

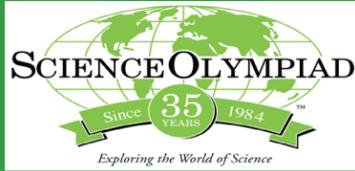
# The R.E.A.L. Deal



**NHA SKI TRIP**  
After two weeks of uncooperative weather, NHA's annual ski trip finally hit the slopes.

Events 2

## Battle of the Brains!



Jamie Lubov takes us into the prep for Science Olympiad.

Events 3

## The 2019 Oscars

From Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga's showstopping performance to all of the big winners, we take you to Hollywood's biggest night!



Entertainment 7

# VALENTINE'S DAY 2019

Love was in the air at NHA's annual Valentine's Day celebration!

By JEM MORRIS ('22) & CHRISTOPHER MARTIN ('19)

FRIDAY 14TH, 2019 -

**New Hope Academy celebrated Valentine's day on February 14th.**

Students from Yardley and Doylestown came together in celebration of love and kindness, and overall, it was a fun and relaxing day for everyone. Out of all of NHA's campus-wide holiday parties, Valentine's Day is the most easy-going. Nothing elaborate occurs on Valentine's Day, but that doesn't mean that the holiday is without its charms. In the morning, Kathy Rosso-Gana held an



NHA spreads the love on Valentine's Day.

right person at the right time, and also advised the couples in the school to maintain a PDA-standard despite the love stirring through the air. Afterwards, the Prom Committee, as part of one of their annual fundraisers, distributed candy grams and carnations to those who had purchased some. Prior to Valentine's Day, students were able to purchase candy grams and carnations



Phil Marino and Bailey Garrison-Kline celebrate Valentine's Day.

assembly after as Doylestown arrived. Kathy gave an inspiring, motivational speech about love and finding the

who had purchased some. Prior to Valentine's Day, students were able to purchase candy grams and carnations

for \$1 a piece to support the Prom Committee's efforts. With the gifts delivered and everyone happy, it was lunch time and students and staff were able to kick back and relax while eating some pizza. From then on, the school initiated Coffee House until dismissal. While Valentine's Day is not normally something schools go all out on, NHA is not

like other schools. Bringing love and kindness to the environment has always been something that is important to Kathy and her wonderful staff. She has managed to influence so many students by using a loving approach, which is what Valentine's Day is about. As Kathy stated during her speech, Valentine's Day is not a couple-based holiday. It is about acknowledging those who are close to you, and showing love through acts of kindness.



Prom Committee had a number of treats available.

[jmorris@newhopeacademy.net](mailto:jmorris@newhopeacademy.net)  
[cmartin@newhopeacademy.net](mailto:cmartin@newhopeacademy.net)

# CHICAGO IS COMING TO NHA!

By ELISABETH ROGERS ('20)

The spring season is currently in session at New Hope Academy. This means that the year is coming to a close, but not without ending it first with a bang. Of course, prom is right around the corner. However, the musical is also fast approaching. Here is what you can look forward to for the NHA Spring Musical of 2019.

The musical this year, as you probably already know, is "Chicago." "Chicago" tells the story of Roxie Hart, an aspiring Vaudeville performer, who is sent to jail after she is found guilty for the

murder of her lover Fred Casely. After gaining information on a lawyer that can



prove her innocent in court, she realizes two wonderful opportunities: not only can

she get out of jail, but she can use the publicity of her case to rise to fame. It's a

compelling tale of what can happen under the lust for fame, and what lengths one

will go through to achieve it. "Chicago," while having a great story, also has a wonderful cast. Every day after school, we as a cast work hard to make this show great. From dancing for two hours to constantly taking in information for blocking, it's a process. However, it's a process that we all enjoy. To give you an idea of what happens during rehearsal, we all usually start by stretching out so we're loose when we dance. After that, it is straight into either blocking, learning choreography, or running a certain section of the show. "Rehearsal is (continued on page 2)

## MAGIC MINERS

By KATHY ROSSO GANA

Up above the clouds so high  
Like a diamond in the sky...

The children sing their nursery rhymes  
Till reading, writing, and math times.

Where does the Magic Kingdom go?  
They enter school and lose their glow!

Each day we see more caved-in souls;  
We dig to find their need goals.

It's not enough to educate;  
Only the magic makes school great.

The Magic Miner finds a way;  
Her passion shines through every day.

She says, you will not leave my room  
With emptiness and eyes of gloom.

I'll make you see there's more to life  
Than broken dreams, and bills, and strife.

Before you leave my classroom door,  
You'll believe in magic times once more.

Then up above the clouds so high,  
You'll be the diamond in the sky!

After the Magic Miner spoke,  
The magic worked; the students woke.



Kathy Rosso-Gana, founder and president of Motivational Educational Training Company, Inc. and New Hope Academy

# LET'S GET OUR SKI ON!

After two weeks of uncooperative weather, NHA's annual ski trip finally hit the slopes!

By SEAN KELTON ('21)

FEBRUARY 22ND, 2019 About 20 students and staff went on the ski trip to Blue Mountain in Palmerton, PA.

The staff in charge included Mark Beuerle, Seth Ball, Dave Kennedy, Matt Mutek and Greta Carlton. We were happy to finally go on the trip because it had been postponed two times due to the weather.

When we arrived at Blue Mountain Friday morning, everyone needed to decide if they would like to snowboard or ski. A majority of the students decided to take a lesson since it was their first time on skis or a snowboard. It was my first time on a snowboard so I decided to take a lesson. During the lesson, I learned how to turn, stop and get up on the board. I was then confident enough to try a new

sport and have fun. The day on my snowboard went great even though I kept falling a lot!

We had fun for hours and then enjoyed lunch together as a group inside of the resort. After lunch, we all headed back outside. We wrapped everything up around 3:30 p.m. The entire group was exhausted on the way back but we made memories to last a lifetime!

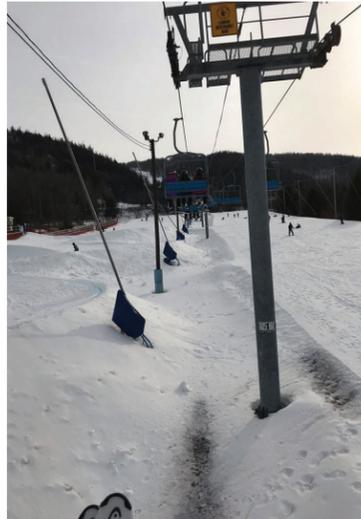
skelton@newhopeacademy.net



Teachers and students gathered at Blue Mountain for a group photo



Ciara McInerney and Messiah Smith take the lift up.



