

THE COMET NEWS

Fall 2019

Volume VII, Issue I

THE SUN CAME OUT FOR HOMECOMING

Written by: Maeryam Nasari

One of the Hicksville school district's most treasured traditions is the annual homecoming event that was held on Saturday, October 12. Besides the football game that serves as the defining feature of the event, many students here at the high school look forward to spirit week leading up to homecoming, pep rally, and of course, the fair that is held prior to the game.

Throughout the week, the student body's excitement was at a fever pitch, and many students and teachers took the extra effort to engage in the different themes of spirit week. This year, the themes for each day included jersey day, tie-dye day, America day, and school colors day. All this excitement culminated on Friday, when the Pep Rally was held outside for the first time. Our varsity sports teams were heavily cheered on by students, and each grade level competed with one another to show their enthusiasm. Despite the initial setback in playing the music, the Kickline team blew the audience away once again with their spectacular performance. Their issue with getting the speakers to work is definitely an important factor to consider in future years when holding the pep rally outside.

The Homecoming Fair, which started early on Saturday morning and ended before the start of the football game, was a huge success. Many clubs and student

groups take advantage of the fair to fund-raise money by selling food, drinks, and other baked goods. The students were extremely creative this year with their fundraising ideas, and we saw many new events hosted by various clubs. There was karaoke at the Chamber Singers booth, an obstacle course game hosted by the National Honor Society, henna tattoos offered by Model United Nations, and the selling of metal straws by the Ecology Club, to name a few. In addition to these new ideas, students also participated in the traditional events of face painting, can

jam, and corn hole. Of course, we can't forget the true purpose of homecoming - teachers and students alike warmly welcomed back former students and Hicksville alumni.

After the fair our varsity football team played against Port Washington. The Hicksville community enjoyed a stellar performance by the Marching Band, Color Guard, and Kickline Team during half time. The winner of the banner competition, which focused on the theme of cities, was the Class

(Continued on page 2)



Hicksville players force a member of Port Washington's team out of bounds. Photograph by Rafeeq Haque.

HOMEcoming CONTINUED

Class of 2023. Congratulations to the many talented students and artists who participated in creating the banner! The Homecoming king and queen were also announced during halftime. A huge congratulations to Christina Bonilla, our Homecoming queen, and Dhanush Sivasankaran, our Homecoming king.

With heavy encouragement from their peers, our team gave their best efforts to achieve a win. Unfortunately, Hicksville lost against Port Washington by a score of 36-6. Better luck next year, Hicksville! Nevertheless, it is without question that we had quite a memorable home-

coming this year and we look forward to next year's events.



Pictured above: Images taken during Hicksville's loss to Port Washington. Photographs taken by Rafee Haque.

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TWO OF HICKSVILLE'S OWN ARE NMS SEMI-FINALISTS

Written by: Roxy Dias

The National Merit Scholarship Program is a highly competitive academic contest that sees approximately 1.6 million students across the United States compete. It is with great honor and pride that we congratulate two of our seniors, Viveka Jain and Sarah Choi, for being National Merit Semi-Finalists!

There were about 16,000 Semi-Finalists chosen from the National Merit Scholarship Program, out of 1.6 million students who took the test. The girls' scores were among the highest in New York. This prestigious distinction is given to students who take the PSAT in their junior year, and make a specific cut-off score for their state. This is an extremely impressive award that two of our students managed to meet, on top of maintaining high grades with their school work and participating in school clubs and activities.

To prepare for the exam, Sarah did practice tests three to five months before the test. Her main focus was to do well on the SATs, and by preparing well for the SATs, she performed strongly on the PSAT. This program acts as a great opportunity for students who are already preparing to take the SATs in their junior year, since the tests are similar. Like many students who take difficult tests, Sarah initially believed she did poorly, but was very relieved when she found out her impressive score in December. She recommends for future students planning to take this test to "do the practice tests in one sitting, ask teachers for help, and don't worry too much." In September of this year, when the test was off of her mind completely, Mr. Williams called her and Viveka down to his office to inform them that they were National Merit Semi-Finalists. The girls embarked upon this new school year with fantastic news.

