

The High Times

SINCE 1933

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RHS Seniors Go to Prom

A night to remember for the graduating class.



Mrs. Reilly

Shaye Calderon, Cristina Barrales, Sophia Fandino, Alexa Van Sickle, Rachel Fishbein, Tara Cirillo, Taylor Tai, and Becky Tomlichik



David Caiafa

David Caiafa and Nicole Witt



Genevieve Fursentein

Seniors gather before prom to take picture with friends



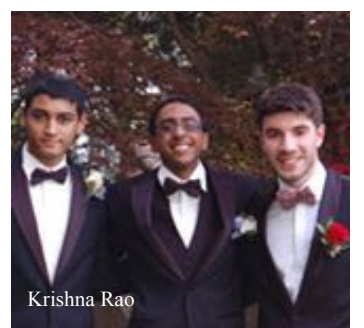
Steven Lee

Seniors get ready for a fun night at Prom



Krishna Rao

Joseph D'Alcamo, Jackie Schlein, Allison Toledo, Matt Mandeli, Derrick Joseph, Haley Duggan, Dana Elsabeh, Amanda Lam, and Molly Duggan



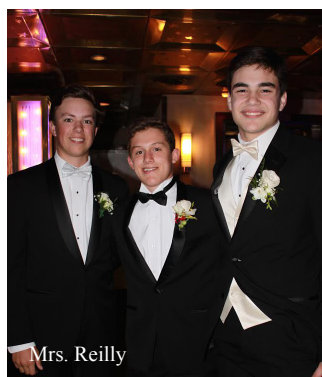
Krishna Rao

Krishna Rao, Derrick Joseph, and Matt Mandeli



Mrs. Reilly

Jose Collantes, Lucas Veca, Oliver Galvin, and Berfu Yildiz



Mrs. Reilly

Jack Sharry, Patrick Jacoby, and Aaron DelVecchio



Mrs. Reilly

Swathi Ragulan, Mr. Ferreri, Gayatri Venkataraman, and Sara Canilang



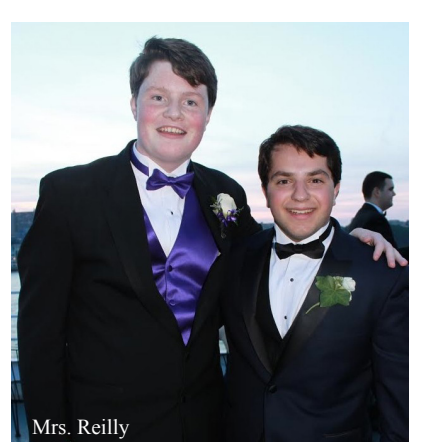
Mrs. Reilly

Katie Gilgen and Sam Jacobs



Saskia Kepler

Seniors gathering at a pre-prom event



Mrs. Reilly

Cormac Bohan and Tommy Anilyan

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Student Rep to the Board

Brianna Patek
staff writer

The student council consists of a variety of positions all created for different purposes. However within student government there is one position that is not frequently mentioned, one that many people don't even know exists, the position of student representative to the Ridgewood Board of Education.

Like any other position that fits under the umbrella of students government, the students interested needs to complete several steps in order to obtain the position. But for the position of student representative to the board, interested students go through a rigorous application process instead of appealing to the student body and gaining election. The first step, like one might expect is to write an essay about why they want the position, and which of their qualities make them a worthy applicant. After proving their interest and eligibility through their essays, students enter the next step in the selection process, an interview conducted by a panel comprised of Dr. Gorman, Mr. Pizzuto, and the current representative, who for this school year is senior Becky Tomilchik.

The individual who is chosen for this position gets a glimpse at how the Ridgewood Board of Ed functions. He or she must attend board meetings at the Ed Center every other Monday and give a report about happenings in the school including events and issues concerning academics, athletics, and the arts among others. Based upon these guidelines, the student to

fill this position is clearly expected to be well-informed of and involved in RHS culture, and the representative must sit in on all of the student council meetings to stay updated.

Although the representative plays a crucial part in keeping the Board of Ed informed and weighing in on certain issues, he/she does not get to participate in the decision making process. When asked to describe his duties for this position, next year's representative, rising senior, Josh Schneider, stated, "I am tasked with presenting my personal opinion on matters as well representing the best interests of the RHS student body. In short, I act as a liaison between my fellow students and the Board of Ed." Josh is getting ready of the school year ahead of him as he prepares to step into Tomilchik's shoes and represent the school.

In summation, the position of the Representative to the Ridgewood Board of Education is not only just an extension of student congress, but also a bridge between high school students and the administrators that run the school system. According to Board president Ms. Sheila Brogan, "Having a student representative to the Board of Education is of great value. It provides the Board the opportunity to hear the student perspective and gives the student the opportunity to voice opinions and concerns about school district policy such as the 1 to 1 (ChromeBook) initiative." The students that take on this position, like Tomilchik and Schneider, must be active members of the school and have superior leadership and speaking skills, as they maintain a close relationship with the Board of Ed.