The lift ferried NHA students up the mountain.

## CHICAGO IS COMING TO NHA

(CONT FROM PAGE 1)

an experience," says Jaylan Lambert, who portrays lawyer Billy Flynn. "But it's not a bad experience. It's a fun experience." Other students share the same sentiments. "Doing shows has really helped me discover who I am," says Maddy Tumpowsky, who portrays the lead role of Roxie Hart. "I'm really grateful that I've had the opportunity to do the shows here, because without it I wouldn't be who I am today." When you see us having fun on stage together, it's due to the fact that this is a great experience that we all enjoy.

"Chicago" runs Friday, April 26th and Saturday, April 27th at Music Mountain Theater in Lambertville, NJ. The morning of April 26th, there will be a matinee that all students will be attending. So, if you're a student, you get to see the show for free. Tickets will be sold during the evening performance for a reasonable price. Also, keep your eyes out, as there might be fundraising for the show that will allow you to support the Theatre Department. With the support, we will be able to continue doing shows that will only get greater as time goes on. All of us are excited to perform, and we cannot wait for you to see "Chicago!"

erogers@newhopeacademy.net

## THE ART OF DANCE

By JAZILYNN HALEY ('21)

I've been dancing since I was 11 years old at the Barn Studio of Dance. When I first started dance, I did ballet and tap for about a year. As I got better, I started to do more styles of dance. In 2012, our studio performed at the Lincoln Center in New York City and did so for the next three years. The first one was ballet, the second year was modern and ballet (but I only did ballet), and the last one was ballet and tap.

Within two years, I started to do even more dances. I did ballet, lyrical, tap, hiphop, jazz and modern for the next four years. After I became experienced in ballet, my dance teacher said to me I could go on to learn pointe. I was nervous that I would break my ankle or something else, but surprisingly I was very good at pointe. We would practice twice a week on pointe.

As the years went by, I started to do less dance classes because it was a lot to handle. I would be at the studio almost every day of the week. Now I do two ballet classes and lyrical. We had a show in December and I was so excited! Our studio performances take place before Christmas and in the spring.

In 2017, we did a winter performance and I was in two ballet classes for the show. In 2018, I was in four dances-- three of them were ballet and one was

lyrical. The theme this year was "The Grinch." We try to make our performances different every year.

I had to take a break for a while and I didn't get to perform for about two years, so I'm still trying to get back into all of the dances I want to be in. Since I started dance when I was younger I have a lot of experience with all of the dances. It took a while to get good at dancing but now I'm pretty good at it.

Dancing distracts my mind from things I don't want to think about. With dancing, I can express my feelings and it makes me feel happy and free. Whenever I go to dance I get super excited because I get to be with my close friends that understand me and we all can talk to each other about our hard times and good times. I've grown very close with a lot of the girls at my studio. Most of them left because they're older, but I still have a good time with my new friends that I've made within the last two years.

jhaley@newhopeacademy.net

## THE PLAY'S THE THING!

By JAIME LUBOV ('21)

On January 13, students in select English and music classes from both the Yardley and Doylestown campuses were invited to the Music Mountain Theatre for a matinee performance of "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged." The fast paced script and witty presentation made intimate knowledge of Shakespeare's works unnecessary, but you were in for a treat if you understood certain references and scenes.

The three cast members, Louis Palena, Jordan Brennan, and Eddie Honan, did an excellent job of portray-

ing every single character. The characteristics they portrayed were accurate yet relatable, with the actor's personalities shining through at times.

There were certain points that had me and the rest of the audience nearly in tears with laughter, our cheeks sore from our constant grins. The actors really brought to life the sometimes stale performances that are so common with a unique spin. There was a perfect blend of



Students pose on the stage of the Music Mountain Theater.

humor and plot. One of the best parts was not the hilarious quotes or actions of

the cast, but the audience participation. Sections of the audience did certain tasks to create a melody of angst, while English teacher Caryn Search portrayed Ophelia from "Hamlet" on stage, letting out an iconic wail at the perfect moment.

The intermission left us hungry for more, and the students (and staff) gave a standing ovation once it was over, with nearly everyone on their feet. Overall, with raps,

a football game, and scenes acted forwards AND backwards, this play was absolutely worth seeing!

jlubov@newhopeacademy.net

# SCIENCE OLYMPIAD 2019

Nerdy brain death match!

By JAMIE LUBOV ('21)

**MARCH 7TH, 2019 - The annual national high school science compition is heating up on the Kutztown University campus as the NHA preps to bring home the gold!**

This year, a promising group of NHA students will make their way to the Science Olympiad competition at Kutztown University on March 14. They've been spending months working on this, and will finally get a chance to show what they have learned. Whether it be accumulating information or building miniature vehicles, each competitor will bring the fruits of their efforts with them to the competition.

Science Olympiad provides an opportunity for students to participate in events that test their knowledge, their hands-on skills, or both. Over the course of several months, requirements for the event are to be met, which can either mean studying certain information for a written test or building a model that will be tested at the competition. Some promising events this year for NHA are the fossil, herpetology, codebusters, and anatomy events.

Seniors Maddy Tumpowsky and Arsh Johri have been diligently working on herpetology, studying various reptiles' physical features and taxonomy. Having previously done this event, they are looking forward to their final chance at the competition. Arsh has also been working on anatomy with Grace Gomez. The duos are allowed to bring a binder full of research and study materials they have made. In contrast, a less straightforward (study-wise) event is codebusters, being manned by seniors Stephanie Garofolo and Devon Hamilton. At the competition, the pair will use their knowledge on various codes to encrypt or decrypt messages or identify certain codes.