With their fellow semifinalists, Viveka and Sarah are now competing for one of the 7,600 National Merit Scholarships awarded to finalists. Finalists will be an-

nounced in February, and the winners will be named in spring of 2020. We wish Viveka and Sarah the best of luck!



Pictured above: Mr. Williams with seniors Sarah Choi and Viveka Jain. Pictured provided by hicksvillepublicschools.org

Quick Facts About the National Merit Scholarship

- **Corporation was created in 1955**
- **First contest occurred in 1956**
- **Number of contestants in 1956: 58,158**
- **Number of contestants in 2015: 1,477,188**
- **NMSC operates by approx. 400 private donors**
- **Half of all finalists win a scholarship**
- **Many of the scholarships are \$2,500, with rare exceptions for particularly high achieving students and other private donors.**

WHERE OUR FUTURE LIES

Written by: Rawan Mohamed

The college fair is an eventful occasion at Hicksville high school. It reminds both juniors and seniors, who probably did not need reminding in the first place, to start preparing for the college admissions process. It also gives prospective graduating students an insight into different schools that they are interested in by talking to representatives from those schools. At the college fair, questions can be asked about financial aid programs, different majors, diversity within the school, campus safety, and more. The college fair was very popular this year as it was crowded with students from a variety of grade levels.

Kayla McLarty, a senior, believed it was a very helpful event stating, "The college fair was very helpful but I felt there wasn't as many schools as last year." And Kayla is indeed right, a few schools every year end up not showing up. One school in particular that was on the list to attend but unfortunately could not was the University of Chicago, which a good amount of seniors were applying to. In spite of this, the college fair was very informative according to Kayla, "The schools that I had wanted to go to had people that represented them there and gave very helpful information... some schools had my major that I could potentially want to apply to." Lots of students at Hicksville high school found different colleges they weren't necessarily looking at before but now are because of their representation in the gymnasium.

The college fair, however, had some downsides that could be fixed for the future. It bears repeating that there weren't as many schools as last year, so even though the event was approximately two hours long, many kids stayed for a short period of time and then left. One of those students was

Kayla, "I was only there for maybe 20 minutes when I had hoped to stay for longer, but I felt there was nothing left for me there." Some students want schools more local, some students apply to schools that are out of state, and some students may want to go to schools that have other students from similar backgrounds, communities, or races as them.

Another issue that was brought up by Kayla was the lack of representation from historically black colleges and universities (HBCU). "As a black student, I felt there were no HBCU schools there and... maybe the school can work on that for future black students." As Hicksville high school's diversity grows throughout the years, so should the programs and the types of invitations sent to different schools at the college fair to try to accommodate for all the students

and all the different races at Hicksville. Hicksville high school opened in 1953, during a period where a lot of segregation and discrimination occurred. That we have a significantly diverse population across many different ethnicities should be recognized, and we should continue to grow as best as we possibly can through the inclusion of HBCU colleges at the very least. Overall the college fair was a very enlightening event that helped many students answer the questions they were looking for.

The college fair is indeed very helpful, especially for seniors and juniors who are looking at different colleges and want to ask questions to a representative. Whether it is just for 20 minutes or the whole two hours, it's a good idea to do everything you can to prepare for college so that when the time comes you are not stressed and filled with anxiety but instead filled with excitement for a new chapter in your life.



Pictured above: HHS students speak to one of the representatives from the University of Albany. Photo taken by: Angela Vizzari

A NEW PLACE TO UNWIND AT HHS

Written by: Mallika Rangi and Gurmehar Kaur

Many Hicksville High School students are talking about the new cafeteria that was constructed over the summer. Students seem to have mixed reactions towards the new cafeteria. To gauge how the population of the school was feeling towards the not so bright lights of the cafeteria, two sophomores and one teacher were interviewed.