Latin Supports Cambodia Club

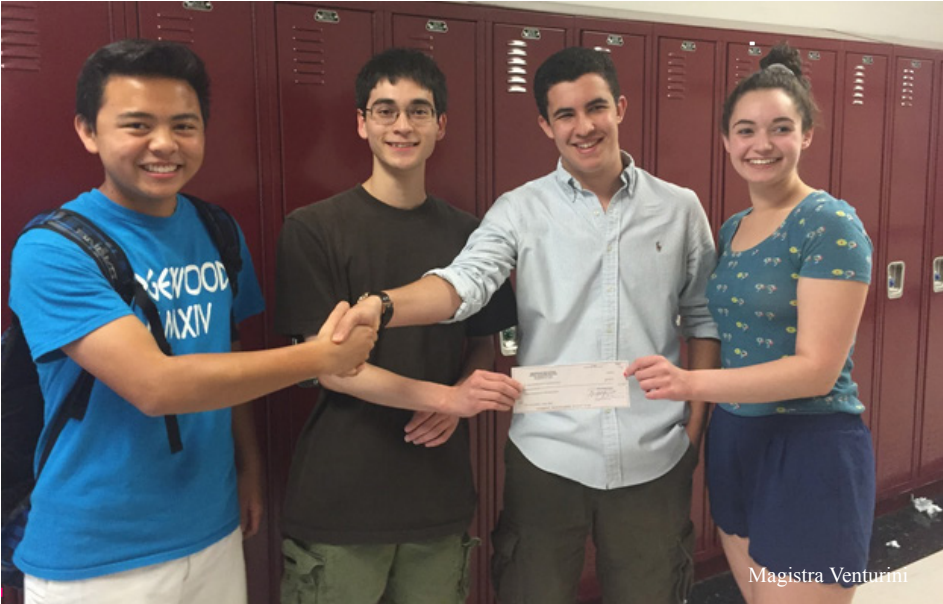
Elizabeth O'Keefe
news editor

Founded in 2007, the Ridgewood Cambodia Club was founded with the ambitious goal of building a fully functioning school in rural Kandal Province in Cambodia. Since that time, the Cambodia Club has blossomed into a district wide organization with groups at both middle schools as well as at RHS.

The Cambodia Club managed to reach its lofty goal of establishing the Ridgewood Village School in 2009, however the club did not stop there in its efforts to provide the students with a quality education as well as a suitable learning environment. With the school

now firmly established, the club works tirelessly to provide the school with invaluable assets such as an English and Computers teacher, internet connection, a vegetable kitchen and outdoor kitchen, as well as a gardener and cook. However in order to meet these demands, Cambodia Club participants are under pressure to raise at least \$5,000 every year to finance the school.

The RHS Latin Club generously decided to help the Cambodia Club, donating \$100 of hard earned fundraising money. It is the hope of Latin Club and Cambodia club officers alike that the kind hearted actions of the Latin Club will inspire other RHS clubs to do the same.



Latin Club consuls Jay Syz and Ben Bechtold exchange the check with Cambodia Club representatives Julia Louzides.

RHS Students Raise Over \$5,000 in Relay for Life

Liz Bozian
staff writer

"Every step is one closer to a cure!" This call for action and participation was one shouted continuously by all involved in the big Relay for Life that was held at Alexander Hamilton Elementary School in Glen Rock.

Many students from Ridgewood High School were able to get involved and attend this event through Project Interact, a service oriented club run by Mrs. Feeney and Mrs. Reilly. The event was put on to help raise money for cancer, and this year's relay alone raised a whopping \$84,000.

Participants slept in tents overnight from Saturday to Sunday, and activities went on all night in order to try to keep

everyone awake. At the elementary school they set up a track on the grass that ran around the field that served as the location for the relay itself. Throughout the night, there were various activities and themed laps to encourage people to walk one more lap.

One example of this was the best friend walk, in which participants simply took an extra lap with their best friend. Although in the middle of the night it started to downpour, the dedicated participants in Relay for Life did not let the unfortunate weather rain on their parade, and continued with the festivities.

Towards the beginning of the event, there was a small ceremony honoring all of the cancer survivors that were there in which all received medals. During this there were a few people who shared their stories and

for many people this was their favorite part of the whole event. This was the case for one of the Project Interact leaders, Mrs. Feeney. She said "The most profound parts of the day are when the different survivors speak about their fight and their survival, lots of stories of hope and inspiration and determination, the day is exhausting and uplifting at the same time." These stories gave much motivation to all those listening to continue to persevere through whatever hard times they may be going through at the moment.

Many people wanted to participate in Relay for Life in honor of a loved one who battled cancer or is currently battling cancer. A devoted project interact member, Amy Schlicht, and the project interact team captain and event coordinator of relay for life, Amanda deVera, both agreed that the Luminaria



aldersgateumc-ks.org

service was the best part of the event. Amanda said "My favorite part of relay is the Luminaria service. This event takes place around 11 at night. The entire track is surrounded by decorated paper bags, each representing a loved one who fought or is currently fighting against cancer. The silent lap never fails to bring me to tears and I'm so excited to continue my relaying."

Many also agreed that this event brought about many emotions and many agreed that although this service was very sad it was also uplifting at the same time. Schlicht said "Everyone coming together and creating hope and strength together was special." This event made everyone come together in support of a great cause and raise money while having fun too!

At the end of the day everyone had a blast coming together for a good cause. Students and faculty from Ridgewood High School love to get involved each year and encourage anyone who is interested to join the team in the years to come. Relay for life raises millions of dollars through thousands events that occur around the country each year. This past weekend was a huge success and our Ridgewood Project Interact Team alone achieved our goal of \$5,000 and raised nearly \$6,000 for the cause.



Participants in this year's Relay for Life gather for a group picture before beginning their walk.