I myself, am currently tackling the fossil event solo- not for lack of trying to find a partner. I find myself drawn in by the various research topics within the event, excitedly elaborating on research accumulating in a binder. Science Olympiad is a lot of work- anyone who has been diligently working on it will tell you how much time gets lost in the blink of an eye, especially in the crunch time. This dedication towards our events boosts our confidence in NHA as a whole and how we will do in this year's fateful competition!

jlubov@newhopeacademy.net



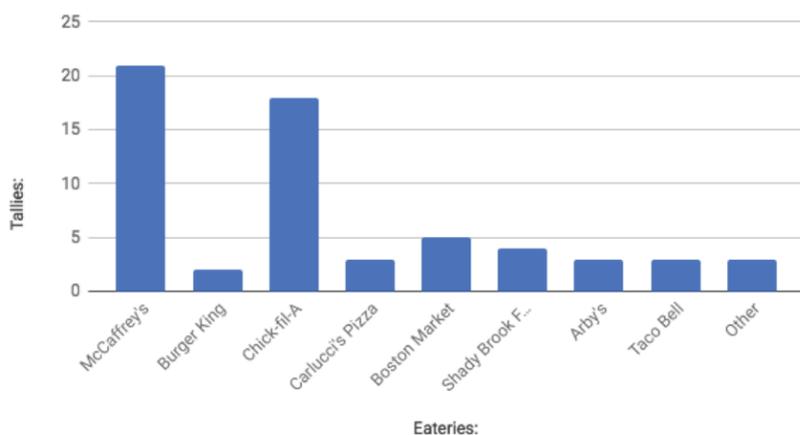
Exploring the World of Science

## FACULTY FRIDAY: POLL

By CHRISTOPHER MARTIN ('19)

Every Friday the staff and students of New Hope Academy (Yardely) look forward to a lunch outside of school, but where do people like to go the most? On Tuesday, March 5th, 2019, I conducted a brief study to determine which restaurants and eateries are the most popular choices for Faculty Friday. During lunch, I walked around Yardley campus asking staff and students what their preferred option was out of the following choices: McCaffrey's, Burger King, Chick-fil-A, Carlucci's Pizza, Boston Market, Shady Brook Farm, Taco Bell, Arby's and Other. A total of 62 people participated in this survey and the results have been listed below:

Where People Eat



After tallying the data, McCaffrey's and Chick-fil-A were voted the most popular destinations for Faculty Friday. Those who chose McCaffrey's cited their variety of inexpensive choices from pizza to cheesesteaks, and those who chose Chick-fil-A cited their fair prices, quality food and helpful service. In order from most to least popular, McCaffrey's received 21 tallies, Chick-fil-A received 18 tallies, Boston Market received 5 tallies, Shady Brook received 4 tallies, Carlucci's, Taco Bell, Arby's and Other received 3 tallies and Burger King received 2 tallies.

cmartin@newhopeacademy.net

# DEBATE CLUB

By SASHA QUINN ('20)

**MARCH 11TH, 2019 - Join the debate at NHA's newest club!**

There is a new debate club in NHA! Social Studies teacher Brianna Kain and I have been working on it for at least six months. I wrote a proposal for Kathy Gana and had to get faculty advisors. Our first meeting was in January.

My goal for the debate club is for people to learn how to see both sides of an issue, and to understand the side they might not agree with. It is also for people to debate with facts; it's normal for people to become emotional, but it's important that they do not let emotions control the entire debate. Another goal is for people to debate on a side they might not agree with and to play Devil's Advocate. Most of the time our debates are just fun, small conversations. Sometimes, though, we have more structured debates.



My goal since I started the debate club is for people to research facts on their own time to bring to the club meetings. They could also read the facts that are on the google classroom. Our first debate topic was about straws and their danger to the environment. It may sound boring but we had a good time. We ended up agreeing that

the straws weren't the big problem, it just appears that way because they are buoyant in the water. The real problem is plastic bags and fishing gear that is left in the ocean. Plastic that sinks below the surface is more dangerous.

Our solution to this problem was to have cargo ship companies get paid to pick up trash in the ocean. If they got a certain amount of trash, they would get paid. That would somewhat reverse the damage that we have done. Another solution that we came up with was for prisoners to pick up trash and get privileges granted to them, such as more time with their family, for picking up more trash. Another idea we had was that once the prisoner leaves jail, they would be granted a job at the sanitation company, perhaps for less money. The prisoners would be less likely to recommit crimes because they have income and they can see the good they did for the community both during and after their incarceration. Everyone unanimously agreed that a form of those two solutions would be a good place to start.

The most recent debate that we had was about artificial intelligence and whether helping humanity is worth the risk of A.I. getting advanced enough to hurt humanity in some way. We are also planning on doing some small fun debates like "Should geese be exterminated?" and "Does graffiti detract from neighborhoods?" I think joining the debate club is an activity that would be fun for most and is like doing mental gymnastics. It helps overcome problems and find solutions, which is beneficial to everyone.

squinn@newhopeacademy.net

## GET YOUR MOTOR RUNNING FOR CAR CLUB

By ISHAAN LUITEL ('19)

NHA's Car Club is for anyone who is interested in cars to come, meet and talk about their common interest. We meet every Wednesday in Yardley at lunch time in Seth Ball's room. I started Car Club because I wanted to start a club for people who love cars and also to make friends. It is for all students, teachers, and administrative staff.

We cover topics such as supply chain of car industries, new car features, buying vs. leasing a car, common car problems, what to do if your car breaks down on the road, safe driving practices, how rental car industries operate nationwide, electric, and hybrid cars, and autonomous vehicles. It took us a while to get started, but once we got started in February, we were off to a great start. We started playing trivia games and various computer games, such as Kahoot. Time permitting, we intend to visit many commercial enterprises such as: car dealerships, rental car agencies, collision centers to name a few. We would like to take some field trips to some local car dealerships to get some experts to come and talk to us. It is a really friendly and inviting club so you can come and present any topic of interest, regarding cars.

The automobile industry has come a long way since Henry Ford invented the Model T Ford in 1913. I still remember the trip I took to Dearborn, Michigan, where I saw the assembly line of the Ford F-150 trucks. The assembly line he invented had the work moving to the workers, instead of the workers moving to the work. However, technologies used in today's world is simply mind-boggling. We will soon take this discussion up in Car Club to talk about and familiarize ourselves with the modern-day technologies.

