIVETER

## *SHE DID IT!*

Senior Rose Bender has made a tremendous impact on Hills West throughout the years-- specifically on the blood drive. It is her duty to inform students about the blood drive and why it is so important to donate blood-- in Rose's case it's not just words, it is something she experienced firsthand. A blood transfusion saved her life.

Rose Bender was born with a genetic disorder called hemophilia. Due to lack of specific proteins in the body, a hemophiliac's blood does not clot and he/she will bleed longer than one who has these proteins. This disorder can be life threatening, and it has been for Rose Bender. At just nine months old, Rose's knee swelled abnormally due to internal bleeding in her knee joint. The significant loss of blood almost took her

life--fortunately she received a blood transfusion that replenished the lost blood and missing proteins. Rose Bender is

living proof that blood donations save lives.

Throughout the years, Rose and her family members have been coordinators at many blood drives. Her mother ran the "Rose Bender Blood Drive" for a number of years at her local temple. Rose has been following in her mother's footsteps and has taken her extensive knowledge and experiences to her school community. "Now I'm old enough to speak maturely about a cause that is meaningful to me, and it is so rewarding," said Rose.

Today, Rose uses her story as a way to inform the student body, hoping to recruit more donors for the school blood drive. Her famous gymnasium speeches started out as just a way to ace an English presentation, but after her presentation impacted her classmates to donate blood that year, Rose wanted to go further and inform the whole student body. "[The speech] got such a positive response from the class, which made me want to give the speech to the whole school. Even though I knew it would be scary, I felt like the challenge would be worth it-- and it has

definitely turned out to be" she explained.

Rose has contributed to two record-breaking blood drives back-to-back. This year's Key Club fall blood drive at Hills West was a huge success, resulting in 114 pints of donated blood, which broke last spring's 98 pint record. 131 people came to the new gym to donate blood throughout the day, but due to lack of staff members, only 113 actually got a chance to donate. Key Club adviser Mrs. Madden was so proud of the results, as the number of pints donated this time around have doubled the results from the past. Mrs. Madden hopes that this spring's blood drive, coordinated by SEC, will be equipped with more technicians, so that all who come can save lives.

Rose's dedication and devotion to this event has been validated by her peers and the astounding results of the blood drive. Giving back and making a

difference is an amazing feeling for Rose.

With her last Hills West blood drive this spring, Rose hopes to break the school record once again. Though she will not physically be at Hills West next year, Rose hopes that her significant efforts live on and people remember her and her story; not only for the next blood drive at Hills West, but for the rest of their lives.

"The absolute biggest thing I can hope for is that this will carry a legacy and affect people's lives long after I graduate. I wanted to make it so that donating blood is "cool"-- so it's not just an event that exists in the school, but something that people do and tell their friends to do because they realize how simple yet significant it is."

Although Rose is sad about not being able to invest in future Hills West blood drives, she is confident that her underclassmen will be eager to donate blood in the years following and will remember her for all she's done.



BY JAIME WEINREB

# WILL CATALANELLO BY DAY WILLY DIAMOND BY NIGHT



BY JOSALIE QUIWA

Many of you may know him as Will Catalanello, a fellow student here at Hills West. However, you may not be familiar with his alter ego, Willy Diamond. Willy Diamond, a rising phenomenon, is known for his parody covers of popular songs, such as, "Ignition" and "Just a Friend."

Singing sensation Willy Diamond originated in December 2013. As a sophomore, Will began to record humorous covers of Christmas music for enjoyment. After receiving positive feedback from friends and family, Will decided to post his hilarious covers on SoundCloud, receiving approximately 800 hits overall. He released his first playlist entitled "Willy's White Christmas," which consisted of five well-known holiday tunes.

After several months of inactivity, Willy Diamond made a comeback with the help of fellow Hills West Juniors Lucas DiGiorgi, Justin Dailey, Christian Tirone, AJ Leva, and Anthony Promiano. Together, they founded Vial Boy Records, where they release their music.