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Arts & Entertainment

Ridgewood High School Celebration of the Arts 2015

Jamie Lim
staff writer

Celebration of the Arts is an annual event at RHS that allows students from all disciplines of art to showcase their works to their peers and the public. This event requires a lot of preparation and effort in order to display every students' talent and artwork that they have been working on throughout the year. During Celebration, the hallways, Campus Center, and art gallery are covered in works of art created by students. Throughout the day, dancers, singers, actors and musicians entertain the school community with open performances.

Mr. DaSilva is an RHS art teacher who runs the ceramics, jewelry, and digital photography electives. When asked to describe Celebration of the Arts in his own words, he said that, "It is a combination of all the buildings of art projects throughout the year. It harvests the essence of hard work that was proposed throughout the whole school year by the artistic student body." He also said that Celebration is unique from other school-wide events because It allows students to express themselves in form of a massive exhibit. "It not only provides [for the public] artwork the students create, but also acts as a fusion of dance and music."

Brigid Minitier, a junior whose works of art were displayed Friday, says she looks forward to it every



Students explore the paintings, photography, sculpture and more in the Celebration of the Arts exhibition in the Campus Center

year because, "It inspires me to create even more art to prepare for it. It is also nice to be recognized by the rest of my peers. Art always puts a smile on my face and I hope that Celebration puts a smile on everyone else's face." She also believes that Celebration of the Arts is one of the many things that makes RHS unique. "I don't know of any other school that honors the arts as much as RHS. It brings the whole student body together and teaches them how to respect art in a fun and interesting way."

This year's celebration was quite the success. On May 30, the students involved with the event displayed

their artistic abilities through exhibitions and performances. There were many vocalists from RHS' own choral groups, including the Acabellas and Maroon Men. These performances also included individuals who sing outside of the school choir program. The performance artists that graced the stage not only came from New Players, but also from dance classes in school, Act One, and other acting programs in the area. To top it all off, there were also many talented musicians who played in group and solo performances. Many of these performers are part of the RHS band and the other musical programs the school has to offer.

Overall, the tremendous amount of practice, sweat and effort each participant put into this year's Celebration of the Arts undoubtedly created a spectacular display on stage and on gallery walls. It definitely spotlighted attention towards the incredible talent RHS students have for the rest of the school to admire. From solos to group performances, gallery showcases and short film screenings, each talented individual had a chance to show off their talents with the entire school. It was an event that brought the school together to appreciate the artists and performers at RHS and what they have to offer to the community.

New Players Company: Student Written One Acts

CJ Jerkovich
staff writer

As the school year came to an end, the New Players Company went out with a bang. The Festival for Student Written One Acts was the company's last production of the school year, and the program consisted of seven student writers, five student directors, and around forty student actors. The production relied on the company's creative spirit and was one of the most unique New Players experiences. Similar to New Players in Concert, this program also encouraged students who don't consider themselves to be "full-fledged Newps" to participate in the festival.

Once accepted into One Acts, writers immediately began to meet with Mrs. Vilardi to schedule future readings and critiques with the other playwrights. In these meetings, students helped edit and perfect each other's

work. After the writers finished critiquing each other, Mrs. Vilardi then offered her opinion on how to alter the direction of each play, as well as giving insight she has gained from working in the industry. She was crucial to the success of the festival and was a fantastic leader of the club. The playwrights had around five to six of these meetings, which lead up to their trip to the Producers' Club in New York City. At the Producers' Club, the writers had their scripts read in a staged reading by professional actors and critiqued by a professional playwright. Other students involved with New Players also attended the trip and acted as an audience for the readings. The addition of the student audience was extremely helpful to the writers because it allowed them to see how the audience reacted at certain points of the play. Especially for the comedic writers, it offers the chance to carefully gauge where the audi-

ence laughs and where jokes fall flat.

After the NYC trip, the writers had one last opportunity to edit their scripts before they are sent to the One Act Festival directors, who then cast and produce the show using student actors.

This program offers many amazing opportunities, and any aspiring writers are greatly encouraged to apply next year.

Before applying, prospective playwrights should consider some tips. The One Acts application consists of one form with basic information and a completed first draft of the play. When writing the play, it is wise to do some research about exactly what a one act is, in terms of length and plot, and how to format a play. Applicants should also read their completed draft aloud several times to see if their character's "voices" can be heard within their writing.

One Acts is an experience that is completely unique to RHS. It offers aspiring playwrights invaluable professional experience, and it very rewarding to be involved.

The New Players Featured One Acts

"Road Trip" written by Jack Mathey: A family of four is preparing for a road trip to their grandparents house, but unfortunately, only the mom is interested in going.

"Cat Burglar" written by Thomas Husband: A married couple receives a visit from a woman who steals cats.

"La Tazza Piena" written by Kayla Kirk: This story takes place in a restaurant where a notorious yelp reviewer decides to dine one night. Also, a plunger somehow becomes stuck in the toilet of the women's bathroom.

"The Session" written by Sara Cantor: A married couple attends a therapy session led by a doctor who believes she can solve all of their marital problems with a dose of her special "serum."

"Snip!" written by CJ Jerkovich: Three haircuts.

"Poetry Honors" written by Wes Dunn: This play takes place in a Poetry Honors class led by a teacher with an obsession for a certain bearded author.

"Mail Court" written by Cormac Bohan: Three mailmen are accused of stealing a client's mail and are consequently sent to "Mail Court."

"AA" written by Cormac Bohan: Various failed actors and actresses express their woes while they attend an "Actor's Anonymous" meeting.



Student playwrights involved with One Acts visit The Producers' Club in New York City where professional actors read their plays.