NHA's Car Club is open to all the participants, who can contribute ideas about how it should be run. Please come and join us. We will have lots of fun!

iluitel@newhopeacademy.net



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: OLIVER DWYER

By MICHAEL RIEHL ('19)

**MARCH 5TH, 2019 - Oliver Dwyer is a senior this year at New Hope Academy. We get some insight into Oliver's life, his aspirations, and how he plans to achieve them.**

Oliver Dwyer is a senior at the Yardley campus and has been at NHA since May of 2016. Oliver has held a job as a Starbucks barista since September of this year. He eventually wants to enter the film industry, so in preparation, he has been saving money and creating short films for a portfolio. Oliver has applied to seven colleges and is planning on taking online classes after high school to maintain his job. As well as creating short films, Oliver, along with other seniors, stayed after school with art teachers Jen Miller and Andrew Hay to help build his portfolio. He is thankful for New Hope; he says it gave him a more realistic view on life, and gave him some great friends.

He admits that he was not sure whether he would be able to finish high school at the beginning of his senior year. But now he is certain he is going to finish and is very proud of himself for sticking it out. When asked for advice for the underclassmen, he gave a very honest response: "Even when you think that everything is hopeless and nothing is working out, you need to keep going because you can't predict the future. Life is always changing and you have to hold on for the ride or you will miss the good parts." Oliver has overcome a lot to be where he is and that is thanks to his perseverance and willingness to keep going even when his hopes were low.

mriehl@newhopeacademy.net

You can't predict the future. Life is always changing and you have to hold on for the ride or you will miss the good parts.



## SENIOR SEASON KICKOFF: CLASS OF 2019

By MADELEINE TUMPOWSKY ('19)

On February 27th, New Hope Academy's senior class gathered in the big room at Yardley for the first Senior Night of 2019. The night began with a warm welcome from NHA president, Kathy Russo Gana, who then got things started by providing necessary information. Following Kathy, Tiffany Trunell, NHA's Director of Pupil Services, went over this year's graduation requirements, including upholding and demonstrating the REAL Honor Code at all times and attending all of the Senior Mandatory Activities. She also spoke to us about senior portraits, the senior retreat, class rings, prom, and graduation.

After that, each NHA teacher, from both Yardley and Doylestown, gave an incredibly heartfelt and genuine speech to the student they were paired up with. Some of the pairs included Mark Beurle with Messiah Smith; Matt Mutek with Max Lang; Lindsay Groft with Kailey Banks; Jeanne Nahill with Stephanie Garafolo; and Casey Barut with Karla Cooper. Once the teacher had finished giving their speech, they handed the student a rose. This part of the night was extremely moving for everyone.

Being a senior in high school comes along with many new responsibilities that can seem quite daunting. Maintaining consistently good grades and applying for college are two primary examples of senior responsibilities. As stated before, there are also many

requirements that the NHA seniors must complete in order to graduate. Attending and participating in those required events are not optional!

Senior year may be stressful and can seem scary at first. It is a difficult year full of new experiences and responsibilities. However, if you work hard, uphold NHA's REAL Honor Code, and believe in yourself, success is a guarantee.

mtumpowsky@newhopeacademy.net



NHA's graduating class of 2019 gathers for its first group photo.

## FRIED GREEN PEPPERS: A RECIPE

By JOSEPH MARKLEY ('20)

Batter recipe:  
2 cups all purpose flour  
2 teaspoons cayenne pepper  
1 beaten egg  
2 teaspoons smoked paprika  
1 ½ cups seltzer water  
2 teaspoons garlic powder

Also needed:  
4 bell peppers, any color, sliced into rings  
Enough oil to submerge the peppers

1. Preheat frying oil to 350 degrees fahrenheit.
2. Combine dry ingredients in a large bowl.
3. Add the beaten egg.
4. Stir in the seltzer water a little at a time until well combined.
5. Put the sliced peppers into a container and pour the batter over to coat.
6. Remove coated peppers three or four at a time and put into the frying oil.
7. Flip when half cooked and remove when golden brown and crispy.
8. Place onto paper towels to drain and allow to cool for a few minutes before enjoying with sauce of your choosing.

jmarkley@newhopeacademy.net



# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: KARLA COOPER

By **XAVIER LANE ('20)**

**MARCH 1ST, 2019 - Karla Cooper is an intelligent and determined senior at the Doylestown campus who has dreams of working in the music industry.**

Karla Cooper is in the 12th grade and has been attending New Hope Academy for six years. Her favorite subject is science and her favorite class is music. While most students here know she is a singer and songwriter, she can also play the piano and boasts perfect pitch from extensive aural training. After her upcoming graduation, she will attend class at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia where she will major in music business. She hopes to graduate and work as a producer in the music industry.

Karla participated in the last Winterfest where she performed I'd love to Change the World (1971), by Ten Years After. As a music fanatic, it was difficult to choose a favorite artist; however, her current favorite song is Huggin & Kissin (2017) by Big Black Delta. Currently, her favorite TV show is The Sinner on Netflix, and her favorite author is Stephen King. Re-counting upon her years at NHA, her favorite memory is when she first joined the school. Karla appreciated the one-on-one classes the school offered when it had less students. It was then, through personal music lessons, that she was able to critically train her voice.

[xlane@newhopeacademy.net](mailto:xlane@newhopeacademy.net)



## COMMUNITY COLLEGE: NOT 13TH GRADE

By **JORDAN SALERNO ('19)**

During the senior year of high school, one often experiences two things: senior-itis and the stress of applying for college. While this stress is almost always worth it, it is also often a great trial for a given student. In the past, myself and many others have observed that this has deterred many students from applying to any sort of college. However, being anxious and frightened is not the only choice that student had in their deck. Nearly any student is able to get into a two year community college and transfer to a four year university later. For some odd reason, community college has been assigned a stigma that is most unfair. It is often seen as for those who are unworthy of going to a four year university, for those who simply aren't good enough. This stigma is not what it should be. Community college has many advantages that you simply can not get from a four year school.

For students who might have struggled during High School, community college has a plethora of beneficial items which could help them immensely. For one, it can assist in strengthening their grade point average, or GPA. For students who are attending community college and planning on going to a four year university following such can raise their GPA during community college. Most four year colleges require at least a 2.0 GPA. So during community college, a given student can raise their GPA, earn credits towards their major, and of course transfer to a college they may not have been accepted to directly after high school. Typically, you also don't have to send SAT or ACT scores if you've done community college. In general, it also helps students improve their academic skills and renew any commitment they may have lost to further education.