Selina Asadi and Elizabeth Benitez, 10th graders who had one year of experience with the old cafeteria, were asked about how they felt about the new seating, altered lunch lines and general feel of the new lunch space. When asked about her opinion on the new cafeteria, Elizabeth responded by saying she likes “the look of it better than last year.” Both Elizabeth and Selina emphasize that they like the “modern” look of the cafeteria now. Many students agree that the cafeteria is more stylish and relevant to today’s culture and aesthetic. Students also expressed that the new tables make them feel more connected to each other, and it is easier to have conversations. According to students of various grade levels, the previous cafeteria made it harder for people to hear each other and communicate effectively.

Elizabeth states that she also likes the charging stations that were put in place, and Selina agrees as she finds it to be an essential part in everyone’s life. The charging stations are an example of the modernization of the cafeteria and how was modified based on the needs of high school students.

There are many positive reactions towards the new cafeteria and the things it has to offer. Mr. Shmuel, a music teacher, had a unique and positive attitude toward the cafeteria. He loved the “cafe vibes” that the cafeteria exhibits. He believes they were a great addition

to the school and makes the school look even better than it already is.

Students also have some negative opinions towards the new cafeteria. One of the students, who wished to remain anonymous, stated that she “extremely dislikes the chairs, because they are uncomfortable, making it difficult to sit in the chairs for a long period of time.” The chairs were also described as small, making it tough for some people to fit into them. Another concern with the chairs is that they are attached to the tables which makes seating even harder. There are also mixed opinions on the color of the ceiling. People say the color of the roof is dark, and a student wishes “it was a different color.” According to her, the color makes the cafeteria appear darker, but she also appreciates the darkness, and admits she has mixed feelings towards it. Some find the darkness as a nice vibe that complements the new cafeteria. According to many students, there are definitely areas of improvement in the cafeteria, and many things that could be worked on in the future.

All change takes time to adjust to, including the massive renovations that occurred with the cafeteria. Some students found the old cafeteria to be a place of comfort and security, whereas others were clearly interested in a change. When Selina and Elizabeth were asked their last question, on whether they prefer the old cafeteria or the renovated one, both answered without hesitation. They agree that the new cafeteria is better than last year’s. They both were eager to answer with positivity and enthusiasm toward the



Pictured above: Students eat lunch in the new cafeteria. Photo taken by: Erin Lawlor

new cafeteria.

Although there has been some constructive criticism given to the new cafeteria, many can agree that it contributes positively to the high school environment and offers many great new advantages to the students.

AN ITERATION... NOT A REVOLUTION

Written by: Angela Vizzari

Year after year, Apple comes out with a new iPhone trying to exceed expectations and please the public. Did they succeed this year? During the Fall 2019 Apple Product Event, they announced three new smartphones: iPhone 11, iPhone 11 Pro, and iPhone 11 Pro Max.

It became quickly apparent that the camera lenses were all people could talk about, especially the ultra-wide angle lens. The camera also comes equipped with Night Mode, which allows pictures to actually look very presentable in low light settings. And of course, the inevitable, an iPhone battery life extension. The iPhone 11s also have many features that have never been on an Apple product before.

The most affordable phone, with a starting retail price of \$699, is the iPhone 11. The new phone has a 6.1" LCD Liquid

Retina display, making it in between the other 2019 model sizes. New aspects to the electronic device include the wide and ultra-wide lenses instead of the wide and telephoto lenses on the last model. The ultra-wide lens consists of a 13mm focal length, which allows the photographer to capture a large area without having to move further away. Aperture on this lens is a high $f/2.4$, meaning that more light is needed to produce a good image, therefore the ultra-wide lens is best for landscape and outdoor photos. The wide lens is a standard 26mm focal length, but has a fast $f/1.8$ aperture. It is better for indoor and low-light settings. The iPhone 11 also has a new wide angle sensor that performs an astonishing 100% in Focus Pixels, allowing every photo to be in focus quicker, something that has never been seen on an iPhone. Night Mode is another aspect that is new; it is meant to capture better shots in darker surroundings. It works by using multiple pictures from one shot and emitting a longer exposure time. Another technological advancement on the Night Mode is how it automatically adjusts contrast, color, sharpness, and noise reduction for a more well-rounded photo. Smart HDR is the improvement to the previous model's HDR, it automatically adjusts the highlights and shadows, improving the camera's dynamic range. Overall, the iPhone 11 camera has been completely revamped for the better. One more major feature included on the iPhone 11 is the water resistance, which is good for spills and submerging underwater at a 6 feet maximum depth for 30 minutes. The battery life is

also one hour longer than the iPhone XR. This iPhone 11 seems to check most boxes for what consumers expect with a new model.