Class of 2015 College Destinations



This map shows where the graduating students of RHS will be attending colleges and universities throughout the country, according to the data provided by the 2015 Senior Survey. Students who did not complete the survey are not represented.

American University-1	Franklin Pierce University-1	Pace University-1	University of Chicago-1
Andrews University-1	Full Sail University-1	Pennsylvania College of Art & Design-1	University of Connecticut-3
Atlantic Cape Community College-1	George Mason University-1	Pennsylvania State University-4	University of Colorado-Boulder-1
Auburn University-1	Georgetown University-3	Providence College-1	University of Delaware-9
Bard College-2	Gettysburg College-6	Purchase College State University of NY-1	University of Florida-1
Bates College-1	George Washington University-8	Quinnipiac University-4	University of Georgia-2
Bergen Community College-13	Haverford College-1	Ramapo College-8	University of Guelph-1
Binghamton University-2	High Point University-4	Randolph-Macon College-1	University of Hartford-3
Boston College-4	Howard University-1	Reed College-1	University of Maryland-College Park-2
Boston University-1	Indiana University-3	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute-1	University of Massachusetts Amherst-4
Brown University-2	Ithaca College-7	Rhodes College-1	University of Miami-5
Bryant University-2	James Madison University-3	Rider University-1	University of Michigan-Ann Arbor-3
Bryn Mawr College-1	Johns Hopkins University-2	Rockland Community College-2	University of Mississippi Columbia-3
Bucknell University-3	Johnson & Wales University-3	Rowan University-2	Univeristy of New Hampshire-2
Cabrini College-1	Kean University-1	Rutgers University-24	University of New Haven-1
Carleton College-1	Kenyon College-1	Sacred Heart University-1	University of North Carolina-1
Carnegie Mellon University-4	Keystone College-1	Saint Joseph's University-3	University of Notre Dame-1
Clemson University-1	Kutztown University of Pennsylvania-1	San Francisco State University-1	University of Pennsylvania-2
Coastal Carolina University-2	Lafayette College-1	Santa Barbara City College-1	University of Pittsburgh-3
Colby College-2	Lawrence Technological University-1	Seton Hall University-1	University of Rhode Island-3
Colgate University-6	Lebanon Valley College-1	Skidmore College-1	University of Richmond-2
College of Charleston-1	Lehigh University-3	Sophia University-1	University of Rochester-3
College of the Holy Cross-2	Loyola University Maryland-3	St. John's University-2	University of Scranton-4
College of William and Mary-1	Macalester College-1	Stanford University-1	University of the Sciences-1
Colorado State University-1	Manhattan College-1	Steven's Institute of Technology-2	University of South Carolina-5
Columbia University-2	Marist College-3	Stonehill College-1	University of Tennessee-1
Dartmouth College-2	Marymount Manhattan College-1	SUNY-2	University of Vermont-6
Dean College-1	Marymount University-1	Susquehanna University-3	Ursinus College-1
Dickinson College-3	McGill University-2	Syracuse University-6	Villanova University-6
Dominican College-1	Merrimack College-1	Bard College Conservatory of Music-1	Virginia Commonwealth University-1
Drew University-1	Miami University-3	The College of New Jersey-5	Virginia Tech-1
Duquesne University-2	Monmouth University-1	The Julliard School-1	Washington University-1
Emerson College-1	Montclair State University-9	Towson University-1	Wellesley College-1
Emory Universiy-2	Moravian College-1	Tufts University-1	West Chester University of Pennsylvania-1
Fairfield University-10	Muhlenberg College-1	Tulane University-2	Yale University-1
Fairleigh Dickinson University-3	New England College-1	United States Military Academy-1	Yonsei University-1
Fashion Institute of Technology-1	New Jersey Institue of Technology-2	University of Alabama-5	
Florida Gulf Coast University-2	New York University-11	University of Arizona-2	
Fordham University-10	Northwestern University-1	University of Central Florida-1	
Franklin & Marshall College-1	Nova Southeastern University-1		

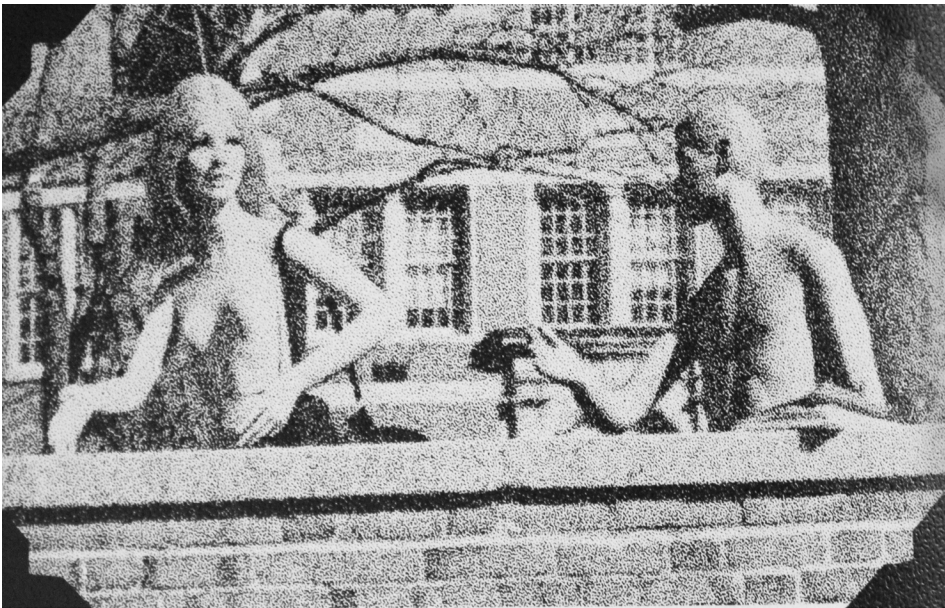
CLASS OF 2015: MAKING HISTORY

Pranks for All the Laughs

Emily Kopec
features editor



The Class of 2006 placed a Slip ‘n Slide in the front of Ridgewood High School. At least thirty students participated in the fun summer event to escape the peak heat of June. Photo courtesy of Paul Takahashi.