Community college also has another large benefit which is that it gives a given student a chance to further figure out what they want to study. Perhaps a student is debating on two different majors, well community college provides the perfect time to continue your studies and simultaneously find out what you want to do with your future. It's also incredibly helpful to students who are still completely unsure of

what to pursue as it can assist them in finding a path they desire to follow. For example, those who may later pursue mathematics as their career may not enjoy mathematics studies until college level courses. The same could apply towards any sort of standard course such as science or english.

Perhaps most helpful, is that community college is an amazing stepping stone between high school and a four year school. For many students who might have struggled in high school, going to a school where you are nearly completely independent might be a very poor decision. That student would be put in a do or die situation which could potentially hurt them in the long run in many ways. Community college can serve as a stepping stone in terms of workload, pressure and independence. While you will still be predominantly doing personal work at community college, you will have smaller classes and perhaps have more assistance if you take the time in order to gain such. Students maturity also develops rapidly as they are in a higher intensity environment, which will assist them in developing life skills that will help them even past college.

While four year schools definitely are a viable option for many students, for even more students community college is also a stupendous idea. While it is often seen as grade 13, it is much more than that and can help students in various ways towards achieving their goals in life and education. Community college is a perfect way to transition from high school life into the independence of adulthood.

[jsalerno@newhopeacademy.net](mailto:jsalerno@newhopeacademy.net)



# IT'S GROUNDHOG'S DAY. AGAIN.

By **MICHAEL RIEHL ('19)**

Groundhog Day is one of those American holidays that seem to make no sense. The tradition is that, on February 2nd, a groundhog named Punxsutawney Phil is removed from hibernation. If he is able to see his shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter. There is no religious background to this, nor is there seemingly any reasoning. How can a groundhog be able to predict the weather for the next six weeks? More importantly, how can such a silly tradition even start?

Groundhog Day has its roots in a European pagan holiday called 'Candlemas' that came about halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. The tradition was that if the weather was fair on Candlemas, then the winter would continue into the beginning of spring. The name Candlemas comes from early Christians who would receive candles for the new season that had been blessed by the church. While watching the weather to see if winter would continue, they would all put a lit candle in a window.

That is a great story, but it doesn't explain how we, as Americans, watch the shadow of a groundhog. The tradition of Candlemas was brought to America by German settlers in the 1700's, though over the centuries, the German tradition of Candlemas had shifted... slightly. Candlemas fell halfway between the winter solstice and spring equinox (about February 1st/2nd) and the Germans would watch to see if the weather was fair. If it was, they would continue to have cold weather into spring. Logically, if the weather is fair, then the sun is out, and thus animals would cast a shadow. The tradition in 18th century Germany was that if a badger could see its shadow, the winter would continue. The similarities to our Groundhog Day are starting to emerge.

After German settlers emigrated to the new world, the tradition was changed from a badger to a groundhog (given that there were no badgers where the Germans had settled). The first official 'Groundhog Day' was in 1866 when a local newspaper called The Punxsutawney Spirit gave the groundhog his name of Punxsutawney Phil, and thus, the legend was born. The name Punxsutawney comes from the Lenape Native Americans that lived there. The name itself means "town of the sand-flies", which were what they called mosquitos.

The legend of Groundhog Day is strange by any metric. What started as a pagan tradition in Europe transformed over centuries into a holiday where we watch to see if a groundhog casts a shadow. It is almost a wonder that the tradition has lived on for as long as it has. But as strange as it is, there is something endearing about the holiday. Logically we all know the absurdity of it all. But even still, sometimes it's okay to be a little absurd. Celebrating the lack of shadow of a groundhog is better than not celebrating anything at all. My only question is whether Phil takes climate change into his meteorological calculations.

[mriehl@newhopeacademy.net](mailto:mriehl@newhopeacademy.net)



Punxsutawney Phil called for an early spring this year.

## OSCARS 2019

By JULIANA CIARROCCI ('23)

The 91st Academy Awards, also known as the Oscars, took place on February 24, 2019 at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, California. It was a huge success honoring the best films of 2018. This year was the first time they did not have a host, due to the controversy on social media about Kevin Hart, who was supposed to host.

The award for Best Picture went to "Green Book." Olivia Colman won Best Actress in a Leading Role for "The Favourite." Rami Malek won Best Actor in a Leading Role for "Bohemian Rhapsody." Regina King won Best Supporting Actress for "If Beale Street Could Talk" and thanked

her mother in an emotional speech. Mahershala Ali won Best Supporting Actor for "Green Book" and dedicated the award to his grandmother. "Spiderman: Into the Spiderverse" won Best Animated Feature Film. "Black Panther" won Best Original Score and the award was given to Ludwig Göransson. "Bohemian Rhapsody" won Best Sound Editing and Best Sound Mixing and was given to John Casali and Tim Cavagin. Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper performed an intimate rendition of the nominated hit "Shallow" from the movie "A Star is Born," which also won Best Original Song.

[jiarrocchi@newhopeacademy.net](mailto:jiarrocchi@newhopeacademy.net)

## ROOT FOR THE HOME TEAM

By DANIEL COHEN ('23)

There's something different about a city when their team is playing. The energy, the way people act, and the overall atmosphere of things is different than in cities without teams. When in a passionate sports city, you see people with jerseys, hats, t-shirts, and any other kind of team merchandise you can think of. You can often tell how passionate a fanbase is by looking at the crowd during a home game. The audience will be filled with the home team's colors and will be cheering loud the whole time to both root for their team and give the opponent a hard time. Some fanbases travel well and can always be seen in large numbers at opposing teams' stadiums or arenas during their team's road games. Both former and current players, coaches, and other important figures are household names that everyone has an opinion on, whether that be good or bad. Some people want the coach fired, others want players cut or traded. Some are happy with where their team is, others think things couldn't be worse. Regardless of individual opinions, they all want the team to be successful. A winning

team gives people something from where they are from to be proud of. If a team is winning, especially against rivals, their fans have bragging rights and don't let opposing teams' fans forget about it. For some teams, mascots are a big part of their identity. Mascots will appear at mostly home games, but some will travel with the team for road games too. Whether they're just having fun at halftime or cheering on the team during the actual game, the mascots can be a big part of the team as well. They also sometimes appear at games for the other local sports teams and interact with the mascots there. A lot of the mascots will have their own accounts on social media and can gain a big following there. Being a hardcore fan of a sports team can be frustrating at times but also rewarding. Everybody has a different opinion on what the team should do. Fans will spend insane amounts of time and money to represent their team both on social media and in real life. Some fans will jump to a different team's bandwagon when their team isn't competitive, but the best fan bases always stick around for their team.