Apple produced two more iPhones, the iPhone 11 Pro and the iPhone 11 Pro Max. The displays are better than the iPhone 11 since they have an OLED Super Retina Display, showing more vibrant colors and pixels. The iPhone 11 Pro is 5.8" and the iPhone Pro Max is 6.5". Price points vary, starting at \$999 for the Pro and \$1,099 for the Pro Max. On top of the other lenses and their abilities, these smartphones include a third lens, the telephoto. The focal lens is a 52mm equivalent and has a aperture of $f/2$. Deep Fusion is a new element added to the iPhone Pros; it allows for all the cameras to create one composite image from nine distinct photos. No other smartphone in this class can compare to the iPhone 11 Pro's camera abilities. Apple claims that the iPhone 11 Pro has an astonishing 4 hours of extra battery life than the iPhone XS, with the iPhone 11 Pro Max having 1 more hour on top of that. Both pros are also water resistant at a maximum depth of 13 feet for 30 minutes. The current lineup of iPhones come complete with Dual-Sim capabilities, iOS 13, Face ID, camera zooming functions and wireless charging.

Overall, if you need a functioning smartphone, any iPhone 11 is a great choice. Yet, out of the three shown to us this year, the iPhone 11 Pro exceeds all expectations. It edges out the iPhone 11 because of its amazing display, extra battery life, and added telephoto camera. While the iPhone 11 Pro Max was a close second, the main differences are a larger display, but same quality and an extra hour of battery life, which isn't deemed necessary for all. The iPhone 11 Pro is the true winner of this smartphone season.



Pictured: The iPhone 11 Pro. Image from Apple.com

JOKER IS NOT CLOWNING AROUND

Feature written by: Robert Velasquez

Joker, starring Joaquin Phoenix, has been a controversial movie since it was announced. Drawing on the history of the public's obsession and fear of clowns, *Joker* strives to be a movie that unsettles and unnerves the audience.

The movie dives into the mental health of Arthur Fleck who later dons the persona of the Joker. The movie has some disturbing scenes that are not suitable for all people. The movie depicts murder gratuitously, in addition to other explicit acts of violence. *Joker* shows the struggles that Arthur has with his mental illnesses. The movie also shows the way that his uncontrollable laughter can affect his day-to-day state. A major controversy based on the movie is its music choice. One of the songs used is made by convicted pedophile Gary Glitter. This is just one of the creative decisions causing the movie to receive backlash.

Cinema goers and comic book film aficionados couldn't help but harken back to 2012, when, during a showing of *The Dark Knight Rises* in Aurora, Colorado, there was a mass shooting. Twelve were killed and 70 more were injured. The shooter, James Holmes, was dressed up as the Joker. Memories of this have impacted *Joker*; there has been more security in many of the movie theaters across the country. There have been three shooting threats in various cities around the country: a movie theater in Manhattan, a movie theater in Oklahoma, and a movie theater in California. There was also a disturbing event in New York in which it was reported that a young man was cheering during disturbing scenes in the movie. People spat on the person when he was cheering.

The public's fascination and fear involving clowns, indeed even some of the influence behind the Joker character himself, has a long history. Some of this fear of clowns can be traced back to John Wayne Gacy, better known as Pogo the Clown. Gacy



Pictured above: An image taken from a Youtube video of the 2016 clown sightings.

was a serial killer between the years of 1972—1978. Gacy was arrested for his crimes, but this left many parents scared of the influence that Gacy left behind. Pennywise is a fictitious character from the novel *It* by Stephen King. That clown is another who torments and harasses kids.