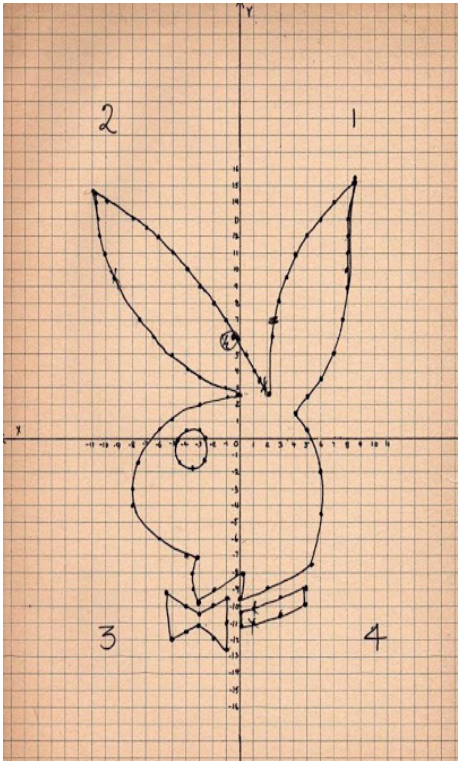
The RHS Class of 1974 took an odd route for their senior prank and opted for a creepier prank. The class placed mannequins around campus to create an eerie atmosphere before their departure.



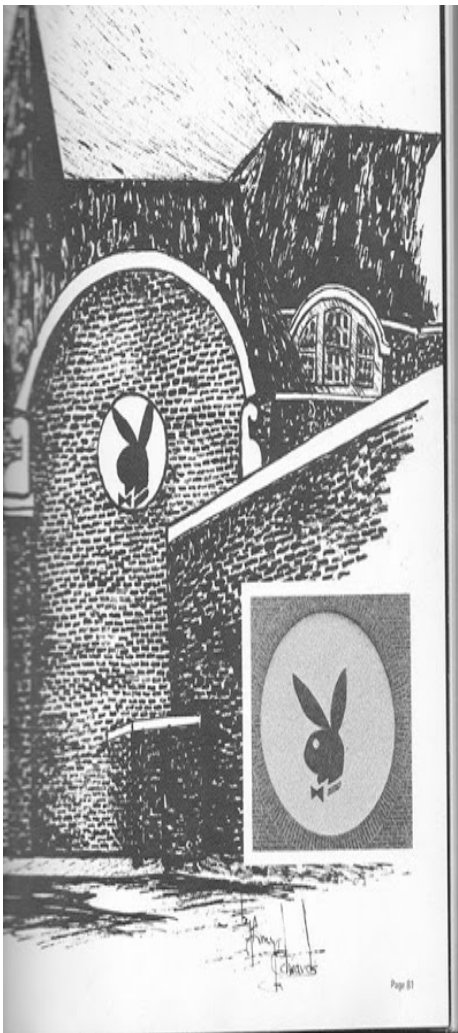
In 1974 the seniors chose an “au naturel” prank. These four senior boys streaked across campus. This photo was featured in the yearbook for students to remember for years. The senior who organized this prank was Steve McCarthy.



The picture above shows the Fair Lawn water tower. The 1970s included a heated rivalry between the football teams of Fair Lawn and Ridgewood. Ridgewood seniors painted “RHS #1 RHS” on the Fair Lawn property. The tower was adorned with the initials “Gut, CF, NL, and CB.” The graduating class knew who these individuals were and were surprised that they managed to paint the tower late at night by climbing up to the top of the tower.



In 1974, seniors painted a Play-boy bunny on the side of the school. Above, is the final draft of the painting before the prank was executed.



- 1958:** Ducks were set lose in the office of Ellis Brown.
- 1980s:** Seniors put a car on the roof of Ridgewood High School
- 1970:** A group of students painted their graduation year on the shed across from the football field. In this particular incident, however, the police showed up to arrest the students. Even though the police normally expects a senior prank, the students had to sit in the police station for two hours being set free.
- 1973:** Students painted the Fair Lawn water tower (pictured to the left).
- 1974:** RHS seniors streaked across campus and placed mannequins around the school. They also painted a Playboy bunny on the outside of RHS.
- 2006:** Over 30 students set up and participated in a Slip ‘n Slide on campus grounds.
- 2014:** Seniors set up a barbecue on Heermance Place.

Opinion

Why We Skip School for Prom Night: We Need Time!

Victoria Seremetis
staff writer

Prom is every high school senior’s romanticized dream. Since May is the official beginning of the prom season, it is only right to start talking about it. Originally called promenade, prom started off as a debutante ball in which young women, usually in their late teens, would meet potential suitors for marriage. As time passed, the event was adapted by high schools and became more of a celebration for finishing school, rather than meeting a fiancé. However, students still generally treat

prom just as seriously, and spend a lot of time and money on the evening. This is not meant to be a negative remark, as I am also one of those girls who spent hours looking at hairdos and Do-it-yourself corsages on Pinterest. Nevertheless, this seemingly harmless obsession over prom can sometimes cut into academics when students cut class to get their tuxedo or fix up their hair and nails. We must ask, why do students tend to skip school the day of prom?