[dcohen@newhopeacademy.net](mailto:dcohen@newhopeacademy.net)

## EMERGENCY... or is it?

By MICHAEL RIEHL ('19)

President Donald Trump, at this point, is well accustomed to having controversies surrounding him. After ending the longest government shutdown in US history, and receiving \$1.6 billion for his border wall (he asked for \$5 billion) from Congress, Trump has used his executive power to declare a state of emergency at the southern border. There is a lot to unpack with all of this. What is a national emergency? Is Trump allowed to do this? Is this really an emergency? And most importantly, how does this affect the rest of us?

The National Emergencies Act, enacted in 1976, gives the president special power and authority during a time of crisis. This includes but is not limited to: reallocating money from other parts of the budget (i.e., using money that would be going to the military or other government agencies in order to control an emergency) or mobilizing the military without the need for Congress' approval. The regulations surrounding what

a 'national emergency' is and what the president can do with it are purposefully vague for one very important reason: we can't predict emergencies. Putting too many stipulations on the power that the president holds during a national emergency opens up greater opportunity for an emergency to happen where the president legally cannot take appropriate action. So, Trump is absolutely within his right as the president to declare a national emergency. However, a question still stands: Is this an emergency?

That question is a lot harder to answer. Trump declared a national emergency at our southern border, citing 'border security and humanitarian crisis'. There are arguments to be made for both sides. It is true that out of the \$4 trillion in expenditures, Trump was only asking for \$5 billion more for the border wall (this is equivalent to being asking for \$1.25 after being given \$1000). As well, the \$1.6 billion Congress gave him would not be nearly enough to fund the border security proposals, including the wall.

The White House Press Secretary gave the startling statistic that nearly 4,000 known or suspected terrorists were detained trying to

enter the United States through our southern border. However, the statistic that the Press Secretary was citing came from the Department of Homeland Security in 2017, and most of those detained were coming into the US through our airports, not the southern border. Statistics have also shown that illegal immigration is on a downtrend, and a better argument could be made for a national emergency when illegal immigration peaked in 2007. The other main argument against Trump's national emergency is that his declaration only came after the government shutdown, in which Trump did not get enough money to fund his border security protocols. So it appears that Trump himself does not believe that this is an emergency, but instead

**Trump is absolutely within his right as the president to declare an emergency. However, the a question still stands: Is this an emergency?**

was just looking for another way to get the money that Congress would not give him. In my opinion, if this was truly a national emergency, the president should have declared a national emergency before going to Congress for the money, and before engaging in

a standoff leading to the longest government shutdown in US history.

So, finally, what does that mean for you and me? Not much. We, as high schoolers, do not pay taxes, which is where most of this money will be coming from. As well, given that we do not live near the southern border, the emergency is not going to impact our lives at all, save for the headlines and news stories that we see in regards to the emergency. The people most affected by the emergency are those who live near the border. Some people are facing their land being seized by the government for the wall. What matters for us, however, is the precedent that this might set. If it becomes a norm for the president to use powers given to him in unintended ways to push his or her own policies, that could be very bad for the rest of us when a national emergency affects the whole US, not just the southern border. For right now, the bottom line is, as Pennsylvanians and New Jerseyans, the national emergency might as well not be going on, and depending on your political beliefs, the national emergency might as well not be going on.

[mriehl@newhopeacademy.net](mailto:mriehl@newhopeacademy.net)



## APEX LEGENDS

By JORDAN SALERNO ('19)

A brand new video game known as Apex Legends bombarded online gaming retailers with a disgusting amount of players within the first 24 hours. During the first day, Apex proceeded to completely overtake Fortnite on the streaming platform Twitch.tv, peaking at over 200,000 viewers. Fortnite and Apex are now battling over the title of the most viewed Twitch game, which is quite a name to uphold in this largely online world.

For those who may be unaware, Twitch.tv is the largest streaming platform in the world and is owned by Amazon. Most games rarely hit 100,000 viewers, however, 200,000 viewers and beyond within the first 24 hours of the launch is nearly insurmountable. The marketing strategies that Respawn Entertainment and Electronic Arts, the developer, and publisher of the game respectively, were not entirely unique but succeeded unlike any other game in the history of gaming. Apex Legends was leaked the weekend prior to February 4th, with no PR campaign anywhere to be found. No ads on TV, no ads on the internet, absolutely nothing.

Now most would consider this a poor option without context, but to tell the abridged story of Electronic Arts, the publisher of Apex Legends, is rather easy. Electronic Arts, in the past, had falsely advertised their products, introduced

deceptive money-making schemes and essentially swindled their customers. If an Electronic Arts logo was attached to Apex Legends prior to launch with a huge PR campaign, it wouldn't matter if it was the greatest game ever, many people would have simply shied away from it out of fear. It was released to the masses on February 4th with no price tag, that is to say the game was free to download. Perhaps most importantly with their non-existent PR campaign there was a campaign, just not in the way we currently think about it.

Respawn paid popular streamers on Twitch.tv to play the game on launch day. One such streamer, Shroud, peaked at over 110,000 viewers watching him play Apex Legends. Now on launch day, Respawn essentially bought a spot on Twitch.tv's home page, with dozens of popular streamers all playing the game at once. It was a perfectly pulled off social media stunt which launched the game into stardom overnight.

Perhaps what's most important with this entire situation is that Respawn did not put out a half baked or rotten game; intertwined and bred with malfeasance and scummy business practices as many Electronic Arts published games have been in recent years. Apex Legends is at the top of the mountain of gaming, and at this rate is only growing.

[jsalerno@newhopeacademy.net](mailto:jsalerno@newhopeacademy.net)



# THE UMBRELLA ACADEMY

## UNDER THE UMBRELLA ACADEMY

By **MICHAEL RIEHL ('19)**

**FEBRUARY 15TH, 2019 - The recent Netflix original "Umbrella Academy" has received rave reviews, and for good reason.**

"Umbrella Academy" is a Netflix adaptation of a comic book by the same name. The comic was written by Gerard Way, who some may recognize as the lead singer and co-founder of the band My Chemical Romance. The show itself is filled to the brim with interesting characters and a compelling story. I was always engaged with what was going on, even if it meant suspending my disbelief. Trying to relay the plot in a brief synopsis is ridiculous and will sound more like a fever dream than an actual plot, but here I go.