In the fall of 2016 there was a 'killer' clown epidemic that was occurring worldwide. People were dressing up in clown costumes and they would harass people. This was scaring people and this made parents scared to let their kids walk around in the dark. There was a family that was sadly attacked by a group of 20 kids dressed in clown costumes. Luckily everyone was okay, but there were no arrests made. On October 6, 2016, two boys, aged 16 and 17, were arrested in British Columbia due to them making threats to their school which caused a lockdown.

Joker, and whatever future manifestations of clowns may come, are merely the latest in a long line of clown based obsession.



THE DEMOCRATS HIT THE STAGE

Written by: Bisma Omer

As the democratic debate is approaching, controversy and tension are rising between the people of the country and the candidates. The Democratic debate took place on October.15,2019 in Otterbein University, outside of Columbus, Ohio, and was broadcast by CNN. This was the fourth Democratic presidential debate and held more candidates than the presidential debate, which took place in September.

These candidates were the former vice president of our country, Joe Biden, Elizabeth Warren, and Bernie Sanders. In addition to these candidates, nine other candidates were present. However, these candidates had to meet specific requirements. A few of these requirements consisted of raising donations from at least 130,000 people and then also “earn 2 percent support in four polls.” This support had to be approved by the Democratic National Convention. The candidates that met these requirements were Pete Buttigieg, Kamala Harris, Andrew Yang, Cory Booker, Beto O’Rourke, Tom Steyer, Amy Klobuchar, Julian Castro, and lastly Tulsi Gabbard.

Joe Biden had been the former vice president of our country, so he is considered a front runner and knows how the system works. However, he has been faced with many attacks from President Donald Trump. Trump had even gone so far as to request Ukraine to investigate Biden and his son, which has been the main spark to Trump’s formal impeachment.

The next candidate who is among those leading the polls in the debate is Elizabeth Warren. Elizabeth had been rushing the polls tremendously. She also deliberately has been posting ads on Facebook with false information about the company, its founder, and President

Trump. She had done this to prove a point, which was that a publications company allows a tremendous amount of misinformation to reach public consumption.

Berne Sanders, yet again, is running for a place in the office as a president. Recent news on Sanders had been very minimal due to the fact he did recently suffer from a heart attack. However, this month was his first public appearance since his heart attack on the campaign trail.

Pete Buttigieg is the mayor of a city in Indiana called South Bend. In a recent interview, many people caught a glimpse of his so-called debate “strategy,” which consists of bashing Warren over her pledge to forgo big-dollar fundraising.

Kamala Harris is from California, and she had one of her most substantial nights during the first democratic debate campaign. However, now she has failed to replicate that moment.

Andrew Yang is an entrepreneur, and his proposal for income has continued to poll better than the plans of his other rivals. Yang had proposed around one thousand dollars to “freedom dividend,” which caught the attention of many.

Cory Booker is a New Jersey senator, and he has not done anything major to improve in the polls, and many are wondering is he going to.

Beto O’Rourke’s is a former Texas representative, and his campaign is mostly focusing on guns and the results of mass shootings, such as El Paso. While his campaign topic gets a lot of people’s attention, so does O’Rourke’s abundant amount of cursing.

Tom Steyer is a billionaire in California who spent many millions to “qualify” for the democratic debate. Many people are questioning whether or not he is prepared for a so-called “face-off” with his fellow rivals.

Amy Klobuchar is a senator from Minnesota and she has been criticizing the proposals tremendously of her fellow rivals.

Julian Castro is a former housing secretary, and he had recently taken a group of asylum seekers across a border bridge from Mexico to Texas. However, as a result of this those people were sent under Trump administration to “Remain in Mexico.”

Finally, Tulsi Gabbard is a representative in Hawaii and is considering to boycott the debate because she thought it was “rigging of the primary contest.” However, suddenly, she had changed her mind and appeared onstage in Ohio.