The greatest reason as to why so many students do not show up to class the day of prom is solely logistical. Students often make appointments for hair, makeup, or nail styling; some-

times all three at salons in Ridgewood just hours before prom begins. In the downtown area of Ridgewood, there are only about seven hair salons, six nail salons, and seven makeup salons. Not everyone can make an appointment within the four hours between the end of the school day and the time prom starts, so they must cut into class time. Appointments can take up to four hours, including hair, makeup, manicures and pedicures in one package, so students have to leave early if they want to be in time for the event.

Students who invite friends over to their houses before the event, often called pre-prom, must go home early to get themselves and their house ready for the party. In Ridgewood High School, this class-cutting practice is so common that students are required to go to class for at least half of the school day before prom, or they may not be permitted to attend. This is an extension of the same rule that applies to sports games, pep rallies, and other school events. The policy inevitably has stirred some controversy amongst students, some of whom believe they do not have enough time to prepare even with their guaranteed three more hours taken from the school day.

Even so, three extra hours can be immensely helpful in terms of appointments and pre-prom preparations - more so than no hours - and so should not be criticized, seeing

that it is letting students skip school for, in all, non-essential purposes.

The question, therefore, is this: what is the significance of all of this effort put into a single dance? Prom has become a sort of rite of passage in American life, ingrained permanently in high school culture across America; thought of just as highly as graduation, college, or even on par with marriage, as evidenced by the recent sweeping trend of “promposals,” hyping the once simple “Will you go to prom with me?” to extreme heights. Prom culture has in recent history gotten attention from such movies as *Mean Girls* and *Carrie*, and television shows as *Full House*. It is portrayed in such media as *High School Musical 3* as “a night to remember” and a natural part of American adolescent life.

The concept of finding a date and asking someone to prom has become more and more popular within the last decade, and the evolution can be traced back to social media like YouTube, Facebook and Instagram. Students post ever-more creative and elaborate videos of their personalized “promposals” online for the rest of the world to like and share and parents will even occasionally hire professional photographers to take pictures at their child’s prom. Although prom’s disproportionate importance may be criticized, no one can deny how memorable and special that one night could be.



Helen Cho

“It’s Never Too Late”

Katie Johnston
staff writer

After almost two years of speculation from tabloids and a lifetime of confusion from close friends and family members, Bruce Jenner has officially come out as transgender. At age 65, Jenner opened up to millions on ABC’s *20/20 with Diane Sawyer* to discuss his lifelong struggle with identity and sexuality. In his interview, which aired on Friday, April 24, he talked about his family, past relationships, and future plans while keeping a very light and humorous atmosphere. Throughout the entire session, he reached out to the millions of transgender people facing the same struggles that he has by giving some advice and reminding them that “it’s never too late.”

Once it became known to the world that Bruce Jenner had identified himself as a woman, it was no surprise that people around the world had different views on his sexuality. Wendy Williams dismissed Bruce Jenner on her TV show saying, “I feel duped because he’s the same fame whore as the rest of the family,” implying that his announcement is for publicity. Amid the many offensive comments though, there were just as many supportive voices sharing pride and hope. Celebrities including Ariana Grande, Larry King, and Lady Gaga took to Twitter to express their support and respect, applauding how brave of a woman he truly is. Now out of the closet, so to speak, Jenner will need as much

positive support around him as possible as he takes his next big step in learning about who he truly is – something that no one should be denied.

Jenner’s interview with Diane Sawyer marked a monumental step for Jenner in not only allowing himself to grow as a person, but in educating people of the still much misunderstood world of human sexuality. By teaching us how “sexual orientation and gender identity are apples and oranges,” allowing people to understand that sexuality should no longer remain an issue. Jenner is opening up the minds of millions and saving the lives of people who may be going through exactly what he has been struggling with throughout his entire life. He is sharing his courage with men and women everywhere around the world who are looking for acceptance in their journey to learn how to love who they truly are.

While I will never fully understand the struggle he has faced for the past years of his life, I know that it could not have been easy. I hope that people learn from his experience and continue making this world a much more accepting and non-judgemental place so that no one will have to live in fear of being who they truly are. Bruce Jenner is an icon and deserves our support, love, and kindness as he continues through this journey for years to come.

(Editor’s Note: At the time of publishing the male pronouns used in this article were used for the sake of coherence. Jenner has since publicly revealed her female name, Caitlyn, wholly adopting female pronouns.)



Mary Skrzypczak

The Pressure is On

Shrea Mitra and Shania Arora
opinion editor, news editor

Leaking exam contents, sharing notes, writing on the inside of a water bottle label... these are just a few of the ways kids have been known to cheat in the past. Cheating is not exactly uncommon within Ridgewood High School. Rather than being honest and accepting a lower grade or the fact that they were not prepared, students cheat to set up for themselves a brighter future. One might go so far as to say that Ridgewood High School is gradually devolving into an arena where it doesn’t matter how you get a grade, what matters is that it is good.

One of the main reasons students cheat is because of high pressure brought on by parents and peers. Parents push their kids to the limits, compelling them to take part in difficult courses paired with multiple extracurriculars which can sometimes - and most often does - overwhelm students. Students devote the majority of their time focusing on school work, leaving little free time. This pressure can also be magnified by one’s own will to do well and the goals one sets for him or herself. Moreover, competition between peers is intense because they reality is that friends are constantly competing for the same positions and comparing their academic and creative performances to judge where they stand. This only causes the pressure to increase as students are constantly judging and being judged by their peers.