43 infants were born on the same day with no connection to one another, other than the fact that the women who gave birth to them were not pregnant the day before. Sir Reginald Hargreeves, an eccentric billionaire, was able to adopt seven of these children. As the children grew up, they found they were capable of very strange and unique abilities, including one who can speak to the dead; another who can make things true by simply starting a rumor; one who can warp through time and space; and one who is unique simply because there is nothing special about her at all. The

main plot follows the story of the seven children after the passing of their father, after not speaking to each other for a number of years.

The characters are what makes the show. Klaus, played by Robert Sheehan, and Vonya, played by Ellen Page, are, in my opinion, the best characters. The dynamic between all of them feels very natural, and they do their best to give the characters with crazy backstories a lot of heart. The pacing of the show is very well-structured and flashbacks are used only to give the viewer just enough to understand what they are about to see or what they have just seen. The viewer always seems to be either one step ahead or behind the characters in the scene, which would be chaotic and hard to follow if that was not the intention of the show. This lets the viewer struggle with the plot until catching them up all at once, which makes for some crazy bombshells.

There are a lot of good things that can be said about the show, but it is not without flaws. The writing of the show could use some work. The main cast seems to get all of the focus, so it feels like every non-primary character are just used to push the plot along. Suspension of disbelief can be tested, and not by the obscure stuff. The wildly outland-

ish things can be forgiven because it is what makes the show interesting, but the cracks start to appear when you notice that things are unrealistically illogical. Most things seem to happen for the

**The pacing of the show is very well-structured and flashbacks are used only to give the viewer just enough to understand...**

purpose of progressing the plot instead of being a logical thing to occur. It is a small fish to fry with such a great story and cast, but it can sometimes push the viewer away.

"Umbrella Academy" is worth seeing. There isn't another way of saying it. It is funny, compelling and dramatic. Even with inconsistent quality of writing, the show still manages to make addicting and interesting content. There is so much within the show that I simply can't get into either because of spoiling the plot or simply not having enough words in a school newspaper review. I highly recommend this to anyone with a Netflix account. I also recommend this so that I have more people to talk about it with. Without a doubt, this is an interesting take on the superhero genre that I think most people would really enjoy.

[mrriehl@newhopeacademy.net](mailto:mrriehl@newhopeacademy.net)

## LOVE, SIMON

By **JAMIE LUBOV ('21)**

Though the movie was released over a year ago, I just got the movie "Love, Simon" on DVD, and after seeing it thrice in theaters, I cannot stress how much this movie means to me. One of the main appeals for many teenagers such as myself is the prevalent LGBT representation in a high school setting. The movie follows Simon Spier, a closeted gay high school senior, through his journey of meeting another closeted kid online, navigating his coming out experience and reacting to issues such as being blackmailed, outed and harassed in school.

Simon's character is relatable, and most importantly, his interactions are realistic. Certain scenes had me laughing out loud or cringing violently, while others made me ache from the déjà vu of seeing Simon get outed to the school like I did. Throughout the film, Simon exchanges emails with Blue, another anonymous gay kid in his school. As Simon falls in love, he imagines different guys he sees throughout his week as Blue. However, when Simon is outed, his world starts falling apart as his friends and Blue leave him, and his family is awkward.

I will withhold major spoilers, but the ending wasn't the usual tragedy of death or inability to be together; it was, in general, a feel-good conclusion, and everyone I know who has seen it was not disappointed. If you are looking for a coming-of-age movie about accepting yourself and your life as it is (plus some adorable, happy boyfriends), "Love, Simon" would be a good choice for your next movie night!

[jlubov@newhopeacademy.net](mailto:jlubov@newhopeacademy.net)

## BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY: MAGIC OF MUSIC

By **MORGAN PETERSEN-TURNER ('20)**

It was an ordinary day. I was doing whatever I do on a usual Sunday. But toward the late morning, I knew I wasn't having it. That day, I heard the song "Bohemian Rhapsody," by Queen, for the second time that week. After listening to it, I searched the song on Spotify and I realized that Queen was a cool band. On YouTube, I searched up lead singer Freddie Mercury and I came across a documentary on him called "Who Wants to Live Forever." I found listening to "Bohemian Rhapsody" in the video very interesting. At this point, I'd gotten into the video and knew more about Freddie Mercury and the people involved in his life. Towards the end of the documentary, I was shocked how AIDS took his life. That kept me more interested in their songs.

Most people have a favorite song from Queen, but I don't have a favorite song. When you love a band so much, you can't pick one song. Their live performances were energetic and unlike anything you have ever seen. Due to Freddie Mercury's stage presence, they were a unique band. Their 1985 Live Aid performance in Philadelphia brought people together.

There are many similarities and differences between the movie "Bohemian Rhapsody," which tells the story of the band, and what happened in real life. In the movie, Freddie Mercury went to see Smile performing at a bar. Smile was a band that consisted of members of Queen before they were Queen. In real life, Smile didn't break up that soon. Another thing was Queen had to find a bass player that took much longer than in the movie.

Overall, I felt pleased by the movie. The directors was so close about reenacting Freddie's lifestyle. When Rami Malek performed, he lip synched so well and the flamboyancy was spot on. Towards the end, Freddie's parents accepted him as who he was. Mary Austin, his girlfriend, stuck by Freddie's side the whole time.

There were some points I found inaccurate. The timeline in the movie didn't match what happened in real life. Some styles weren't corrected, such as his clothing, his famous 'stache, and the hair. The songs came out at the wrong time in the movie as well. The band never broke up and the song "We Will Rock You" is in the wrong era. The directors should have done more research. Freddie was diag-

nosed with AIDS in 1987, two years after the Live Aid performance, but the movies claimed it was the day before they performed. Details of his relationships were incorrect, too; Freddie and Paul didn't last as long in real life. Freddie and Jim met in a club and he wasn't his butler.

Although there were many differences, the film was still amazing. I give it a 4.9/5 stars.