Justin Dailey, one of the Vial Boy Records founders, stated, "Vial Boy Records was an idea that my pals and I came up with, where we would make short freestyle raps just messing around. Once Willy Diamond's popularity started to rise, my pals Lucas Digiorgi aka Lukey Rozay, Christian Tirone aka LilCC, AJ Leva aka AJ Hot Buns, Anthony Primiano aka Premo, Will Catalanello aka Willy Diamond, and myself, JDog, all started to write songs or make covers."

On November 9, 2014, Willy Diamond released his first music video on YouTube, entitled, "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year." The video features Willy Diamond himself, dancing and singing whilst dressed in holiday attire.

Christian Tirone produced the infamous video. "Will came to me with the idea of making a music video for one of the songs from his breakout Christmas album. Being a believer and supporter of Willy Diamond, I was thrilled by the idea and began planning for the music video immediately. The music video, surprisingly, was not made in a field covered in snow surrounded by trees of

Christmas cheer, but was made in my basement in front of a green screen. The video took about 2 days to finish and was then put up on YouTube for the whole world to see."

Shortly after the release, the video was shared among students on all social media platforms. Vial Boy Records has received recognition from Famous Viner Sofia Oliveira, as well as YouTube sensation Jenna Rose.

"The video as of now has around 450 views, which is funny because the quality is awful. My songs on SoundCloud have around 6000 views altogether, which is absurd," said Will Catalanello.

As the video spread, and Willy Diamond began to rise to fame, fellow Junior, Travis Fallacy, suggested selling

Willy Diamond merchandise. When asked about his idea for clothing, Travis responded, "I run a business called Embroiditall, where I make custom apparel. Once Will started this whole Willy Diamond craze,

**"The first song I released this year was "Thriller," which came out around Halloween. After that, I decided to make more music, and it went on from there."**

I thought it would be a great idea to make this experience even more than just a guy singing. We received a total of 73 orders, which was unbelievable."

It couldn't have been as successful without the help of Steven Ente and Tyler Neirman, who are the backbone of Willy Diamond Clothing," said Will.

The first orders of sweaters were distributed on December 1st, 2014. Willy Diamond Day, December 2nd, was declared on his official Twitter account, encouraging fans to wear their new sweaters to school to show support.

"The reasoning behind Willy Diamond is for me and my friends to laugh. They're my best pals. We do everything together, and when we find something funny like Willy Diamond, we just keep on doing it, because why not?" asked Will.

In the future, Willy Diamond plans to sell more merchandise as well as cover new genres of music. Check out Willy Diamond on SoundCloud, follow @Willy\_Diamond on Twitter to receive updates on the latest music and merchandise.



# THE CHEATING EP

## and W

On Sunday, I woke up at 8:00 a.m. to begin my school work and did not finish until 7:30 that night. One could argue that this is a ludicrous amount of work for a high-school student or that the education system is failing in its attempts to convince students to remain organized throughout the course of the week or blah blah blah...but this is not my greatest concern.

My concern is this: when I walked into first period the following day, I noticed a group of girls (I would call them friends, but they are far from that) copying each other's homework, word for word. After lunch, I entered math prepared to take an exam for which I had studied three hours the previous day. During the test, the girl sitting in the desk in front of me turned around six times to look at my exam. During a social studies quiz later that day, I noticed the boy next to me Googling the quiz questions on his phone, while my teacher naively sat at her desk typing undeserved quiz grades into her computer.

I wish I could say I was surprised by any of this. I wish I could say that these people were caught and harshly reprimanded according to our code of conduct. I wish that I could be angry with these people for receiving grades that even eleven and a half hours of work couldn't get me (Yes, that's right. They all did exceptionally well on the math test and social studies quiz, and my grades were sub-par at best), but I'm not sure that I can be. The truth is, students have been cheating long and successfully enough to realize that there are no consequences to breaking the sacred academic code they agreed upon when they first entered the doors of High School West. Cheating is a typical occurrence in Hills West and occurs no matter what grade, class or teacher is involved. One cannot solely place the blame upon the students, because there are an unimaginable amount of factors that go into cheating and the consequences (or lack thereof) that go along with it.