In addition to these social stains, preparing for college is also a major stressor in students’ lives. With excessive requirements demanded by top universities, high schoolers must be able to set themselves apart from others by taking on intensive classes as well as participating in an abundance of activities. While dealing with demanding courses as well as high expectations, students can sometimes lose track of what is right in desperation and panic. Additionally, high schoolers also have trouble with time management, which tend to lead to impulsive decisions and



Jacqueline Weibye

makes them feel like they have no other option but to lie and to cheat in order to achieve as others expect them to.

While there have been many attempts to prohibit cheating of all kinds, new technological developments have made it more difficult to enforce the same rules and maintain integrity. Every year, Apple releases a new iPhone with advanced technologies than the last. In RHS at least, students tend to feel the pressure to upgrade their phones to stay in the loop, leading to an increase in illicit activity as new features that make cheating easier to enter the school by the masses.

Cheating is not beneficial in the long run - nor really, in the short. Students who cheat often believe that they can continue their habits and cheat their way through high school, but they don’t seem to realize that the more they cheat, the more likely they will continue to perpetuate these habits into the adulthood they will be poorly prepared for.

Sports

Ridgewood Girls Lacrosse is “Relentless”

Jamie Inlander
staff writer

Ridgewood girls lacrosse has remained undefeated with an impressive record of 20-0. On May 14, the Maroons defeated Immaculate Heart Academy 15-3 on their home field. A few days later, on May 19, Hillsborough High School traveled to Ridgewood’s turf, where the Maroons beat them 20-1. The girls started this season with an incredibly strong team, even after losing numerous talented seniors. The sophomore grade acts as a rock for the team, proving themselves to be extremely useful against the tough opponent Moorestown. The girls went into the 2015 season with the idea that they would thrive, considering their strong roster. During their season’s first game against West Essex, Ridgewood’s fresh team won by a landslide against West Essex’s older team, which was an extreme improvement from their one-goal win last season. Mountain Lakes was Ridgewood’s first tough opponent of the season, but this did not frighten them. After defeat-

ing the team by seven points, the girls knew this would be a season to remember. Their biggest accomplishment so far has been beating their toughest opponent, Moorestown, in overtime 11-10. According to junior, Lindsay Haas, Casey Cole is the most valuable asset to the team. Haas says that it is “important that we feel confident playing pressure defense knowing we have a goalie to back us up and comes through in vital situations.” Haas also noted that junior Katie Bourque does whatever it takes to get the ball, and sophomore Alex Absey always finds a way to get open and shoot. For the 2015 season, Ridgewood Girls Lacrosse chose “relentless” as their motto. Haas explains, “It is important to us to never give up and battle back when we are down.” On game days, the team writes different motivational phrases on their wrists to keep them inspired. Their next game against Montclair will determine whether or not they continue in the county tournament. The team simply wants to continue their undefeated streak and focus on each game one game at a time.



The varsity girls pose after defeating Moorestown High School on Lax Day.

Success at Stotesbury Cup

Megan Collier
sports editor

Ridgewood crew performed exceptionally last weekend at the Stotesbury Cup, the largest high school regatta in the world. The regatta, an 88 year old tradition, is sponsored by Toyota and unites more than 5,000 athletes each year. Over 200 high schools gathered to compete in this renowned competition this year, traveling from as far as Canada. The Maroons arrived at the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia on Friday, May 15 and departed the following afternoon. The girls varsity double, seniors Bridget Callaghan and Julia Hefferon, placed first in their heat, a major accomplishment for both the team and

these two athletes personally. The JV boats also placed; both girls and boys JV quads earned a silver medal. For the boys, this includes Will Creedon, Brendan Caltavuturo, Colin Wilkinson, and Charlie Koontz. The girls quad includes Claire Callaghan, Jordan Wittmaack, Melissa Dexter, and Bella DeGregorio. Additionally, the freshman boys quad placed third in their heat. The team is looking forward to one final opportunity to get on the water before the end of the season. The Scholastic Rowing Association of America National Championships are taking place May 22 and 23 on the Cooper River in Camden, New Jersey. Six Ridgewood boats have qualified to attend the regatta by either placing first at the Garden State Championships or top two at the Philadelphia City Championships.



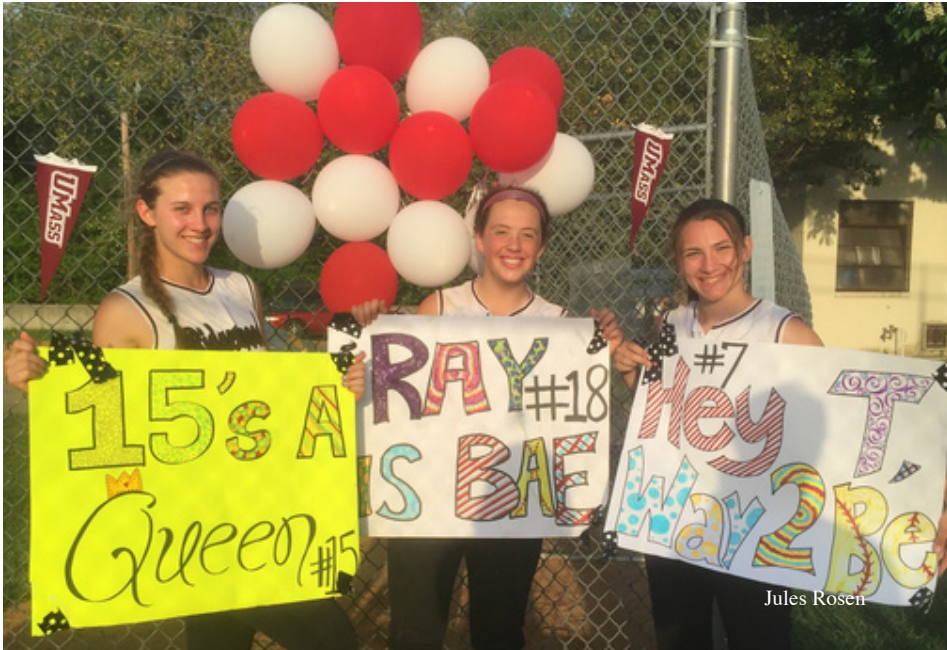
Seniors Bridget Callaghan and Julia Hefferon pose with their first place trophy.