[mtturner@newhopeacademy.net](mailto:mtturner@newhopeacademy.net)



# The Flipside

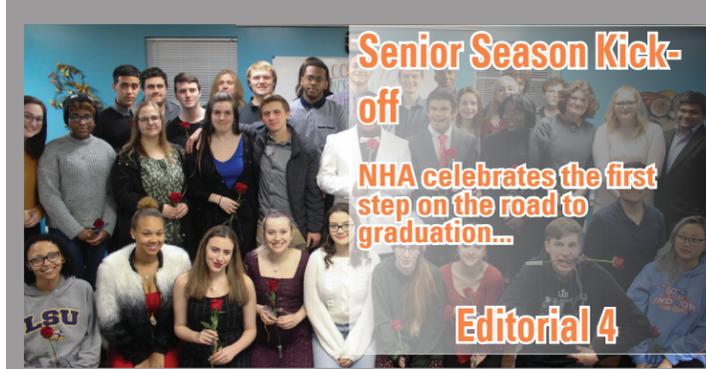
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OPINION 6

## ARCHERY WITH ARIA

By ARIA LEE ('19)

Archery is a lot more difficult than one thinks. To quote a sports psychologist, "In other sports, sports psychology is typically only about 20 to 30 percent of performance. In archery, they say it's probably closer to 80 percent. The real deciding factor of performance in archery is an archer's mental strength and confidence."

There are two types of bows accepted into the archery

red and night vision scopes. The usage of compound bows tend to be favorable among many people, as they tend to be easier to shoot. They also have something called a mechanical release. Unlike traditional bows, where you release with your fingers, they use a type of clip that releases for you, allowing a quicker, smoother shot. These releases come in all types, shapes and sizes to fit the user's preference.

Recurves are more traditional-like bows that are harder to shoot. There is no magnifying

scope, and let-off. Although these bows can get a heavy pull-weight, it is not recommended to shoot anything over 40 pounds, as over time it will damage your finger joints. Recurves are similar to a longbow, but the tips of the limbs are curved up and back, allowing a stronger bow compared to your longbow. These tend to be harder to shoot since there is no mechanical assistance.

With any bow, consistency is emphasized heavily, as well as calmness. It is a common mis-

conception that the string of a bow is pulled back with the use of the muscles in the arm, when really it is pulled with the back muscles. For consistency and an effective, clean shot, the back shoulder muscle of your pull arm are used, and must be maintained until after the shot. Another common mistake is that you release with your fingers. In fact, a release is the use of the whole pull arm and the back. When releasing the shot, the only thing your fingers do is relax, and at the same time, your hand moves back by using your back muscles for a quick clean shot.

Archery is very focused on the mental aspect. To shoot an arrow well, you must perform consistently and be still. To achieve this, the mind cannot be occupied with anything else, yet being too focused on this aspect will prevent you from achieving this. It takes the art of being calm, cool and collected to another level.

South Korea currently dominates this field, with the country taking up most of the medals in the Olympics since the 1992 games in Barcelona. Archery is a central part of their culture; most schools

require two hours of archery training in their curriculum for young children. At this time, coaches will pick out those who are skilled, and invest time and training, hoping to make an elite adult archery team.

Teams in South Korea also train the most, with 10 hour practices and shooting over 2,500 arrows a week. Among their 10 hour practices, they dedicate some hours to mental training, increasing their concentration and increasing mental clarity. These teams practice in baseball stadiums in a competition-like environment and will practice no matter the weather, snow rain and all. Each archery team in South Korea has an psychologist dedicated to their mental health, as it plays a key role in their success.

As the other countries scramble to catch up, South Korea still holds the title. Archery is a lot more difficult than one could imagine. It is an intense sport that is not a battle of skill, but instead is a competition of the mind.

alee@newhopeacademy.net



leagues: compound and recurve. Compound are commonly used for hunting, being mechanical with wheels on the end. The pull weight of these bows tend to be very heavy, which makes making a kill easier. The perk to these bows is something called a let-off where a certain percentage of the pull weight will be held by the bow for you.

In competition, compounds are privileged to have magnifying scopes, and these bows tend to be easier to modify for hunting purposes such as infra-



## R.E.A.L. Staff

Email:

newspaper@newhopeacademy.net

Publisher:

Kathleen Rosso-Gana

Yardley Editor:

Michael Riehl ('19)

Doylestown Editors:

Aria Lee ('19)

Editing Advisors:

Caryn Search

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Alyssa Eisenmann

Journalists:

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## Checking in with the 76'ers!

By TIM HAY ('19)

The Philadelphia 76ers have had a tremendous regular season so far. We've also had very good trades. After trading Robert Covington and Dario Saric to acquire Jimmy Butler in November, we also traded picks and some bench players for Tobias Harris, Boban Marjanovic and Mike Scott in February. By making these trades, the 76ers have stated that they want to go deep into the playoffs this year. For that to happen, there are some things they need to work on, starting with Butler.

What does Butler need to work on? He needs to work on his attitude. The way he's playing right now makes it seem like he doesn't want to be there, or that he isn't giving 100 percent of his effort on the offensive end. I don't know if it is Brett Brown's coaching or if it is the player, but it needs to be fixed. Butler needs to have the ball in his hands to be offensively great. Obviously, that's not going to happen throughout the whole game, due to us having three other All-Star level talents in Harris, Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons. But he should have the ball in his hands more in the 4th quarter because he's a game finisher. He needs to be embedded more into the offense.

Another issue we're having is Embiid's health. He's one of the main reasons the 76ers have a chance of going to the NBA Finals. He's arguably the best center in the NBA today. He's pretty much unguardable with his tremendous offensive and defensive ability, he can shoot the three-pointers, shoot mid range, back people in the post and block shots. But he's missed the last seven games because of knee soreness. If the knee soreness continues and he gets hurt in the playoffs, the 76ers postseason won't be pretty.

Probably one of my most important concerns about the 76ers right now is Brett Brown. He's not a bad coach all around, but there have been some instances at the end of games where he's lost the 76ers the game. There's a lot of hate circulating around him and his coaching because of this. Some fans even want him fired because of it. In last year's playoffs against the Celtics, people like Stephen A. Smith said he lost them three games. If he can clean up his decisions at the end of games, especially in the playoffs, I think we have a very good chance of making the NBA finals.

thay@newhopeacademy.net

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