Research Articles:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/democratic-debate-list-of-candidates-who-qualified-for-the-fourth-democratic-debate-in-ohio-tuesday/>

<https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2019-10-15/who-are-the-candidates-at-the-october-democratic-debate>

CANCEL CULTURE

Editorial written by: Sneha Gouli

Cancel culture has become a way for people to justify “boycotting” a celebrity because of their controversies, actions, or opinions. Many celebrities over the years have become entangled with the cancel culture charade. But has this trend gone too far?

The idea of being cancelled was first developed when celebrities posted or said offensive comments regarding race, gender, sexuality etc. One of the first celebrities that this could be attributed to is Kanye West. Throughout his career he has been known to be unfiltered and has been involved in many controversial topics. In an interview with TMZ, Kanye West said, “When you hear about slavery for 400 years... for 400 years? That sounds like a choice.” This statement

blew up all over social media, many of his fans unfollowed him, leading him to become cancelled.

Many would agree that people should take responsibility for their actions, but calling them out and cancelling them, gives no room for that. Additionally this culture drives away from the true intention of making sure people are held accountable for what they say. Not only that, but people seem to be canceling everything these days, no longer canceling what really needs to be gone.

Back in 2009, Chris Brown was found guilty for assaulting Rihanna (his girlfriend at the time) and his ex girlfriend Karrueche Tan was granted a restraining order against him. He had been arrested

for assault numerous times, yet he still remains in the spotlight with his recent single “Freaky Friday” that reached number one.

People seem to cancel everyone but not for the right reasons. In other words yes, it has gone too far. We ignore the people who have actually caused harm with their words and actions. But we still choose to cancel people who use plastic straws? It is sad but true. That being said cancel/call-out culture is toxic. If we want people to have responsibility cancelling won't cause these people to take ownership of their actions.

Cancel culture should be cancelled!

HURRICANE DORIAN

Written by: Dua Omer

Hurricane Dorian was the second hurricane and the first major hurricane of the 2019 Atlantic hurricane season. On August 24, 2019, Dorian was formed by a tropical wave in the Central Atlantic and slowly intensified as it headed towards the Lesser Antilles, becoming a hurricane on August 28. Rapid intensification occurred, which led Dorian to become a Category 4 hurricane. On September 1, Dorian had attained Category 5 strength with maximum sustained winds of 185 mph and a minimum central pressure of 910 Mb (26.97 inHg) after landing in Elbow Cay, Bahamas. Several hours later, the hurricane made another landfall on the Grand Bahama. The high-pressure ridge caused Dorian to stall for a day just north of Grand Bahama. It is the most active tropical storm to have an impact on the Bahamas. The combination of cold water upwelling and an eyewall replacement cycle weakened Dorian to a Category 2 hurricane on the next day. On the morn-

ing of September 3, Dorian began to move gradually to the north-northwest. Subsequently, Dorian completed its eyewall replacement cycle and traveled over warmer water, regaining Category 3 strength by midnight on September 5. In the early hours of September 6, Dorian weakened to Category 1 intensity as it picked up speed and turned northeast. Dorian picked up the pace and traveled northeast along the North Carolina coast on September 6. Then it moved south of the Crystal Coast, reaching Cape Lookout and finally making landfall at Cape Hatteras. By Monday morning, September 9, Hurricane Dorian was a post-tropical storm after the mid-latitude weather, and cold seas had altered its tropical characteristics.

One week after Hurricane Dorian hit the Bahamas, residents still faced catastrophic destruction, with more than 70,000 people reported to have been left without

food and shelter. Support from the international community had already been reached. But amid relief efforts, people had a hard time finding shelter, with many evacuees struggling to find their loved ones. Hurricane Dorian's death toll in the Bahamas had risen to 50, as more deaths were reported from the storm that swept across the country. Furthermore, about 2,500 people were missing after Hurricane Dorian. A preliminary report that Dorian caused about \$7 billion in damage. Hurricane Dorian was one of the most powerful Atlantic hurricanes in history. The devastation left behind is like nothing that the Bahamas have experienced before