Softball Wraps Up an Unforgettable Season

Jessi Schlicht
staff writer

Ridgewood softball’s season is unfortunately coming to a close, but it has been a successful season to say the least. The triumphant Maroons ended with an overall record of 21-4 and an intimidating league record of 8-2. As a result of their sheer determination, the team is currently ranked fourth in the County Poll and stand atop of the Big North Freedom Division. During their home opener on April 1, the team swept Ramapo 5-1, with the help of the team’s two senior captains, Rachel Pizzuti and Kali Wolfer. In a winning streak, the girls won again the next day against Glen Rock with a final score of 8-0. Continuing this ruthless streak, the team beat Paramus in a sweep, 10-0 and exhausted Hackensack with a matching 10-0 final score. However, the Maroons fell through during their tedious game against Northern Highlands on April 8th and lost 1-2. But sure enough, the team resumed their winning streak, beating 10 more teams consecutively before battling Northern Highlands again. To prove the team’s notoriety, the girls won against Tenafly (9-0) and Indian Hills (4-2). Playing the Indians was a big day for the Ridgewood team. When the Indians arrived to Vets Field that afternoon, the Maroons were quickly reminded of the battle ahead of them. Both teams fought endlessly for the win, as Indian Hills struggled to continue their 44-game winning streak. However, the Maroons pulled through and smoked the Indians 4-2. After this win, the Maroons were ecstatic and hoped that they would succeed in both counties and states later in the season. They continued the streak by beating Teaneck (10-0), Midland Park (5-0), Holy Angels (4-0), Ramapo (13-0), Fair Lawn (15-1), Paramus (7-1), West Essex (1-0), and Hackensack (7-1). After going almost an entire month without a single loss, the Maroons suffered a defeat by Northern Highlands once

again, with a tough score of 0-5. Fortunately, the team recuperated after their depressing loss and beat Hackensack and Indian Hills for the second time, as well as Glen Rock with a score of 9-2. The next game was a battle, when they played Demarest on May 11. Demarest has been a consistent rival of Ridgewood’s, which the scoreboard represented throughout the close game that resulted in a loss (3-5). Subsequent to the loss, they defeated Pascack Valley (2-0), then beat Paramus Catholic 2-0, and Clifton 10-0. The Ridgewood team then faced Demarest again on May 15, their first county game. The stakes were high, but Demarest beat Ridgewood in a close game of 2-1. But, the team is not going to be upset for long. “Honestly, losing to Demarest just lets us get even more pumped to win states,” junior Julia Suh explains. State games are going to happen later in May, and will continue into June if successful. In addition to winning a majority of their games, the softball girls also appreciate camaraderie and team morale. Since senior day was last week, the team celebrated the successes of the three seniors, Rachel Pizzuti, Kali Wolfer, and Tatiana Whalen. Although they lost to Demarest in a close game, this loss did not take away an ounce of the girls’ spirit. In fact, one of the three seniors, Kali Wolfer will be continuing her softball career at Franklin and Marshall in the spring next year. Though the Ridgewood team was beat twice by two teams, Northern Highlands (1-2, 0-5) and Demarest (3-5, 1-2), the Maroons overall had a very successful season. In each of their various triumphs, they have defeated six teams by over ten runs, some more than once. Also, they have played upwards of ten teams and did not let them get a single run the whole game. Even though the Maroons are out of Counties because of the loss against Demarest, they still have the opportunity to compete in states. Come out and support the Ridgewood softball team as they play Morristown on May 20!



Seniors Kali Wolfer, Rachel Pizzuti, and Tatiana Whalen celebrate Senior Day.

Junior Sophia Bicks, next year’s co-captain, explains the team’s objectives for this weekend. “The team is really hoping to medal at nationals and end the season on a good note,” she states. Competing in a total of ten races this year, Ridgewood crew has had an extremely successful season. Sophia notes that, “Almost all of the boats qualified for semifinals this year, which is a big deal.” Some of the other races they participated in include the 3rd, 4th and 5th Manny Flick, Passaic River Northern NJ Championships, and Mid-Atlantic District Junior Champion-

ship. They have traveled to Schuylkill River, West Windsor, and Cooper River to compete. One of the key events that the crew team hosted toward the beginning of their season was the annual Row-a-thon. This fundraising event takes place at Van Neste Square, where spectators can watch athletes erg with music and baked goods to add to the excitement. Be sure to attend the crew team’s car wash on June 7 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. in the high school parking lot to support the rowers as they wrap up this year’s season.

Art and Photography

RHS: A Year in Pictures