I recently toyed with the idea that maybe these experiences were exclusive to my grade or simply students who enroll in more vigorous courses, but then I heard about an appalling example of cheating that had no affiliation with me or my grade whatsoever. After

purchasing a new printer over my summer vacation, I no longer had the need to print out homework or worksheets in the library before school began, and I had not been to the library since last year- but I was surprised to recently learn that the library is no longer available for students to use before school hours. When I inquired with Ms. Lennon, the school librarian, as to why this was, I was appalled to learn that the reason had nothing to do with an overuse of printer-paper or lack of available chaperones- but rather due to a rather disturbing meeting known to its participants as the "Homework Exchange Program." This "program" consisted of upwards of fifty sophomore and junior boys occupying the far end of the library, and "exchanging," or copying homework from each other that they had failed to complete on their own the previous night. In order to prevent this unfair exchange of work, the library was forced to keep its doors closed until 7:14, which is unfortunate for students who have no other opportunities to work on or print out work during the day.

Another unfortunate aspect of this occurrence is the fact that this display of mass cheating is not irregular at High School West and does not even scrape the surface of ways in which students cheat on homework, quizzes, and especially tests. The pressures have mounted in recent years for students to be top notch, and nothing short of that. Yes, it's true that colleges are currently forcing students into a state of constant stress and providing reasonable motives to do "whatever it takes," to get the grade, but are we really letting this justify cheating? When did morals take a back seat to getting the grade? As a student, I can easily admit that among the massive piles of homework rewarded to students nightly and the ACT/SAT/AP/Regents prep, cheating is an alluring prospect. Why not just take a quick peak at someone's test who actually had time to do the work?

But students should be reminded of the pure immorality of cheating. Students should be reminded of the lessons that Barney and Caillou instilled in us at such young ages- that cheating is wrong and deserves consequences. I myself am guilty in that



# EPIDEMIC

## What We're (Not) Doing to Stop it

BY ALEX EICHENSTEIN

I often do not report these instances of cheating to my teachers in fear of being dubbed a “snitch,” but should the students willing to do the right thing really be the ones who are afraid? The pressures of high school may be somewhat unreasonable- in addition to school work, sports, music, and volunteer work- there is barely any time left to watch television or do something actually important, but we should not let any of these factors help condone cheating.

One could blame teachers for not discouraging or punishing students on their cheating habits, but that accusation would unfairly incriminate well-meaning professionals. An undisclosed (and particularly popular) Hills West teacher claims that there aren't many options for teachers who catch students cheating. If a teacher gives a student a zero on a plagiarized essay or exam, parent complaints immediately flood the main office.

Again, there are other factors at hand here, but also a very ironic cycle of events. Students cheat in order to do well on an exam and to please their crazed, bumper-sticker loving parents in the process. When said student is caught cheating, the parent complains and the student has learned that none of the punishments promised to them in the student handbook actually ensue. The student is therefore willing to continue this process, despite warning. Teachers often figure that there is no point in calling students out, when there are no legitimate consequences with which to punish the offender.

So, how does one convince students of the academic and moral effects of cheating? I'll take stricter consequences for 500, Alex! (Double points to anybody who got the Jeopardy reference). Recently, a girl in my English class was caught plagiarizing a project, and just yesterday she asked me to send her an essay we were assigned in that very class. I politely declined, but I have no doubt that she asked one of our fellow classmates and promptly copied and pasted their essay into Word, changing only the name in the heading.