Resources-

<https://www.insider.com/hurricane-dorian-victims-death-toll-2019-9>

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/09/06/hurricane-dorian-becomes-strongest-slowest-hurricane-hit-bahamas-record/2232225001/>

THE STUDENT/ATHLETE LIFE

Written by: Alaha Nasari

The start of a new school year signals the launch of the fall sports season here at Hicksville High School. Ranging from sports such as cross country to swimming, a significant portion of the student population in our school participates in a fall sport. The season begins in late August and ends in early November, and many talented athletes continue to engage in a sport for the rest of the school year. Most fall sports practice daily, and games and meets are spread out throughout the season. It is no question that each sport demands steadfast commitment for success, and it is this passion that drives our athletes here at Hicksville to achieve great triumphs.

For a better understanding of an athlete's life, we decided to interview two students from different grade levels who participate in a fall sport. As you will see from the conversations below, an athlete's lifestyle can be quite difficult when it comes to managing academics, sports commitments, and social life. It all comes down to attaining a sense of balance and keeping one's priorities in check.

Our first interview was with Quynh Dinh, senior and co-captain of the Girls Kickline Team.

Q: What are your responsibilities as one of the captains?

A: As one of the three captains, several of my responsibilities include being a role model for younger girls on the team, being a leader, helping teammates when needed to improve dance techniques, and motivating the team to perform better.

Q: How much practice does a single performance require?

A: The dances are choreographed by the three captains: Jackie Jergensen, Daniella Sandman, and myself. We first started learning our dance mid-August. It takes around two or three days to get down the dance moves, but around a month to perfect our overall performance and to go through specific motions.

Q: Describe your past experience at nationals. What are you looking forward to during this year's nationals?

A: Nationals is always an exciting experience for all team members. Besides being able to compete against many other teams, we also had a lot of fun visiting tourist attractions in Florida. It served as a really great bonding experience for us as a team. Unfortunately, we will not be attending nationals this year.

Q: What did you take away from your experience on the team these past four years?

A: Kickline was an amazing experience that I'll always look back fondly on. I've acquired various new skills and improved in so many different ways as a dancer. Most importantly, I've learned the value of teamwork, effective communication, and strong leadership in being successful.



The next interview we conducted was with Roxy Diaz, sophomore and member of the Girls Varsity Soccer Team.

Q: How long have you been playing on the varsity team?

A: I have played on the varsity team since halfway through my freshman year; so for about a year and a half.

Q: What's the most special memory you have from your experience on the team this season?

A: While we didn't have the best season this year, it was rewarding to see some improvement as time progressed. There's always a special memory that comes with each game, but I would say the time we spend together as a team is most memorable because it strengthens the bond among us all.

Q: How do you manage sport commitments and schoolwork?

A: Managing school work and sports can be quite a challenge, but you just need to make sure that you're fulfilling your responsibilities as a student and as a player. If you are dedicated to both aspects of your life, you can pull it off.

Q: Are you planning on pursuing this sport in college?

A: I haven't quite considered playing college soccer and will definitely give it more thought as I approach senior year.

THE SKETCHPAD

Illustration by: Taylor Murphy

Freshman Year

Senior Year



Illustration by: Isabella Weber



FUN AND GAMES

WORDSEARCH:

A	U	H	O	I	P	L	M	O	C	K	P
K	G	E	A	U	T	U	M	N	I	U	N
U	A	G	L	H	C	P	W	O	M	K	E
W	S	N	E	M	N	L	K	P	O	E	L
W	C	I	L	C	W	F	K	I	F	W	N
E	H	M	C	P	L	I	W	T	M	T	M
W	O	O	T	H	N	H	P	L	L	A	F
H	O	C	H	E	T	U	M	N	L	T	W
C	L	E	T	P	M	P	A	U	F	H	P
K	W	M	G	O	I	O	I	T	A	U	A
E	U	O	G	E	G	U	C	U	E	I	K
A	P	H	N	E	E	W	O	L	L	A	H

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Rafée Haque

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Timothy Sweeney, Assistant Principal