I don't think that students should be kicked out of school and sent to a dungeon for cheating on a single test, but repeat offenders should be more strictly reprimanded, not only by their teachers, but by fellow classmates who continuously allow cheating to occur. Students should consider that, if they cheat, their grades are not honestly earned. I don't know what would truly convince students that cheating is wrong, and I don't expect the cheating epidemic to be eradicated overnight- I just hope that students realize (hopefully sooner rather than later) that they can't go through life copying the answers off of their friend's paper.

*We would love to read your thoughts on this subject, and would be excited to print some of you responses on our website: [hillswestroundup.com](http://hillswestroundup.com)*

*Please email your responses to:  
[westroundup@gmail.com](mailto:westroundup@gmail.com)*



# Locked Cafeteria Doors Boost Safety

BY JAIME WEINREB

**Hills West seniors have been huffing and puffing over the recent locking of the cafeteria doors. What's worse than walking a few extra steps to a different entrance in the brisk morning? Little do these seniors know, they are now a lot safer in their school environment. This "inconvenience" offers a whole new level of security to Hills West as a whole.**

After multiple bomb threats throughout the district, many students have felt less secure in an environment they should feel complete security. The fact that the cafeteria doors are kept open throughout the entire school day plays a key role in the fear of many.

"Anyone could just walk into our school if they wanted to. Seniors do it all the time when they come late to school," said Julia Weinstein, a senior at Hills West. Just a few weeks ago during 4th period lunch, a woman came through the cafeteria doors. With not a visitors pass or a staff lanyard on, many students sat in their lunch tables in fear. Lunch

monitor Mrs. Josie approached the woman, who was now in the building.

"I saw the woman come towards the building, but by the time I left the front of the cafeteria to go over to her, she was already inside the school," explained Mrs. Josie.

These open doors invite potentially harmful strangers into our school. It was evident that the cafeteria doors needed to be locked throughout the day. Limiting outsiders to one main entrance diminishes harm to Hills West.

So remember, a few extra steps from the parking lot to the main entrance might seem inconvenient, but safety first.

## Letter From The Editors:

The Roundup would like to apologize for the delay of our first printed issue. The success of our website for daily news and school events has inspired us to pursue a magazine style format for our print editions. We hope to explore more feature oriented pieces with interesting topics and engaging designs. We have encountered some obstacles on the way to publishing this first version of The Roundup Magazine, but we are proud to now share our work with the Hills West community. We hope you enjoy the fruits of our labor. Remember to visit [www.hillswestroundup.com](http://www.hillswestroundup.com) daily for sports updates and much much more. Also, follow us on Twitter @westroundup.

**THE ROUNDUP**  
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# Don't fret, It's Just a Threat?

BY JOSALIE QUIWA

Beginning in October 2014, a series of bomb threats were received by both high schools in the Half Hollow Hills Central School District. These threats have disrupted both the safe learning environments, as well as district activities. Numerous safety precautions have been taken, resulting in thorough bag searches prior to entering the buildings, police dog investigations, evacuations, early dismissals, and after school cancellations in both high schools in the district.

On October 17th 2014, many Hills West students were reluctant to attend school after hearing about the supposed bomb threat. Gabby Sanchez, a senior at Hills West, decided not to take a risk.

"With all of the dangerous incidents occurring around the world, such as terrorism, school shootings, and bombings, there was actually a thought in the back of my mind that it could have been serious."

However, some students believe it was a hoax. Hills West senior, Sabrina Kim, stated, "I attended school because I believe that if it was really very serious, the school would have been closed."

"I remember the first day the bomb threat transpired. They didn't do much other than reschedule tests in case the threats were real, which was something I was happy about, however it is still scary to think about. The next one seemed pretty serious. I didn't go to school because my mom wanted to be careful, just in case. The

next threat was during school, and we got dismissed early. I was kind of worried then, because we were leaving and someone could get hurt if it was this serious," recalled-Hills East senior, Jessica Soohoo.

Rumors spread that it was a gun threat, but it was not confirmed. The threats kept happening, and High School East parents continued to receive emails from the district. Security has become stricter since the threats, and students cannot walk outside to get from class to class anymore at High School East.

The recent bomb threats have caused a rise in curiosity among the community regarding the procedures taken by the school and the police. How do the police react to such threats?

When a school calls the police regarding a bomb threat, there is no immediate action taken by

the police unless an actual device or suspicious package is found by administration. This is important to not cause a frenzy of confusion, because people often jump to the worst conclusions when police arrive at a suspicious scene, when often, threats are not serious.

Police will, however, do an extensive investigation into the threat to determine the probability and seriousness when it is brought to their attention. This includes possibly trying to trace phone numbers and computer IP addresses. If the school staff finds a suspicious package, an evacuation occurs and the bomb squad is called in. The following procedure is based completely on the environment and the item itself.

The school staff is the best asset during bomb threats, because they know if something is out of place or does not belong. Searching through a school for a bomb with a detection dog could take days to be nearly secure. There are no guarantees that an area is completely clear of a threatening item. However, dogs are generally accurate.

Most threats are not credible, and focusing attention on threats may only cause more.





# GOOD LUCK

## PAYING FOR COLLEGE BEFORE YOU EVEN START

BY EVAN HOCHHAUSER

You may pay the application fee for this institution using a credit card or echeck. Please note that all online payments are processed by a secure third-party payment service; you will be redirected to their site to enter your payment information. **Once you submit your payment you will be unable to change your payment method.**

**Application Fee: \$70.00 First Year Domestic Fee**

Every student applying to colleges knows how expensive tuition is. Many universities cost upwards of \$60,000, while the national average continues increasing above the \$30,000 level. While the costs of a college education are troubling enough on their own, many do not realize that students start incurring fees well before they begin their college experience. The costs of just applying to college have been steadily growing over the last decade. A student can be paying upwards of a \$100 to apply to a single college, which of course does not guarantee admission.

Nationally, the average application fee – that is the cost of sending in an application for consideration – is around \$40. Many colleges far exceed this, however. Syracuse University, University of Michigan, University of Notre Dame, Harvard University, Yale University, Northeastern University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Texas State University, University of Delaware, and countless others charge \$75 for a glance at your application. The University of Southern California, Villanova University and a few others upped that, charging \$80 for an application, while Duke University and Boston College require an \$85 payment. It is the rejection-loving Stanford University that leads the way, however, demanding a steep \$90 payment just to apply.

Besides the actual cost of sending in an application, the contents themselves have an additional cost. Any standardized test score, whether that is an SAT, SAT 2, ACT, or AP exam score, has a fee to send the score report to each individual college. The SAT and SAT

2 scores cost roughly \$11 to send, the ACT scores cost \$12, and the AP scores cost \$15. Some may see these as miniscule costs, but these prices add up quickly.

Mrs. Darge, the Hills West college career advisor, said that every student should be applying to 7-10 schools. So assuming 8 colleges of the average \$40 application cost, that is \$320 to apply. Then the average student sends either 2 SAT or 2 ACT scores, in addition to 2 SAT 2 scores and 2 AP exam scores per college. So, that is \$74 per college, and \$592 for all 8 colleges. This means, for the average student to apply to college it costs approximately \$912.

However, many students are applying to even more schools than that. Senior, Emily Feigenbaum is applying to 17 schools, and most of them charge over the \$40 average to apply. For the many students like her applying to over 15 colleges, the cost of applying could be over \$1,500, and in some cases could reach \$2,000.

While many students may apply to fewer schools, most have in the 7-10 range. Some fee waivers are offered, but these are difficult to come upon. With all of the focus put on the exorbitant tuition costs, it is easy to overlook the much smaller but still significant costs of applications.

However, when it costs over \$1,000 just for colleges to glance at your application for a few minutes, there is clearly an issue that should be addressed. For now, it is important to understand how expensive even the little things are when applying to colleges, and to be meticulous and conservative when sending out applications.